

Minutes
Kansas State University Faculty Senate Meeting
January 13, 1998 3:30 p.m. Big 12 Room, K-State Union

Present: D. Anderson, P. Anderson, Atkinson, Baker, Benson, Bissey, Brigham, Charney, Conrow, Deger, Devlin, Dubois, Dyer, Farmer, Fenton, Fenwick, Feyerharm, Foster, Grunewald, Guikema, Hagmann, Hamilton, Hassan, Hightower, Holden, J. Johnson, Jones, Kassebaum, Keiser, Klopfenstein, Koelliker, Legg, Michie, Miller, Ossar, Ottenheimer, Oukrop, Rahman, Raub, Reeck, Riemann, Royse, Salsberry, Schapaugh, Smith, Taylor-Archer, K. Wright, Zabel

Absent: Aramouni, Barkley, Behnke, Briggs, Clegg, Dawes, Delker, Dodd, Dougan, Fjell, Fritz, Gray, Higgins, Jardine, N. Johnson, Krstic, Lamond, Laughlin, Martin, Mathews, McClaskey, McCulloh, McMurphy, McNamara, Peak, Pence, Reeves, Ross, Schroeder, Shultis, Stewart, White, Wissman, Woodward, D. Wright, Zchoche

Guests: Vice President Thomas Rawson, Charles Reagan

- I. President Legg called the meeting to order.
- II. Minutes of the December 9, 1997, meeting were approved with the change that Senator Baker was present.
- III. Vice-President Rawson discussed several expansion matters with the Senate, including the Anderson Avenue project, a parking garage, a convention hotel, and the proposed Alumni Association building.

The University is concerned about congestion and pedestrian safety on Anderson Avenue near the campus, especially in light of an anticipated enrollment increase of some 3000 students. Therefore the University supported the city at the request of the City Manager in the August 1996 application for KDOT funds. The University would grant right of way property as its contribution. Furthermore, when the city annexed the University, the University maintained an advisory role in spending taxes collected on campus. The city-university committee overseeing these funds has always included the Anderson expansion in its out-year planning. The plan would provide a new sidewalk on the north side of Anderson and new stone walls south of Nichols and the Union parking lot.

We have legislative authority to build a parking garage, but are deferring any decision pending further discussions. TransSystems is supposed to determine whether we have a parking problem or are likely to have one in 8 to 10 years. If so, they should do a cost/benefit analysis of options, including a parking garage and a shuttle system. Several years ago, there was some discussion of building a parking

garage topped by a convention center and hotel in the old stadium. No developer indicated interest in building a convention center. Mr. Rawson emphasized that there would be no garage in the stadium under this administration.

The Alumni Association approached the Administration in late spring or early summer about a location in the heart of the campus. The Administration, the Planning Office and the Association looked at several sites and agreed on the Anderson site, which would have been feasible even without the Anderson project. The Administration is committed to upgrading the old football field and is trying to work in concert with the city to develop suitable practice fields for club sports.

There has been no formal campus development plan since the late 70's. Dick Hayter chairs a committee composed of representatives of each college and others which is charged with developing principles for use in long-term planning on campus. We may ask the legislature for funding to develop such a plan.

Mr. Rawson responded to a number of questions and concerns voiced by senators. With respect to the placement of the Alumni Association building and green space, he reiterated that other sites on campus were considered before choosing the Anderson site. That site has now been assigned and the architect is charged with optimizing the green space. He agreed that the Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning was not involved in discussions either of the University's position on the Anderson project or the Alumni Association. In the eight years he has worked here FSCOUP has not been involved in capital development projects. The Campus Development Committee has advised the Administration.

Several senators objected to the lack of true faculty involvement in these projects in the spirit of "shared governance". While the Campus Development Committee advised the Administration, this committee is composed primarily of representatives of the Administration. Senator Reeck suggested that a faculty group, if not FSCOUP then another committee, should be identified to advise on such matters. Amy Renz, president of the Alumni Association, first contacted FSCOUP about the plans on January 8, 1998, according to FSCOUP Chair Linda Brigham. Mr. Rawson added that there would be opportunities for faculty input on the transportation plan. The contract with TransSystem, a subcontract of the city's contract, stipulates at least three open forums to discuss the problem.

IV. Announcements

The Executive Committee met with the Council of Deans on Jan. 9. The Deans and the Faculty Senators agreed to meet again later in the semester; the Deans wished to suggest subjects for inclusion in the next agenda.

COCAO, COFSP, COSBP and the lawyers will make a presentation regarding the Intellectual Policy Statement at the January 21 Board of Regents meeting. The draft statement has been distributed to members of the Exec Comm. We should get a chance to comment on the policy prior to the anticipated May approval. There

might be some disagreement about retaining non-exclusive copyright for articles in journals.

KnowledgeWell, a subsidiary of an Irish company has approached KSU with the possibility of developing a program for distribution of mediated instruction in this country. They would provide the infrastructure and expertise on delivery. We would provide content and control the generation of credit. The plan is to begin with a business minor program and later add an MBA, both with recognition from K-State.

Negotiations are now in progress for this linkage.

Senator Feyerharm expressed reservations about organizations which promise a lot and deliver little. He is concerned that faculty will be coerced to produce courses. Senator Reeck agreed that faculty should not be forced to participate. He has voluntarily prepared a mediated course and found it very satisfying, though a great deal of work.

Senators inquired about the process of entering into the contract. Will the faculty to be involved be consulted prior to signing? It appears that some faculty in the College of Business Administration are currently involved. Does Academic Affairs need to approve the project? President Legg explained that he understood this would use existing courses and programs which would be mediated in presentation, therefore approval by Academic Affairs would not be necessary, provided regular Kansas State faculty were responsible for offering the course and evaluating the students' work. Senate approves courses, not methodology, trusting faculty to maintain appropriate standards, Senator Hamilton added. Who pays Knowledge Well? They would pay us for students who take the courses. Where does the money go? President Legg understands that some would go to the faculty involved and some to the University, although that is not yet clearly defined.

Senator Michie suggested that, because the faculty, even in the College of Business Administration, know too little about the project at present, President Legg should write to the Provost asking that the process be slowed down and no contract be signed until more information is available. Others agreed.

Charles Reagan, Assistant to President Wefald, explained that a K-State alumnus works for the company which has established its reputation producing training materials, e.g. computer instruction. They have the technological skill to produce the courses and the worldwide market for them. They want access to our expertise and reputation and ability to control the courses. Discussions began in October and seemed to hit a dead end. They are active again with Provost Coffman and Vice-Provost Unger representing the University. If courses are applied toward a certificate, royalties generated would be shared with the University. Courses applied toward a degree would involve payment of tuition to K-State. Faculty would continue to control the courses.

President Legg noted that the faculty, not the University, has the knowledge and therefore must be strongly involved in any decisions whether we participate in such a program and how we regulate it. Dr. Reagan has always seen the faculty as the university, but the Administration felt that there was no cause for general discussion unless a contract seemed likely.

President Legg will write to the Provost welcoming the idea of investigating this opportunity and urging him to seek consultation with the faculty involved and Academic Affairs.

V. Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs – Don Fenton

1. Senator Fenton moved approval of Undergraduate Course and Curriculum Changes (599 & below) approved by the College of Business Administration October 30, 1997. Motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Fenton moved approval of Undergraduate Course and Curriculum Changes (599 & below) approved by the College of Arts and Sciences November 6, 1997. Motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Fenton moved approval of Undergraduate Course and Curriculum Changes (599 & below) approved by the College of Human Ecology November 14, 1997. Motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Fenton moved approval of Undergraduate Course and Curriculum Changes (599 & below) approved by the College of Architecture, Planning and Design November 20, 1997. Motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Fenton moved approval of Undergraduate Course and Curriculum Changes (599 & below) approved by the College of Education November 25, 1997. Motion was seconded and passed.

2. He moved approval of the following Graduate Course and Curriculum Changes approved by the Graduate Council December 2, 1997 with the following correction: Under the CHANGE section, DMP 809 should be changed from "Problems in Pharmacology and Toxicology" to "Problems in Toxicology." The motion was seconded and passed.

CHANGE

AGRON 746 Physical Properties of Soils
AGRON 970 Advanced Plant Breeding I
AGRON 980 Advanced Plant Breeding II
AP 890 Problems in Pharmacology
ASI 608 Dairy Foods Processing & Technology

CHANGE (continued)

ATM 653	Water Management and Irrigation Systems
DMP 785	Diagnostic Medicine
DMP 801	Toxicology
DMP 803	Advanced Toxicology
DMP 805	Toxins in the Biological System
DMP 806	Environmental Toxicology
DMP 807	Current Topics in Toxicology
DMP 809	Problems in Toxicology
EECE 685	Power Systems Design
EECE 686	Power Systems Protection
ENTOM 620	Insecticides: Properties and Laws
ENTOM 820	Biological Control
ENTOM 857	Toxicology of Insecticides
FREN 709	Medieval French Literature
FREN 710	Sixteenth-Century French Literature
FREN 711	Seventeenth-Century French Literature I
FREN 712	Seventeenth-Century French Literature II
FREN 713	Eighteenth-Century French Literature
FREN 714	Nineteenth-Century French Literature I
FREN 715	Nineteenth-Century French Literature II
FREN 716	Twentieth-Century French Literature I
FREN 717	Twentieth-Century French Literature II
FREN 718	The French Novel
FREN 719	Advanced Spoken and Written French
FREN 720	Seminar in French
FREN 742	French-Speaking Culture and Literature in Second Language Learning
FREN 799	Problems in Modern Languages
GEOG 760	Human Impact on the Environment
GRSC 625	Flour and Dough Testing
GRSC 670	Bakery Layout
GRSC 701	Practicum in Bakery Technology
GRSC 710	Fundamentals of Grain Storage
GRSC 730	Milling Science II
GRSC 737	Baking Science II
GRSC 738	Baking Science II Laboratory
GRSC 750	Feed Technology II
PHYS 651	Introduction to Optics
PHYS 652	Applied Optics and Optical Measurements
POLSC 605	The American Presidency
POLSC 614	Constitutional Law I
POLSC 615	Constitutional Law II
POLSC 623	South Asian Politics
POLSC 645	International Politics of Europe
POLSC 652	International Politics of South Asia
POLSC 653	International Politics of the Middle East

