Faculty Senate Monthly Packet October 1985

Portland State University Faculty Senate

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portland state university

MEMORANDUM

TO Senators and Ex-officio Members of the Senate

DATE Sept. 26, 1985

FROM Ulrich H. Hardt, Secretary

The Faculty Senate will hold its regular meeting on Monday, October 7, 1985, at 3:00 p.m. in 150 Cramer Hall.

AGENDA

A. Roll

*B. Approval of the Minutes of the June 3, 1985, Meeting

C. Announcements and Communications from the Floor

D. Question Period
   1. Questions for Administrators
   2. Questions from the Floor for the Chair

E. Reports from the Officers of Administration and Committees
   1. Registration Report -- Blumel
   2. Plan of Attack for Writing-across-the-curriculum Project -- Matschek

F. Unfinished Business
   *1. Upper Division 18-credit Distribution Requirement Motion -- Cabelly
   2. Advisory Council Interpretation of Routing of List of Courses to Meet Distribution Requirements -- Diman

G. New Business -- None

H. Adjournment

*The following documents are included with this mailing

B Minutes of the June 3, 1985, Meeting
E2 Plan of Attack for Writing-across-the-curriculum Project**
F1 Upper Division 18-credit Distribution Requirement Motion**

**Included for Senators and Ex-officio Members Only
Minutes:
Faculty Senate Meeting, June 3, 1985

Presiding Officer Pro Tem:
David Smeltzer

Secretary:
Ulrich H. Hardt

Members Present:
Beeson, Bennett, Bentley, Bjork, Brenner, Cabelly, Campbell, Carl, Cogan, Constans, Cooper, Diman, Dunkeld, Edner, Featheringill, Hakanson, Jackson, A. Johnson, Jones, Kempner, Kimball, Kimbrell, Kosokoff, Kristof, Lall, Mandaville, Maynard, Moor, Neklason, Olson, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, Reardon, Robertson, Rodich, Rufolo, Rose, Scheans, Sheridan, Smeltzer, Solie, Sommerfeldt, Soohoo, Spolek, Stuart, Taylor, Tracy, Walton, West, Williams, Wolk, Wurm, Wyers.

Alternates Present:

Members Absent:
Boyle, Harmon, Heneghan, Hillman, Martinez, Newberry, Reece, Wrench.

Newly Elected Senators Present:

Ex-officio Members Present:
Blumel, Dobson, Edgington, Erzurumlu, Forbes, Hardt, Harris, Heath, Paudler, Pfingsten, Ross, Schendel, Trudeau, Williams.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the May 6, 1985, meeting were approved as circulated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. President BLUMEL gave a report regarding the budgetary status. The legislature was driving hard toward adjournment in mid-June. A special subcommittee of Ways and Means was discussing the use of lottery funds and will hear the capital construction portion of the higher education budget. The prognosis looked very good at the present time. BLUMEL stated that the salary subcommittee had not been announced, but the reports received in conversations with key legislators suggested that the probability of the full salary package passing looked very good. The status of the economic development component, including general funds, was less certain. He indicated that there had been some talk about redistributing that between the first and second biennium in such a way as to fund the entire package and perhaps more than the full package, to include some restoration of some funds for PSU. The bill containing some of the system-wide improvement items has been passed by the Ways and Means Committee. It did not include funds for library automation, but it did include half of the funds for equipment and a portion of the funds for facilities and maintenance and rehabilitation.
One item of particular significance for PSU concerns the budget note which directed the board to plan for the conversion of PSU to major research university status. That budget was passed out of the subcommittee and passed by the full Ways and Means Committee. That means it will become law, i.e., legislative intent. It does have some qualifications attached to it that would imply raising the standards to the same level as UO and OSU. It would imply using the same standards for hiring and promoting faculty. Those were reservations and amendments raised by certain legislators such as Mr. Fadeley. On the other hand, BLUMEL indicated that those criteria were already substantially met at present. Assuming that the item is passed, it could be as significant a development for PSU as was the change of the name and the establishment of the four-year status -- a landmark in the development of the institution. Obviously it does not appropriate additional money, but it does ensure that we will be treated the same way, and it should blunt the efforts which have been building over the last couple of years to make a distinction between PSU and the other two universities. The item was passed out of the subcommittee by a 6 to 0 vote on a motion made by Representative Mason and vigorously supported by Senator Roberts and others.

2. WHITNEY BATES reported on three of the most important items considered by the IFS during their two spring meetings. 1) IFS asked for a more active faculty role in the choice of the new vice chancellor for academic affairs. 2) They heard an extensive report by Joanne Carlson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at UO, on their early and phased retirement programs. UO has expressed great satisfaction with the program, its flexibility and use of funds. It saves them money; it also provides benefits substantially greater than those available currently at PSU in all but the most unusual circumstances. 3) They heard a report by Chapin Clark of the UO Law School and state president of AAUP concerning some of the current legislation regarding faculty passed by the Senate and now before the House Education Committee. Much of that legislation is very well intentioned, but SB 542 sets up a grievance procedure and is full of flaws. It, among other things, fails to distinguish between the most trivial things and the most profound, and it doesn't say how to determine whether the present procedures at a particular university are already better than those proposed in the bill. It reflects a lack of knowledge and understanding. The 14 IFS senators present voted unanimously and signed a letter to the House Education Committee, applauding their proper concern for faculty welfare, suggesting some of their objections, asking them to defer action. SB 542 could be a disastrous development.

