Volume X

Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting of October 28, 1996

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA

Room 126 CH 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Notice: Monday, October 28, 1996

Order of Business:

I. Calling of the Meeting to Order

II. Informal Statements and Proposals

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. President's Report

V. Committee Reports
   A. Rules Committee - Walter Horn, Chr.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business
   A. CAC Bookstore update -- Julie Groh, Book Department Supervisor
   B. NCAA forum - report/reflections
      Gayle Davis, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs
   C. Town Meeting, 10/23/96 -- report/reflections
      Bobby Patton, Vice President, Academic Affairs

VIII. As May Arise

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Donna Hawley, President 5724 Box 41
JoLynne Campbell, Past President 3146 Box 43
Sue Bair, Vice President 3340 Box 16
Jean Eaglesfield, Secretary 3591 Box 68
Walter Horn, President-Elect 3410 Box 44

ELECTED BY SENATE
   Sandra Houts 3280 Box 25
   Elmer Hoyer 3415 Box 44

APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT
   Donald Byrum 3551 Box 67
MEMBERS PRESENT: Alagic, Armstrong, Bair, Bajaj, Burk, Byrum, Campbell, Celestin, Coats, Coffman, DeSilva, Detjens, Deyoe, Dreifort, Eaglesfield, Goldsteen, Hawley, Hemans, Houts, Hoyer, Hughes, Kraft, Kukral, Mandt, Matson, Murphey, Palmiotto, Papanicolaou, Riordan, Saalmann, Schommer, Sharp, Skinner, Stone, Swan, Talia, Terrell, Toops, Wahlbeck, Wang, York

MEMBERS ABSENT: Baxter, Benson, Berry-Bravo, Chambers, Davis, Gythiel, Horn, Leavitt, Lescoe-Long, Miller, Parker, Sutterlin

GUESTS: L.Murphy, Tina Bennett

I. CALL OF THE MEETING TO ORDER:
President Hawley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. INFORMAL STATEMENTS AND PROPOSALS:
Secretary Eaglesfield encouraged Senators to attend the Frostbite Regatta Nov. 3, in Riverside Park. This regatta, sponsored by the Wichita Rowing Association, is held on behalf of the WSU Crew.

III. MINUTES: The minutes of October 14, 1996 were approved as submitted.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
President Hawley had several items. First, the precollege curriculum for qualified selective-admissions, to begin in the year 2001, was approved by the Board of Regents October 17. She noted that she had received several comments from faculty about the foreign language requirement. This response was similar to that of Kansas State University. The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents spoke on behalf of having a foreign language requirement. The Council of Chief Academic Officers support this in principal. The final policy states it is a recommendation, and not a requirement.

Second, John Schuh, AVP for Student Affairs, has requested a faculty representative for a special task force that would write guidelines for the types of reports that require special programming for the work of student services. She asked that those Senators who would be interested in doing this or would have names to suggest to contact herself or the Senate Office. President Hawley added that Senator Bair had agreed to be the faculty representative on another committee for student affairs; this committee would draw up guidelines on who gets access to student files.

Third, President Hawley announced that President Hughes has appointed a task force for the return of football; she had been asked to serve on this and agreed to do it.

Finally, President Hawley announced an informational item, that William Cashin, Director of the Center for Faculty Evaluation and Development at Kansas State University—the Center that coordinates the IDEA program—has retired. To quote from a memo from Cashin, "This means that at least for a year or more the Center will no longer offer any national or on-campus seminars, nor publish its newsletter, "Exchange," or any new IDEA papers."

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

VII. NEW BUSINESS:
A. CAC Bookstore update - Julie Groh, Book Department Supervisor.
President Hawley introduced Julie Groh, Book Department Supervisor, CAC Book Store. Groh began
her remarks by saying that the Bookstore would like to continue an open line of communication with faculty. She explained reasons for the few shortages on the fall semester book orders. She stated that the Bookstore is tracking enrollment and pre-enrollment as a way to make more accurate orders. She thanked faculty for their response to the Textbook Information Card. Many have been received and the Bookstore has found the comments on the cards to be very helpful.

