

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 14, 1999

303 Cashion, Hankamer

MINUTES

Present: Abbott-Kirk, Adams, Baird, Auld, Beck, Bowery, Buddo, Cox, Curtis, Dunn, Farris, Genrich, Gilchrest, Hair, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Riley, Stone, Supplee, Weaver, Williams, Wilson, Yelderman, Young

Absent: Carini, Davis, Garland

I. Call to Order & Announcements.

The meeting began at 3:35 PM. The invocation was given by B. Baird.

II. Consideration of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consent.

III. Consideration of November Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were distributed. Longfellow moved for their approval, seconded by Beck; motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment (J. Losey, Chair).

No Report.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (D. Johnston, Chair)

The Admissions Committee reports that new freshmen applications are up 18% relative to last year's figures, and that transfer applications were up 26%. Goal for admissions remains 2750 students.

Senators then discussed the 2000-2001 catalog change, made by the Admissions Committee, in which minimum SAT and ACT scores will no longer be reported. Instead, the catalog will list criteria as graduating in the top 50% of high school class and "competitive" SAT/ACT test scores.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (J. Yelderman, Chair).

The parking garage is nearing completion, but traffic will remain restricted until the landscaping work is completed.

Construction on the new Law School facilities are expected to begin in January.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (R. Wilson, Chair)

The committee met with Steve Moore, and anticipates two major issues for Spring, 2000:

- a formal policy regarding "Dead Week"
- discussion of the closing of dorms on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving

E. Athletic Council (M. Dunn, Liaison). No Report.

F. Staff Council (J. Abbott-Kirk, Liaison). No Report.

G. Benefits and Personnel Committee (F. Curtis, Liaison). No Report.

Curtis reported that the committee is considering raising the medical insurance maximum to \$1.5 or \$2 million dollars, from the current maximum of \$1 million.

Senators asked Curtis inquire of the Committee the possibility of increasing the options in the allocation of retirement fund resources.

Genrich requested support for a health insurance plan that is not restricted to family coverage only. Many of our faculty are single and it is extremely difficult for them to pay the monthly premium; it would be less punitive for them if an individual plan could be purchased. Curtis was asked to take this request to Benefits and Personnel Committee.

V. Old Business

A. Report on small group meeting with President Sloan on November 30

Baird reported that most discussion centered around two issues:

1. The image now projected by the University, especially with respect to the religious orientation, and the impact on the number and quality of faculty applicants.
2. Increase in scholarly expectations and changes in resource allocation needed to meet those expectations.

After considerable discussion and feedback, Baird suggested that in future meetings with the President, it would be helpful to move for some closure on these topics.

B. Promotion Policy.

The Promotion Policy is now in review by the Council of Deans. Baird had to leave the most recent meeting which was held in Dallas early to return for a meeting in Waco, so it now appears that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

Losey also reported that one change has been made: the time required before consideration of promotion to Full Professor is now "at least" 15 years.

C. Dismissal Procedures.

The Administration has accepted the proposal that the Tenure Committee not be used in cases of dismissal. Also, they accepted the concept that membership on the Dismissal Committee would be determined by both Faculty Senate and the Administration. Details remain to be worked out.

D. Tenure Decision Letter. No Report.

F. Combining of Grievance and Hearing Committees. No Report.

G. Description of Senate in Faculty Handbook. No Report.

H. Committee to work with Marilyn Crone on development of evaluation procedures for staff.

Members of the Senate serving on the committee are Dunn, Abbott-Kirk, Young, and Weaver

VI. New Business

A. Senior Lecturers

Promotion decisions are scheduled to be made by December 15, 1999. Senators expressed some concern regarding the outcome of these decisions.

B. Communication Policy over the Holidays.

Senators discussed the request made by the Provost that all faculty are to remain immediately accessible at all times during the holiday break. Many expressed displeasure over the way in which this was handled, and that such a request may be unrealistic and inappropriate.

VII. Announcements

January Senate Meeting changed from January 18 to January 25

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Weaver

Appendix A

Remaining Meetings with President Sloan (Revised 12/14/99)

February 1, 2000	April 11, 2000
Rosalie Beck	Anne Bowery
Gary Carini	Joe Cox
Mark Dunn	Donald Farris
David Young	Bill Jensen
Philip Johnson	David Longfellow
Richard Riley	Chuck Weaver
Jane Williams	Ray Wilson
Fred Curtis	