ELECTIONS

Throughout the meeting elections were held with the following results:

Presiding Officer Nominations: Bob Jones and Don Moor
Elected: Bob Jones
Presiding Officer Pro Tem Nominations: Don Moor and David Smeltzer
Elected: Don Moor

Steering Committee Nominations: Rod Diman, Lew Goslin, Linda Parshall, David Smeltzer, Ray Sommerfeldt.
Elected: Diman, Parshall, Smeltzer, and Sommerfeldt

Elected to serve on the Committee on Committees for the next two years were the following:

CLAS: Bennett, Dressler, Goekjian
EAS: Heneghan
HPE: Scruggs
LIB: Soohoo
SPA: Solie

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEES

1. WEIKEL presented the annual report of the Advisory Council. She added that the Council had sent a letter to Frank Roberts and Tom Mason thanking them for their work in getting PSU's status changed to that of comprehensive research university. KOSOKOFF asked what the Council would do about the unwillingness of the Chancellor to meet with PSU. WEIKEL replied that the new Council will continue in the effort to bring him here. The Chancellor wrote that he was busy with the legislature; presumably next fall he won't be.

2. MANDAVILLE presented the annual report of the Committee on Committees.

3. WYERS presented the annual report of the Educational Policies Committee. He added that the EPC was just completing work on many items which will be coming to the Senate next year.

4. MUELLER presented the annual report of the Research and Publications Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. SMELTZER referred to document F1 which is an attempt to summarize Senate action thus far on the curriculum reform issue. He invited questions. WALTON asked why "no curricular review of the courses submitted for the approved list will occur" was stated as an assumption. DRESSLER said that that seemed to be the intent of the Senate when it voted, and she referred to the May minutes. WALTON countered that she heard Cooper's amendment to say that departments should determine what courses would be accepted. However, the courses would still be subject to the regular curricular review. COOPER said that the assumption states more than he wanted to see stated. Departments should determine which of their approved courses could be usable for distribution requirements. A. JOHN-SON pointed out that the assumption talked about "no curricular review of the courses" and felt that that was misleading; what we mean is review of the list.
WALTON then moved "that the list of courses submitted by the departments for the approved list be subject to the normal curricular review process by the deans." BJORK wondered if we were creating a super committee to do the work most appropriately done in the department. OLSON moved to substitute "that no curricular review of the list of courses submitted will occur. The list of courses will be forwarded directly to the Office of Academic Affairs from the departments for inclusion in the catalog." MOOR proposed a friendly amendment to drop the second sentence of the Olson substitute motion, and it was accepted.

KARANT-NUNN wondered what the underlying issue was and whether it was within the Senate's purview to remove a certain responsibility from line administrators. JONES and SCHEANS favored the substitute motion because they felt that some decisions are best reserved for departments, and the lists would be composed of courses which had already been approved through their normal channels of committees, including the Senate. They felt that departments are most knowledgeable about what to include. JONES did not want other people deciding which psychology courses to put on the list, for example. However, WALTON questioned that logic and pointed out that the regular curricular process allowed for that kind of review by other departments. We are talking about general education requirements, after all. SCHEANS reminded the Senate that we were talking about creating a list of courses which had already been approved by many committees; he didn't see the need to go through the process again. BRENNER saw two concerns, the desire not to have a super committee, and the submission of the list to the deans as departments would submit any list of courses for each term's schedule.

After extensive further discussion, REARDON asked what the legal status of an assumption was. He observed that if the assumption weren't there, the normal channels through which departments send things would be in operation. SMELTZER explained that ARC thought that this assumption was apparent and wanted it brought out at this point rather than to have it come up later and become an issue. The desire was to make clear what the Senate had done. DOBSON wanted to know if the Curriculum Committee would ever make a decision which new courses would be included on the list. The consensus was that this decision would always be made by departments.

HEATH pointed out that the faculty constitution specifically says that the ARC must have some say in which courses will count for graduation requirements. In our past history, all courses that count as general distribution requirements for graduation have been approved for that purpose by the ARC. Therefore, the ARC must either be involved or we must consider an amendment to the constitution. The ARC could well be the super committee discussed earlier. CONSTANS asked if the ARC approved all courses for graduation, and HEATH replied that it did between the years 1967-72. He could not say, however, where the original list before 1967 had come from.

PAUDLER commented that we saw no need for a super committee. He speculated that 80% of the departments in his college would hand in rational lists with which no one would argue. But 20% would submit lists which in their view would increase the number of student credit hours they
could generate. The dean could simply meet with those department heads to get matters resolved. Where that would not be possible, the college curriculum committee or the ARC could be asked to help. SCHEANS wanted Paudler to name the 20% of the uncooperative departments, but the dean declined.

