

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Tuesday, 17 November 1998

Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

Members Present: J. Andrews, Z. Ballas, M. Barrick, J. Bertolatus, L. Burmeister, B. Butler, J. Carlson, K. Clark, C. Colvin, R. Curto, D. Davis, A. Dipardo, G. El-Khoury, M. Emery, G. Fischer, R. Hohl, E. Irish, T. Judge, I. Levin, D. Liddell, E. Link, C. Lynch, D. Manderscheid, K. Marra, L. Marshall, A. McCarthy, J. Menninger, K. Mescher, J. Moyers, V. Nair, G. Oden, M. Raymond, C. Ringen, A. Roberts, D. Rosenthal, C. Roy, S. Rynes-Weller, C. Stanford, W. Stanford, D. Stephens, M. Stone, K. Tachau, J. Tomkovicz, D. Wakefield, E. Wasserman, R. Weir, B. Wiley, R. Zbiek.

Members Absent (Excused): C. Berman, A. Bhattacharjee, S. Bishara, M. David, M. Grover-McKay, J. Hayes, P. Hitchon, J. Jew, M. Pincus, J. Ringen, B. Thompson.

Members Absent: J. Arora, F. Boos, P. Chang, J. Cox, H. Diehl, B. Doebbeling, K. Ephgrave, J. Hoballah, J. Kline, S. Lawrence, B. Levy, G. Milavetz, E. Rivera, M. Rizzo, M. Vargas, M. Wall.

Guests: Lee Anna Clark (Office of the Provost), Mary Sue Coleman (Office of the President), Charles Drum, (University Relations), Mary Mathew Wilson (Faculty Senate Office), Lyle Muller (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*), Sarah Pettinger (UISG), Scott Shuman (UISG).

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:36 PM by President Wiley.
- II. Approval of minutes: It was moved by Prof. Roy, seconded by Prof. Tachau, that the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of 20 October 1998 be approved. The motion passed without dissent.
- III. Announcements: President Wiley
  - A. The University Library will soon be replacing the Oasis program, in part to become compatible with computer searching of other CIC collections. There will be four vendors coming to present demonstrations of their software. Senators can attend these sessions.
  - B. The Provost's office has made available \$12,000 to the Faculty Senate for projects. Senators are asked to offer ideas for the use of these funds.
- IV. Reports and Discussion: University President Mary Sue Coleman

President Coleman gave brief descriptions of her recent activities, including visits to alumni groups around the United States. The purpose of the visits is to solicit funds and to describe planning for the upcoming major capital campaign. At all these stops alumni manifested enthusiasm for the University. Combined presentations of Regents' institutions at towns around Iowa have been reactivated. Present at these sessions are representatives of the University, sometimes members of the faculty, the Regent from that district and local legislators. Citizens and legislators can ask questions about current activities at the institutions, as can the individual Regent. There have been several recently; the steady-state rate will probably be three-four per year. The Governmental Relations Committee and the Alumni Association have reactivated the Legislative Advocates program. Their goal is to have 15 citizen advocates representing the spectrum of political interests in each state legislative district; current coverage is approximately

35% of that goal. During the 18-19 November meeting of the Regents, President Coleman will present a report on progress toward the goals of the current strategic plan. There has been dramatic progress documented in some areas. The report will be distributed soon to faculty and be made available on the University's web site. This year will see significant discussion of the next strategic plan. On 19 November, President Coleman, on the suggestion of Governor Branstad, will make the annual presentation of the University's budget requests to Governor-elect Vilsack. Included will be requests for full funding of faculty salaries, a Regent-approved \$9 million increase in the operations budget and a special project, the Public Health initiative \_ start-up funds for a School of Public Health that will focus on the health of rural citizens, children and the aged, and will offer the Master of Public Health degree.

There followed a question and answer period, which included the following points:

Iowans and alumni, depending on the individual, believe that the University is a place for service and scholarship, as well as for education. People understand research, especially when told about prizes won by faculty or that U/IA is only the only university in the country that has won three dissertation prizes. Iowans look to U/IA for leadership; a question in Muscatine--what are we doing about corn prices?--was answered by noting that basic research on the human and other genomes might one day make corn useful for other than food. Northwest Iowa citizens feel neglected; we are trying to respond to their needs

Raising admission standards is a balancing act; one consideration is how much political support might be lost by such an action. President Coleman expressed a preference for strengthening course requirements rather than requiring higher ACT scores. Every student accepted should be able to succeed.