CHANGE (continued)

- POLSC 667 American Political Thought
- POLSC 675 Religion and Politics
- POLSC 700 Research Methods in Political Science
- POLSC 701 Computer and Quantitative Analysis in Political Science
- POLSC 707 Comparative Administrative Systems
- POLSC 708 Public Personnel Administration
- POLSC 710 Policy Analysis and Evaluation
- POLSC 735 Public Organization Theory
- POLSC 754 The Professional Diplomat and Foreign Policy Formulation
- POLSC 785 Readings in Political Science
- POLSC 790 Problems in Political Science
- POLSC 799 Pro-Seminar in Political Science
- POLSC 831 Seminar: Public Administration
- SPAN 751 Spanish-American Literature: Late Nineteenth Century to Early Twentieth Century
- SPAN 752 Contemporary Spanish-American Narrative
- SPAN 755 Spanish-American Drama
- SPAN 756 Nineteenth-Century Spanish Literature
- SPAN 761 Medieval and Renaissance Literature
- SPAN 763 Twentieth-Century Spanish Literature
- SPAN 764 Spanish Literature of the Golden Age
- SPAN 770 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
- SPAN 771 Introduction to Spanish Translation
- SPAN 772 The Hispanic World Today
- SPAN 775 Cervantes
- SPAN 777 Spanish and Spanish-American Culture and Literature in Second-Language Learning

DROP

- AGRON 735 Plant Nutrient Sources
- AGRON 805 Soil Chemistry
- AGRON 815 Soil-Root Environment
- AGRON 895 Nutrient Cycling Models
- CLS 811 Chemical and Food Safety/Environmental Health
- CLS 819 Research in Toxicology
- POLSC 602 Class, Power, and Public Policy
- POLSC 613 Defendant's Rights
- POLSC 616 Discrimination and the Law
- POLSC 625 Southeast Asian Politics
- POLSC 676 Psychological Bases of Politics
- POLSC 709 The Politics of Intergovernmental Relations
- POLSC 717 The Administrative Process
- SPAN 760 Advanced Spoken and Written Spanish

NEW COURSES

ACCTG 845	International Accounting
AGRON 605	Soil and Environmental Chemistry
GRSC 840	Advanced Grain Processing Technology
GRSC 880	Advanced Processing Series: Breakfast Cereal Technology
GRSC 885	Advanced Processing Series: Pasta and Noodle Technology
ME 670	Computer Control of Mechanical Systems
PHYS 692	Introduction to Cosmology
PHYS 701	Cosmology
SPAN 750	Spanish-American Literature from Its Origins to the Nineteenth Century
SPAN 766	Spanish Poetry
SPAN 767	Spanish-American Poetry

3. He moved approval of the following course approved for General Education at the December 4, 1997, General Education Task Force Meeting:

MGNT 641 Management of Quality.

The motion was seconded and passed.

4. He moved approval of the addition of names to the May 1997 and August 1997 lists of graduates from the Graduate School. The motion was seconded and passed.
5. He moved that the Senate accept the GPA Summary. **Attachment 1.** Motion was seconded.

Senator Fenton explained that early in the academic year Academic Affairs was directed to investigate information on grades to see if grade inflation had occurred in recent years. Don Foster provided the information on GPAs, Ron Downey the grade information. The data should be read while keeping in mind that policy changes such as the change in the Drop/Add policy affect this data. Academic Affairs did not detect any major change in the last few years.

Senator Foster pointed to two recent policies which would affect results. Students with less than a 1.00 are now dismissed after one semester. Other students are now transferring in more credit for high school work or from junior college in courses for which they probably would not have received an A or B at K-State. The effect of the Retake Policy would have been noted already in the 70's.

