

Minutes\*

**Faculty Consultative Committee**  
**Thursday, March 19, 1998**  
**2:00 - 3:30**  
**Room 238 Morrill Hall**

Present: Victor Bloomfield (chair), Kent Bales, Mary Dempsey, M. Janice Hogan, David Hamilton, Russell Hobbie, Laura Coffin Koch, Marvin Marshak, Fred Morrison, Harvey Peterson

Absent: Carole Bland, Gary Davis, Gary Gardner, Virginia Gray, Leonard Kuhi, Michael Korth, Matthew Tirrell

Guests: Executive Vice President Robert Bruininks

Others: Deb Cran (Academic Affairs); Martha Kvanbeck (University Senate)

[In these minutes: budget; governance and representation of faculty views]

**1. Budget Discussion**

Professor Bloomfield convened the meeting at 2:00 and, by agreement with Dr. Bruininks, said that the discussion of preliminary budget ideas would be off the record. The Committee spend about two hours considering compensation and related budget issues with Dr. Bruininks.

**2. Governance**

Professor Bloomfield then raised the question of the governance structure, noting that FCC has received a proposal from the Arts, Sciences, and Engineering (ASE) FCC to create a standing subcommittee of FCC to represent the interests of the Arts, Sciences, and Engineering colleges. With respect to the constitution and bylaw proposals that were not adopted at the February Senate meeting, he said that FCC could try to present them again, and obtain the needed votes, or it may be that the opposition will have built up steam and will defeat them. His view was that the task force proposals were sensible, but others appear to disagree.

The rationale behind the ASE proposal, it was explained, was that for many years, some parts of the University were represented by senior officers (e.g., agriculture, the health sciences) but the arts and sciences were not. With the appointment of Anne Hopkins, and then the ASE provosty filled by W. Phillips Shively, that gap was filled, but now the ASE units are again unrepresented structurally in University decision-making, and the ASE FCC members believed there should be a consultative group dedicated to the ASE units.

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Professor Hobbie said that in addition, during the period the provosts were in office, a group of faculty was given a governance role, and then that role was taken away. He recalled his suggestion made earlier that FCC should meet only with the President and that there should be a separate meeting with the Provost, a suggestion that FCC did not accept.

Professor Dempsey suggested that people do not understand the intent of the task force, and maintained that FCC would only be effective if it played a steering role and represented the faculty from the bottom up. She said that there should not be a lot of different groups engaged in consulting with the administration.

Professor Bloomfield pointed out that the FCC has twice convened as the Faculty Assembly Steering Committee (i.e., the Twin Cities members of FCC) to meet with the Provost on Twin Cities campus business, which is similar to discussing the core. It has been difficult for the group to confine itself to Twin Cities matters. That suggests that either it does not know what the "core" issues are or that there are no "core" issues that are different from those issues for the rest of the University; he said he suspected the latter was the case. Presumably a consultative group appointed for the core would make special pleadings for more funding for the core, rather than different policies. He noted that the task force on faculty consultation was also unable to articulate issues confined to the core.

Dr. Bruininks said that the provostal system, to a certain extent, created artificial groups. He reported that he has asked the St. Paul units to deal with the problems of the St. Paul campus, and they are doing so through the St. Paul Leadership Council, chaired by Dean Mary Heltsley.

Dr. Bruininks said he did not believe there was a lack of opportunity to consult with the ASE units, but that he was willing to consult with more groups. He said, however, that he wanted any such groups to be constituted through the faculty governance system, and that he did not want to meet with separate groups of faculty independent of the Senate structure.

Professor Bloomfield said that there is the perception that Dr. Cerra is the "boss" of the AHC and that Dr. Bruininks is the "boss" of the rest of the University. Whether or not that is accurate, it is nonetheless the perception, and to that extent, the ASE faculty believe they should have representation in governance. Dr. Bruininks told the Committee that the situation was in between; anyone in Dr. Cerra's office must have authority in order to be effective, and there would be no strength in the position if it did not report to the President, but many do not recognize the coordination that takes place. Things do change course, he said, and he and Dr. Cerra work well together.

Professor Dempsey said it was the view of the task force that faculty must play a more important role in the colleges, and that FCC has a role to play in strengthening collegiate consultation. Dr. Bruininks agreed that effort should be directed to improvement of college governance, and its connection with the central governance structure. He said that if there is to be a clustering of colleges, it should be through subcommittees of FCC. That, Professor Bloomfield noted, is what the ASE proposal calls for.

Professor Bloomfield said that Dr. Bruininks could take the position that as second-in-command of the University, he does not have time to meet with these different consultative groups, and could say that the power is going to the deans, so the faculty should meet with their deans. On the other hand, he has expressed a willingness to meet at least somewhat more broadly.

Dr. Bruininks said that he has been engaged in a series of meetings with department chairs, and would like to meet with the Regents' Professors and perhaps the McKnight Professors. He would like advice from FCC on how better to connect the academic community more. One possibility, Professor Bloomfield suggested, was that he and the President meet more frequently with the colleges.

Professor Bloomfield thanked Dr. Bruininks for staying at the meeting well beyond the scheduled time, and adjourned it at 4:15.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota