

## **MINUTES**

**Kansas State University Faculty Senate Meeting  
September 8, 1998 3:30 p.m. Big 12 Room, K-State Union**

**Present:** D. Anderson, P. Anderson, Aramouni, Atkinson, Baker, Behnke, Canter, Charney, Consolvo, Cushman, Delker, Deluccie, Devault, Dodd, Dubois, Fenton, Fenwick, Finnegan, Flores, Foster, Geiser, Glasgow, Gray, Grunewald, Hamilton, Hightower, Hosni, Jardine, J. Jones, Kassebaum, Kirkham, Koelliker, Krstic, Liang, Martin, Mathews, McCulloh, Michie, Miller, Mosier, Ossar, Ottenheimer, Oukrop, Pence, Rahman, Ransom, Salsberry, Schmidt, Shultis, Stein, Stewart, Swanson, Takemoto, Taylor-Archer, Verschelden, Weiss, Wissman, Zabel, Zajac

**Absent:** Barkley, Briggs, Clark, Clegg, Conrow, Devlin, Eckert, Exdell, Fjell, Higgins, Holden, C. Jones, Keiser, Legg, Lehman, Lynch, Mann, McClaskey, Raub, Rush, Schapaugh, Schroeder, White, Williams, Youngman

I. President Rahman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Minutes of the August 18, 1998 meeting were approved.

### **III. Announcements**

A. Faculty Senate Leadership met with Central Administration on August 27 to discuss current issues facing the University. One of the major issues is faculty salaries and President Wefald has instituted a major effort to convince Kansas legislators and the public of the need to raise salaries.

B. The search for the Vice Provost of Research and Dean of the Graduate School is underway. The list of the members of the search committee will be attached to these minutes.

C. Videotapes of the presentations made at the recent Department Heads' Retreat are available at the Library. The presentations dealt with studies of alternate modes of faculty employment at Universities. President Rahman is asking for input from Senators about the issues of part-time faculty, contract appointments, and post-tenure review.

D. President Rahman has discussed with Provost Coffman the possibility of inviting speakers to come to Campus to discuss the important issues related to faculty development, productivity, and collegiality.

E. Flyers announcing the September 10 General Faculty Meeting in Forum Hall were handed out for posting and distribution. The meeting will focus on the major issues that have faced Faculty Senate over the past year and will occupy its agenda this year.

F. The topic of this year's first Provost Lecture Series is Research and Graduate Education. President Wefald and Provost Coffman have chosen this topic as a major point of emphasis for the year and will focus their state of the University addresses upon it. President Rahman had a discussion with Provost Coffman about the upcoming Lecture Series presentations. The Provost's view, according to President Rahman, is that we need good graduate programs to be a good University, at present our programs are not ranked high enough in the NRC ratings, and to achieve excellence certain programs will be enhanced. These programs will probably be in the basic sciences, Agriculture, Engineering and in Veterinary Medicine. President Rahman raised the possibility of posting a discussion board about the subject and asked for input from the Senate. Some discussion ensued. Issues raised included: If certain programs have already been selected why are we still involved in a program review? What is the criteria used for selecting programs? What defines "excellence?" Will external funding be the major standard used? Where does the Library fit in? Doesn't supporting the Library enhance excellence across a wide portion of the graduate school? What will the role of Faculty Senate, particularly FSCOUP, be in the process of enhancement? How does Kansas State compare in regard to state funding with other Universities ranked higher? What is the purpose of the Provost's next Lecture Series presentation? Will the Provost make clear what role faculty input will play in the process of enhancement? Why are we raising this topic before we have selected a Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. Shouldn't this person be involved in the formative discussions about the direction graduate education and research will take at KSU?

G. There will be electronic discussion boards available for faculty to interact and provide input about task force reports and the draft of the Regents' Intellectual Property Policy. Also, CITAC will host a panel on the Intellectual Property draft on Wednesday, September 09, 1998 in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library.

#### IV. Special Reports

##### A. Task Force on Research and Graduate Education

Senator Gray, standing in for Chair John Keller, reported that the Task Force was composed of seventeen members and included faculty from each College, three Deans, and two representatives from Central Administration. The Task Force divided into three committees to consider its three major charges. These were to examine the (1) relationship between the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate, (2) the relationship between the Dean and the Graduate Council, and (3) question of whether the offices of the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice Provost for Research should continue to be combined under one person or separated. After careful deliberations, listening to faculty input, and hearing the advice of external consultants the Task Force made the following recommendations:

- (1) The Graduate Council relationship to Faculty Senate should not be changed.

