

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

3:30 PM

Board of Trustees Conference Room

Attendance: Jim Aton, Idir Azouz, Luciane Berg, Bonnie Bishop, Morris Brown, Jim Cotts, Thomas Cunningham, Ben Davidson, Neil Gailey, Brian Hoover, LaMar Jordan, Paul Larson, Elsie Leahy, Michael McGarvey, Gary McIntyre, Carol Ann Modesitt, Earl Mulderink, Dan Pence, Greg Powell, Bill Romey, Lila Schwaner.

Senators absent: Ann Barnes, Jeff Barnes, Rick Lambson, Gary McIntyre.

Visitors: Grace Boyer, *University Journal*; Scott Lanning, Finance Committee; Neil Mecham, Drop Policy Committee representative; Bill Moody, Staff Association representative; Dorian Page, Associate Vice President/Treasurer; Provost Ray Reutzel; Lynn White, Faculty Recruitment and Retention Committee.

I. Call to Order: President Earl Mulderink called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 23, 1999.

MOTION to approve the minutes was made by Jim Cotts, SECOND by Bill Romey, PASSED unanimously.

III. Officers' Reports

IV. President

1. Staff Association report (from Connie Nyman). A tuition waiver benefit for part-time employees was discussed because SUU does not currently offer that benefit to half-time or part-time staff employees, according to Bill Moody, President-Elect of the Staff Association. Besides pursuing this issue, Bill explained that the SUU Staff Association has been working for more funding for higher education so that wages and benefits can be improved.

2. Earl mentioned that Rick Lambson has been nominated by Dean Barker to fill a three-year term as a replacement for Prent Klag, who has assumed a department chair position in the College of Education. Earl will introduce Rick Lambson at the next Senate meeting and ask for approval of his appointment.

3. Earl reported on the activities of the Ad-hoc Assessment Committee. A draft memo from the committee is forthcoming to deans, department heads, and faculty. Department assessment plans will be due to the Provost by January 31, 2000. Earl asked for reports from Idir Azouz, Paul Larson, and Neil Gailey, who

have been attending Assessment Committee meetings in his place.

4. Earl distributed an excerpt from the minutes of a recent Deans' Council meeting (September 22, 1999) that centered on performance-based funding at state-wide and institutional levels. The Senate briefly discussed this issue and its implications.

5. Earl also introduced the issue of "collegiality" as a criterion in LRT policies by distributing and discussing a report from the American Association of University Professors. Senators were asked to discuss this report with colleagues.

6. Earl mentioned that he had asked President Bennion about the role of faculty in a review of the president this year, his third at SUU. President Bennion explained that he will undergo a formal evaluation process mandated by the Board of Regents that will include input from faculty, administrators, staff, students, Regents, Trustees, and others. President Bennion expressed his willingness to meet with faculty to discuss issues and concerns, stating that he tries to maintain an open door policy when he is on campus. Earl plans to schedule a meeting with the President and the Provost soon, preferably before the next Senate meeting on November 18. In addition, he noted that the President soon may hold a meeting with faculty and staff.

7. Earl introduced Dorian Page, Associate Vice President and Treasurer. Dorian outlined several items about state and university budgets, including lobbying efforts on behalf of SUU's number one priority this year, that of obtaining greater funding to improve faculty and staff salaries. He distributed a list of elected state officials and contact information so that faculty and others can directly voice their concerns to legislators. Dorian plans to create a homepage on the SUU Web site that will contain legislative and budget updates.

8. Jim Cotts asked about the status of the "Acceptable Use" computer policy. Earl reported that the issue is now in front of the Deans' Council, and they are awaiting further legal advice before they proceed.

V. President-elect

1. Neil has met with the Board of Trustees twice since our last meeting. He expressed to them our desire to retain and hire quality faculty, and of the need for adequate compensation to obtain that goal.

2. Neil stated that he had paid his Faculty Association dues and encouraged all Senators who have not paid to do so.

VI. Treasurer

Idir reported that the credit union account contains \$11,460.79, and the university account contains \$1,099.49.

Idir stated that there are more faculty on automatic payroll deduction for their Faculty Association dues than last year, but the number of faculty paying dues is slightly less than a year ago.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Space Utilization (Re: Provost's Memo of September 15, 1999). The Senate had been asked by the Provost to consider the issue of effective classroom utilization, particularly during early morning teaching times. Jim Cotts **MOVED** that we propose a change in the Tuesday-Thursday schedule to begin classes at 8:00 AM and run until 5:00 PM, beginning next Fall, to count all Tuesday-Thursday classes toward space utilization times. (At present, classes taught in the 7:00-8:30 AM slot do not count toward DFMC utilization measures.) Ben Davidson **SECONDED** the motion. In their discussion, some faculty noted the potential disruption of Convocation by this proposed change in the schedule. The motion was approved by a **VOTE** of 20-0-0.

IX. Finance Committee Report (Insurance items: Short-term disability, medical leave, parental leave). Scott Lanning, Chair of the Faculty Senate Finance Committee, reported on the difficulty in separating these three issues. Scott had met with David McGuire, Director of Human Resources, to obtain more information, and he reported that his committee still needed to collect data from several peer institutions. Earl asked Scott to coordinate his committee's efforts with the SUU Staff Association.

X. Faculty Recruitment and Retention Guidelines. Lynn White distributed an FRR Committee preliminary report that outlined guidelines and procedures for hiring new faculty. Lynn reported that her committee incorporated suggestions from faculty and administrators, and she noted that her committee tried to find a consensus about the role of faculty and administrators in the hiring process. Following a lengthy discussion, LaMar Jordan **MOVED** that we accept the report concerning guidelines for recruitment of new faculty as presented by the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Committee. It was **SECONDED** by Idir Azouz. Following further discussion, the motion was **PASSED** by a vote of 12-3-2. Jim Cotts then **MOVED** that the Senate send a copy of the report, with a cover letter, to Department Chairs urging them to follow these guidelines. The motion was **SECONDED** by Bonnie Bishop. Following discussion, the motion **PASSED** by a vote of 15-0-3. A copy of the guidelines are on file in the Faculty Senate Office.

XI. Drop Policy. Neil Mecham, representing the Faculty Senate's Ad-hoc Drop Policy

Committee, explained their draft report and policy recommendations. In an effort to meet the needs of students who wish to enroll in high demand classes, this policy provides faculty with the authority to drop from their rolls students who miss the first class and do not contact the instructor prior to the second class meeting. Another student may then be enrolled in the dropped student's place. The policy is not automatic, and students should not assume that they will be dropped from a class if they miss the first class meeting. Students are still responsible for completing the drop process for all classes they are not attending. Bonnie Bishop MOVED to accept this policy as written. LaMar Jordan SECONDED the motion, which PASSED by a vote of 14-0-2. A copy of the Drop Policy is on file in the Faculty Senate Office.

XII. New Business

XIII. Americans with Disabilities Act Statement. Earl distributed a memo to all faculty from the Provost (dated October 28, 1999) regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to a policy recently endorsed by the Deans' Council, instructors will now be responsible for delivering exams to Student Support Services to accommodate testing needs of students with disabilities. These tests may be delivered in person (by the instructor or designee), by campus mail (sealed), by email (studentsupport@suu.edu), or by FAX (865-8235). Senators discussed several aspects of this policy, and some faculty expressed concern about additional demands imposed by the new policy.

XIV. Executive Session: None.

XV. Motion for Executive Session

Lila Schwaner MOVED for an executive session for the next meeting. Brian Hoover SECONDED. The motion PASSED unanimously.

XVI. Adjournment

Lucaine Berg moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 PM.