Cuts in our budget requests by the Regents result in survival of only the highest priority items, despite the strong justifications given for all the items. The Regents make a judgment on what is feasible. They have lots of experience and enjoy high respect in the legislature. The state can't do everything so regents have to make a political decision as well as judge which are our most critical areas. Reallocation at the University continues, and at a scale beyond Regents' expectations.

Criticism from Iowans about lack of minority representation is blunted by stressing the importance of a diverse faculty, staff and students. People don't challenge this view, they accept a positive approach.

The number-one budget priority to be presented to Governor-elect Vilsack is full funding of salaries. This amount is large and if not fully funded makes accomplishing anything else difficult. In the end, the world is a moving target, everyone is improving, so we have to keep improving our salaries also.

V. There was no Old Business to discuss.

## VI. New Business

- A. Proposed amendment to Constitution and Bylaws: Jon Carlson, Chair, Committee on Rules and Bylaws.

A correction was made to the written version of the proposed constitutional amendment, which would extend eligibility for elections of officers to past as well as current senators. This change would apply to Article II of the Constitution and to Article III of the Bylaws; there would also be some technical consequences concerned with automatic extension of terms, etc. A second amendment to the bylaws would report results of senate elections as soon as possible to the Committee on Committees.

In response to questions concerning the need for the constitutional amendment, President Wiley noted that officers must be members of the senate when elected and that a member whose term is ending is therefore ineligible. The goal of the amendment is to increase diversity while maintaining quality. Prof. Roy noted the benefits of increasing the pool of eligible women. Prof. Ringen suggested that a specific action might suffice to include in the eligible pool those senators whose term was expiring; electing someone whose experience was 15 years out of date seemed bizarre. President Wiley pointed out that only the secretary and vice president were elected, the latter having a year to get up to speed before assuming the presidency. Vice President Carlson opined that a narrower amendment might exclude candidates who are attractive. Prof. Tachau noted that new senators, up to 1/3 of the new senate, are eligible but their competence might not be up to the task and someone ending a term might be preferable. Past President Wasserman shared his experience that it is very difficult to negotiated agreement to serve since the demands on the time of officers is high; not too many are willing.

A vote was taken on the proposed amendment to the Constitution. It failed with 15 voting yes and 18 no.

A vote to refer the proposed amendment back to the Committee on Rules and Bylaws for further consideration passed without dissent.

The second proposed amendment to Article V of the Bylaws, informing the Committee on Committees of election results within a week of the election passed without dissent.

- B. Revisions to University Charter: Bob Wiley, President of Faculty Senate

A proposed draft of revisions to the General Charter for University Committees was described by President Wiley as having nothing of real substance changed. It was moved by Prof. Mescher, seconded by Prof. Tachau, to accept the draft and the motion carried without dissent.

- C. Proposal for Study Days: Sarah Pettinger and Scott Shuman, University of Iowa Student Government.

Ms. Pettinger described the proposal as originating in an ad hoc committee in the Office of

the Provost. Instructors are asked to voluntarily set aside the last few days of a semester to review course material. "Dead days" and "dead week" proposals were considered but seem not to be feasible. The students wanted faculty commentary before presenting the proposal to the student government later in the day. Prof. Marshall commented that cutting out a week would be impractical in the College of Nursing; thus, the voluntary aspect is desirable. In response to a question concerning review days for examinations other than the final Ms. Pettinger stated that students would encourage this, assuming the final examination were not comprehensive, but implementation would be up to individual instructors. Prof. Levin noted that not assigning papers due at the end of a course would eliminate a device that is valuable in synthesizing course material. Ms. Pettinger responded that if the paper were a substitute for an examination this would be desirable but a paper due at the end of a semester plus an examination makes it difficult for students to excel. President Wiley stated that the students would like the Faculty Senate to endorse the Review Days proposal.

Prof. Ringen moved, Prof. Oden seconding, that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposal for voluntary Review Days. The motion was carried on a voice vote.

VII. President Wiley declared the meeting adjourned at 16:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Menninger, Secretary