STEWARD proposed rewriting the Olson substitute motion so it would be a positive sentence, as follows: "Courses approved at the departmental level for inclusion on the list shall be forwarded to OAA through normal channels." MOOR worried that this motion made matters inexplicit, whereas the ARC motion had made things clear. The question was called for, and the STEWARD motion was passed 29 to 11.

The discussion now returned to the Walton motion and whether to substitute the Steward motion for it. JONES interpreted the two as follows: Walton's motion required that the deans would forward the lists through normal curricular review channels, including curriculum committees, Graduate Council and other approving bodies and finally to OAA. Steward's motion required that departments would forward their lists to the deans who would review them, return them to departments or forward them to OAA. BLUMEL and SMELTZER thought it would be exactly the opposite. WALTON agreed with Jones and was willing to withdraw her motion in favor of Steward's if Jones's interpretation was the correct one. Departments should have the final say. STEWARD said that the key word was forwarded, and he pointed out that there was nothing new about these courses; they were already approved and on the books, therefore did not need to go through the Curriculum Committee again.

The motion to substitute Steward's for Walton's motion was passed overwhelmingly. The Steward motion was then passed by a narrower margin.

HEATH reported that the last time courses were taken off the approved list (MTH 93 and 94), the Math department sent the request to the ARC which reported that to the Senate; the Senate dealt with that as it does with all other curriculum matters and forwarded it to the President. These are the normal channels. DOBSON emphasized that the main question was whether this Senate was willing to set aside the constitution relative to curricular review by the ARC. BLUMEL said that a constitutional amendment would be required.

SMELTZER admitted that questions regarding the constitution had been raised, and he referred them to the Advisory Council for interpretation and a report back in the fall.

2. SOMMERFELDT proposed the motion written by Forbes and Sommerfeldt requiring "a minimum of six credits...in the Department of Mathematical Sciences or Department of Computer Science and a minimum of six credits...in one of the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Physics." Their concern was that students could graduate from PSU without mathematics or a lab science, and they wanted to prevent that. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the intellectual discipline of computer science and whether specific courses in these departments
should be identified. RODICH pointed out that students could still graduate without a math course, but Jones noted that that would be unlikely; social science, for example, had a specific math requirement. SCHEANS, KOSOKOFF and STEWARD argued against the motion and for leaving the options open. The motion was defeated by a vote of 23 to 19.

3. DRESSLER proposed the following ARC motion that "A student majoring in a foreign language may use credits in a second language to meet the distribution requirements." PAUDLER wanted to know if this exception would be extended to students majoring in organic chemistry who would also be interested in biochemistry or statistics and math. COOPER was for the motion but against the analogies. He said each language study starts from the beginning, not so in the chemistries. MANDAVILLE argued against the motion, because he saw language training and learning as a discipline in itself. DIMAN emphasized that this motion dealt only with foreign language majors and not with any other students. The motion was passed 20 to 15.

4. The ARC motion on requirements for General Studies Option I and Option II was passed. (See F4).

NEW BUSINESS

The ARC moved that "for the purpose of satisfying distribution requirements in the Arts and Letters Academic Distribution Area, courses from the departments of Dance, Music, and Theater Arts should be treated in an equivalent manner." MOOR moved to postpone consideration of this motion until fall when it would be considered with other motions being proposed. He feared that all Arts and Letters requirements could be met by taking dance and choir, for instance. DIMAN, SOLIE and others saw no reason to postpone. TRUDEAU pointed out that the issue was equivalent treatment. Why limit Dance and not the others? MATSCHEK said that Dance would only submit theory classes for distribution requirements, not applied courses. SMELTZER explained that a no vote would have the effect of excluding Dance. JONES agreed that departments should not be discriminated against, but he raised the question whether any of the courses from Performing Arts should be included. He was for the motion to postpone.

COOPER tried the following substitute motion "that of the two departments chosen by students for Arts and Letters, only one could be from SPA." He argued that the motion explained the language "equivalent manner." The motion was ruled not to be a legitimate substitute.

When the question was called for on the original ARC motion, it was passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 17:12.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Educational Policies Committee
       Nancy R. Matschek, Chair

RE: WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

DATE: September 26, 1985

In response to the Senate's directive of April 8, 1985, to the Educational Policies Committee, a subcommittee has been formed to formulate recommendations to the Senate regarding writing across the curriculum. The subcommittee members are Linda Walton, History; Bruce Brown, Chemistry; DeeAnne Westbrook, English; Colin Dunkeld, Education; Norm Wyers, Social Work; Nancy Matschek, Dance; Forbes Williams, consultant, Office of Academic Affairs. The subcommittee began meeting at the end of Spring Term, 1985.

✓ Recommendations will be submitted to the Senate for its January 1986 meeting.

Faculty input is encouraged and will be solicited.

NRMjn
MEMORANDUM

TO Faculty Senate
FROM Alan M. Cabelly, BA
RE Upper Division 18-credit Distribution Requirement

MOTION
"At least 18 upper division credits must be taken in the academic distribution areas outside the major department, with no more than 12 credits in any one department. These credits may be a part of the 54 credits used to meet the distribution requirements."