President Legg served on a committee in the early 70's which looked at grade inflation. Although they found some evidence, they could not legislate against it. He suggested that Academic Affairs should build a data base of grade distribution by courses and sections for future reference.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee – Brad Fenwick

The committee had nothing to present for action at this meeting.

Senator Fenwick reported that the new census, approved with the Senate Constitution change, will be in effect for this spring's election.

The group spent much of last semester in a reactionary mode but hopes to be proactive this semester. The two items most likely to see early action are the proposed revision of the Ethnic and Racial Harassment Policy and apparent contradictions regarding academic leave and the tenure clock. He referred his colleagues to the Executive Committee minutes for other items under consideration.

Senator Keiser updated the Senate regarding the awarding of bonuses in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The Provost acknowledged that it was inappropriate and that it will not be done in the future.

C. Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning – Linda Brigham

FSCOUP is working on the draft for a charge for the University Library Committee. The College of Human Ecology's procedures for reorganization are under continued scrutiny. Members of the group have attended a Space Planning Committee meeting and a meeting characterized as an "early stage" discussion of the alumni center. Senator Brigham hopes that this involvement will lead to a proactive role in the future. The Faculty Development Committee is gathering data and has met with Ron Trewyn to get information on awards to support faculty endeavors.

VI. There was no old business.

VII. There was no new business.

VIII. There was nothing for the Good of the University.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

**University Registrar**

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December 8, 1997

TO: Don Fenton
FROM: Don Foster
SUBJECT: Grading Summary

Attached are two documents that maybe helpful in determining whether grade inflation is an issue at K-State. First is a letter from Ron Downey and Table 1 that indicates frequency of grades for three years, 1987, 1991, 1996. The table provides analysis of the changes over time.

Second item is an undergraduate GPA summary over an extended period with an indication of semester and cumulative GPA's . No attempt was made to try to determine whether the changes were statistically significant.

Generally speaking, it would appear that any significant grade inflation occurred in the late 60's throughout the 70's and perhaps early 80's. Since that time the picture seems to have stabilized in terms of GPA's. Ron Downey's analysis of grade distributions does indicate significant change, but the possible reasons are complex.



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December 4, 1997

Donald E Foster
Registrar
118 Anderson

Dear Don,

At your request, an analysis of the grade distribution for Fall 1987, Fall 1991, and Fall 1996 was conducted. The distribution includes grades for freshman through special undergraduates (SPUG) for the Colleges of Agriculture through Human Ecology. Grades for the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Technology and Graduate School were not included in this analysis.

Table 1 provides the frequency totals and percents of the distribution for grades A to F for these three Fall semesters. The grade categories INC to NR were not considered to be pertinent and are not included in the table. Analysis of changes over time from Fall 1991 suggests that there has been a modest increase (+4.1%) in the number of As granted for Fall 1996. The increase in the number of As appears to be a result of decreases in the numbers of Bs (-0.7%), Cs (-2.7%) and Ds (-0.6%) granted for Fall 1996 compared to the distribution for Fall 1991.*

At first glance this modest increase in As for Fall 1996 could be attributed to a shift in grading standards from Fall 1991. However, if grade inflation is the culprit one would expect to see a parallel increase across in Bs granted for Fall 1996 compared to Fall 1991. Instead, there was a decrease (-0.7%) in the number of Bs granted for Fall 1996 compared to Fall 1991. Alternative explanations for the increase in the number of As are possible. For example, students in the Fall 1996 may have been enrolled in more independent study or higher level courses where earning an A was more likely. To attribute the modest increase in the number of As to changes in how faculty grade may not be appropriate with just this information. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald Downey
Associate Provost and Director

CC: Provost

* This difference was statistically significant.

Table 1
Grade Distribution Analysis
Fall 1987, Fall 1991, and Fall 1996

Grades:	A	B	C	D	F	Total N
Fall 1987						
Frequency *	20,048	21,660	15,258	4,906	3,527	65,399
%	30.7%	33.1%	23.3%	7.5%	5.4%	100%
Fall 1991						
Frequency	23,121	24,968	17,139	5,460	3,913	74,601
%	31.0%	33.5%	23.0%	7.3%	5.2%	100%
Fall 1996						
Frequency	24,762	23,113	14,292	4,758	3,643	70,568
%	35.1%	32.8%	20.3%	6.7%	5.2%	100%

* Frequency totals include HS thru SPUG. College of Technology, Veterinary Medicine & Graduate School are not included.

UNDERGRADUATE GPA SUMMARY

Semester	Semester GPA	Cum GPA
F 70	2.597	2.542
F 80	2.669	2.752
F 87	2.627	2.721
F 90	2.705	2.779
F 91	2.614	2.722
F 92	2.772	2.815
F 93	2.773	2.833
F 94	2.776	2.859
F 95	2.781	2.877
F 96	2.706	2.820