She then asked for comments and questions.

There were questions about course packets. Senator Coats asked how the Bookstore dealt with Central Services on course packets not sold. Groh explained that these were returned to Central Services and to her knowledge, were not charged back to the departments. Senator Murphey asked for an explanation as to why there were no packets yet for a course he was teaching. Groh noted that there had been a change in the supervision of the course packet preparation, which perhaps could be the reason for such a delay. She noted that she tracks course packs and was using electronic mail to speed up reorders.

Senator Schommer asked how the number of copies of book orders are determined. Groh answered that this is determined by enrollment history, faculty notes, actual sales. Companies that supply Bookstore orders prefer a return rate below 20%.

Senator Byrum asked for an explanation of the reorder process. Groh explained that the difficulty of obtaining books quickly is dependent on availability from the major suppliers. She noted that publishers can't often supply textbooks during the semester and wait for a certain amount of orders before reprinting.

Senator Matson asked if the Bookstore staff watched updated enrollment figures. Groh answered that they did. He also asked about the discount and the relationship with the number of copies ordered. Groh explained that large quantity orders do receive larger discount and smaller charges for shipping.

Groh thanked the Senate and encouraged faculty to contact her with any questions or issues.

B. NCA forum, report and reflections - Gayle Davis, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs.

President Hawley noted that the NCA accreditation would be in April, 1997. She introduced AVPAA Gayle Davis to summarize the recent forum that was held on the most recent draft WSU report.

AVPAA Davis began by saying that the forum was a positive meeting. She publicly thanked the Co-Chair Michael Tilford and the many people, around 50 in number, who participated in the committees that produced the report. She noted that the fifth draft is now in progress. There will be one or two more drafts after that. She explained that most of the site visit team, of 7 or 8 members, has been designated. The site visit will be April 14-16, 1997. She noted that this is a positive process, that this is a way of getting outside feedback on what we are doing. AVPAA Davis stated that she is confident WSU is doing well.

In response to questions from Senator Murphey about the differences between the present report and the previous self-study (1987), she stated that now there is more emphasis on student learning outcome rather than student satisfaction. She also noted that there were some new criteria for the 1997 report.

She ended by noting that comments regarding the draft could be made until the first week of December and that the next editions of the draft would be placed on reserve in the Library. The final report would be sent to the NCA office in January. That office will send it to the individuals on the site visit team.


VPAA Patton began by commenting on the excellent work of the NCA committees and commended AVPAA's Davis and Tilford for their leadership.

He stated that the Town Meeting was attended by about 150 people. There was good interaction and good expression of ideas. He gave an overview of enrollment trends and also explained additional factors that indicate that enrollment could soon increase. It would benefit WSU to take advantage of these positive external trends to increase enrollment. He had asked deans to furnish lists of actions that were currently underway; and noted there were many positive actions taking place. He noted the ASAP (Accelerated Student Advancement Program) which had recently received positive publicity. The ASAP is a way for honors students to get a degree in three years. There was discussion on how to promote the university, our role in relationship with the community colleges--do we work cooperatively with them or view them as competitors--VPAA Patton noted that it was his view that the university community is still divided on the issue of our relationship with community colleges.

He then asked for questions and observations.
Senator Byrum asked about faculty access to the mainframe computer network. VPAA Patton replied that this continues to be a goal, that the university anticipated approval next year of a one half percent tuition designated specifically to support technology, that there will be a $12 million dollar funding for technology and equipment for the Regents system.

Senator Wahlbeck asked if upperclass and graduate programs were discussed. VPAA Patton stated that there was discussion of more strategic use scholarships for upperclassmen and interest in recruiting more graduate students. He noted that the Graduate School would be hosting a meeting of private colleges on this campus to encourage them to send students here for graduate programs. Recently, there was a meeting of community college representatives to develop partnerships.