(2) The Dean should not continue to be the Chair of Graduate Council. Rather, the Chair should be a one-year elected position and the election process for selecting members to the Graduate Council should be changed to increase faculty participation in the process.

(3) The Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice Provost for Research should continue to be combined.

The Task Force also recommended to the Provost that graduate programs and research at Kansas State University should be strengthened and that the search for the position of Dean and Vice Provost be undertaken to ensure we will get a person of the highest caliber.

**B. Beth Unger, Vice Provost for Academic Services, and Harvard Townsend, Interim Director of CNS**

The Vice Provost and Director described the recent attacks on the UNIX system on Campus. There were two hacker attacks and one virus attack before the beginning of the semester which seriously affected computer operations. In light of this recent series of attacks and to prevent further ones there will be an attempt to improve security by having all users change their passwords and having passwords changed semiannually thereafter.

In response to the questions of how decisions are made with regard to the hi-tech classrooms and what input do faculty have, the Vice Provost pointed out that it was Provost Coffman's decision to convert all large classrooms to hi-tech but that faculty who had used certain rooms for three years were given the opportunity to provide input into their design. In regard to scheduling, the rooms have become general classrooms that are scheduled according to a complex algorithm based on how much equipment the person who wishes to use the room requires and on the size of the class. Furthermore, if faculty from two different Departments have equal priorities than the room will be given to the person from the Department with a previous claim to the room.

In response to the question of what priorities exist, Vice Provost Unger stated that there is no money available this year for upgrading classrooms with computer equipment but that basic facilities will be upgraded. The Internet2 connection has a high priority as well as the purchase of new email server. Furthermore, \$32000 has been set aside for the Y2K problem. A location will be made available to help faculty and students check their computers for Y2K compliance and staff will be made available to inform them what can be done for any problems discovered.

## V. Standing Committee Reports

### A. Academic Affairs -- Jim Dubois

1. The Executive Committee minutes will be amended to include a discussion about library funding and ways to solve the problem.
2. Agenda items to be dealt with this year include:
  - a. line schedule timing
  - b. new enrollment procedures
  - c. new room scheduling criteria
  - d. the writing initiative
  - e. General Education
  - f. Distance Learning Task Force report

### B. Faculty Affairs -- Brad Fenwick

1. The Chair extended thanks to the Faculty Handbook Committee, Senator Ransom, Chair, for its work in preparing the current Handbook. He also reminded Senators about the need for input into the Transportation Study on Campus.
2. The Committee will begin deliberations on the report of the Task Force to Review Appeal and Grievance Procedures.
3. Two letters were sent to the President of Faculty Senate and the Provost. One requested that administration of the GTA Skills Assessment Form be discontinued until changes can be made in the form. The other requested that the contract for nine months faculty begin on July 1.
4. At their next meeting, the Committee will continue its discussion on the proposed changes to Section B124 of the Faculty Handbook.
5. The length of sabbatical leaves for twelve months faculty will be examined in the near future to see if it needs to be changed to better fit the current two week pay schedule.

### C. Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning - Vladimir Krstic

There are four major issues FSCOUP plans to consider this year: insufficient OOE, planning for the predicted bulge in student enrollments, the impact of linear fee payment on department enrollments, and the pending change in insurance policies for GTAs. The Chair requested that faculty submit their concerns about critical issues to the committee.

## VI. Old Business

None

## VII. New Business

None

### VIII. For the Good of the University

Senator Gray reported that the Course Information System pilot program was completed and that the system will be put in place this year. A graduate student has been hired to assist in implementing the student assessment of General Education courses. Senator Mathews asked whether Faculty Senate will have the opportunity to examine the results of the pilot program and have any further say into the Course Information System. Senator Gray responded that, after conferring with Past President Legg, it was thought appropriate to go ahead with the system without further involvement by Faculty Senate.

Senator Weiss recommended that the University Library Committee be made a standing committee of Faculty Senate.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.