Senator Matson commented on the large number of very successful masters programs at WSU. He suggested that a three year completion with a masters degree would be an appealing program. VPAA Patton responded that this type of suggestion is being encouraged. He noted that we are not graduating enough students in four years and that we are not retaining students at the same rate as our peer institutions. Senator Hoyer expressed concern that the Regents seem preoccupied with the goal of graduating within 4 years. VPAA Patton stated that Regents look at full time freshmen, how many graduate within 4 years and that the University does make the point to the Regents that over 50% of our students are not full time. He noted that community colleges are taking increasingly larger portions of full time freshman students.

Senator Riordan asked if electronic resources were discussed. VPAA Patton answered that there is the system-wide Distance Education Task Force looking toward a statewide plan. This Task Force issued a report the week before in which a more competitive situation would result, instead of a system wide cooperative effort.

Senator Goldsteen asked what is being done to address issues of quality. VPAA Patton stated that WSU is staking our future in the quality of our programs. However, he did note that in the market place this is a "hard-sell." Students, for example, may not care about the importance of a highly educated faculty.

President Hawley raised the issue of packaging of degrees. VPAA Patton described the certificate program of the campus centers and that the University is trying to have more focused programs at each center.

Senator Mandt asked if there were any way of gathering information about post graduate activities. VPAA Patton answered that this function had become decentralized in recent years and that information gathered is not consistent throughout the university. He noted that there is now a Regents study on what happens to students one year after completion of degrees. Senator Mandt stated that a committee in recent years, in doing research on general education, found that over 40% of WSU graduates had entered with associates degrees. With that large number transfer students, Mandt asked if WSU differentiates these from the traditional 4 year student.

VPAA Patton said last week the administration had just turned in WSU's progress toward 2020 report and that the University must account for numerous factors. He also noted that in the analysis of the retention rate, administration looks at impediments to completion. An example would be room in the classroom--at some universities, students take longer to graduate because they cannot get into the courses they need. Such is not the case at WSU.

Senator Kraft raised the issue of competing with community colleges. That Community colleges have lower cost and that WSU has a higher price and noted that some students don't necessarily care about the quality of faculty. He asked VPAA Patton to comment on the subsidizing of community college fees by the Sedgwick County taxpayers. VPAA Patton responded that University is trying to make the point of quality. He does not know how much we can cut cost without hurting quality. He asked if there could be a component of WSU to be the community college piece. Senator Mandt asked if it were true that the actual cost of community college courses is higher than at the Regents universities-- its only the tuition to the student that is cheaper at a community college than at the Regents institutions. VPAA Patton noted that it is the overhead of the larger institutions, such as large libraries, accounts for the higher cost.

Senator Terrell commented on the research and quality issue as interpreted by students; often students want teaching close to the textbook and not to be required to use the library or other facilities.

Senator Swan stated that these issues of differences between the Regents institutions and the community colleges; that there is a "friendliness" factor in community colleges. AVPAA Gayle Davis stated that since WSU's campus centers are small, it is easier to go into that type of place rather than a larger place; that friendliness may be personal and may be environmental. She noted that it may be hard for people coming from
outside a city environment to get used to a city university. Senator Wahlbeck noted the difficulty of competing with community colleges and asked if there are successful programs in universities that attract people from the colleges. VPAA Patton answered that there are and that actions taken recently, such as rebuilding residence facilities, would soon pay off for us.

Senator Goldsteen asked if the university had looked at other public universities that have promoted themselves as alternative schools. VPAA Patton answered that WSU has looked closely at our peer institutions, that we cannot afford to reinvent ourselves, that we can look at models that fit our existing programs and make changes so that students are retained.

Senator Byrum noted that students will soon have access to the catalog online and that faculty will be able to put a better description into the electronic version.

Senator Terrell noted that Oklahoma State University allows children and grandchildren of alumni to who attend that institution to pay an in-state rate, and that there are many such alumni living in the Wichita area. VPAA Patton replied that competition for students is fierce.

Senator Dreifort suggested that faculty should remind our students that they are getting a good education at WSU and tell them what alumni are doing, that alumni have entered prestigious graduate programs and have had successful professional careers.

President Hawley thanked Vice President Patton for this discussion.

There being no business, Senator Bair moved to adjourn and Senator Swan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Eaglesfield
Secretary