

3-1-1984

Faculty Senate Monthly Packet March 1984

Portland State University Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/senateminutes>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Portland State University Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Monthly Packet March 1984" (1984). *Faculty Senate Monthly Packets*. 228.

<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/senateminutes/228>

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Monthly Packets by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.



portland state university

MEMORANDUM

To: Senators and Ex-officio Members of the Senate

February 21, 1984

From: Ulrich H. Hardt, Secretary of the Faculty

The Faculty Senate will hold its regular meeting on March 5, 1984, at 3:00 p.m. in 150 Cramer Hall.

AGENDA

A. Roll

*B. Approval of the Minutes of the February 6, 1984, Meeting

C. Announcements and Communications from the Floor

*1. See Attached Letter Concerning Recent Senate Actions

D. Question Period

1. To President Blumel, submitted by F. Waller and Senate Steering Committee:

"Please explain the process by which the 1984-85 OSSHE budget was arrived at and in particular how the institutional reductions were determined. What do you think will be the impact of the reductions assessed against PSU?"

2. Questions from the Floor for the Chair

E. Reports from the Officers of Administration and Committees - none

F. Unfinished Business -- none

G. New Business -- none

H. Adjournment

*The following documents are included with this mailing:

*B Minutes of the February 6, 1984, Meeting**

*C₁ Letter Concerning Senate Action

**Included for Senators and Ex-officio Members Only

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes: Faculty Senate Meeting, March 5, 1984
Presiding Officer: Fred Waller
Secretary: Ulrich H. Hardt

Members Present: Brenner, Burns, Cabelly, Campbell, Carl, Chapman, Cooper, Crampton, Cumpston, Danielson, Dunbar, Fisher, Forbes, Harmon, Howard, Johnson, Karant-Nunn, Kirrie, Kosokoff, Kristof, Lall, Newberry, L. Nussbaum, R. Nussbaum, Olson, Petersen, Reece, Robertson, Savery, Sheridan, Shimada, Smeltzer, Sonnen, Spolek, Swanson, Tamblin, Tracy, Waldroff, Waller, Walton, White, Williams, Wolk, Wrench, Wurm, Wyers.

Alternates Present: Sestak for Constans, Roseberry for Dunkeld, Tate for Featheringill, DeGraaff for Gerity, Withers for Hillman, Gaffuri for Jones, Danielson for Limbaugh, Bartlett for Tang.

Members Absent: Anderson, Becker, Bentley, Cease, Elteto, Gatz, Jackson, Lutes, Mandaville, Martinez, Pinamonti, Rose, West, Wilson.

Ex-officio Members Present: Blumel, Bogue, Corn, Dobson, Edgington, Erzurumlu, Hardt, Harris, Heath, Howard, Leu, Paudler, Pfingsten, Schendel, Trudeau.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the February 6, 1984, Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

WALLER referred to the attached memo from members of the Biology Department regarding the Faculty Excellence Awards. He noted that the letter didn't seek immediate or direct Senate action, but the issues raised could certainly be discussed in the meeting. Signators were invited to make comments. FORBES said that the memo was written in response to action of the Senate on February 6; it presents an opposing view on the issue, but the department did not ask for any action. He also reported that he had received a letter of response from AAUP President Weikel. WALLER, speaking for himself rather than as Presiding Officer, suggested that an appropriate future Senate action may be a recommendation to everyone concerned (especially including the State Board, which will in due course be making a biennial budget recommendation for the 1985-87 budget to the Executive Department) that 1) priority be given to bringing faculty salaries generally to more competitive levels relative to those obtaining among the appropriate institutions to which we are compared for these purposes, and 2) the State Board develop guidelines which make clear that the additional money of the legislature be in fact intended for retention or attraction of the best

faculty when the institutions in the system are in danger of losing them or not actually attracting them in the first place. WALLER proposed, for example, that each institution could be given a share of the appropriated money which could then be used, as necessary, on departmental/college/school requests, to serve as "fighting money." He estimated that money used in that fashion would go further than it did this last time. He also pointed to the fact that such principle of usage would dispel the confusion between merit awards as such and retention on the other hand.

QUESTION PERIOD

President BLUMEL responded to the question dealing with the budget cuts and the process by which the cuts were assigned among institutions and the impact on PSU. He reviewed that this matter had been discussed extensively at the Fall Faculty Convocation, at the October and November Faculty Senate meetings, and in two memos (October 26 and December 2) dealing with the cuts, and he referred faculty to those for additional information on the course of the reductions.

The reductions for the biennium were proposed many months ago and took into consideration two components for the first year of the biennium: 1) a pro-rata or across-the-board reduction unrelated to enrollment changes, and 2) a reduction based on enrollment. For PSU that translated into a loss of 1.25%. These reductions were based on two considerations. One was related to how each institution fared in comparison with the new BAS formula, i.e., where each institution was relative to the average for the state system. The other was related to enrollment developments, particularly as they were reflected in cost per student. BLUMEL said that the cuts were allocated somewhat similarly for the second year of the biennium. Tentative cuts were allocated based on enrollment projections for 1983-84 and what they would imply for 1984-85. PSU's and all other institutions' percentage reduction was 2.5%. Following the availability of enrollment figures for Fall 1983, the Board staff proposed some adjustments to those tentative budget reductions. For the system as a whole, enrollment was over what had been budgeted. That was also true of PSU, and adjustments in the reductions were made, i.e., a reduction in the reduction amounting to \$140,000 (UO gained ca. \$400,000 while OSU lost an additional \$850,000; the HSC also lost additional funds; OIT remained the same).

When given a chance, PSU challenged the adjustments principally on the grounds that we had the best prospect for enrollment recovery in the future. BLUMEL pointed out that the Board staff is thus on notice that we do expect that to happen, because of the mix of students that exists at this institution. Fall and Winter enrollment increases among part-time students have already taken place and can be expected to continue with the economic recovery. That pool of potential students is not as available to any other institution as it is to PSU, and we intend to increase our efforts in this respect.

BLUMEL explained that, based on the higher enrollment figures, the State Board could go to the Emergency Board; the presidents have in fact discussed that possibility. However, precedence shows that the Emergency Board will not override an action of the previous legislative session if the con-

sequences of a legislative action were known at the time of the decision. The purpose of the Emergency Board is not to step in and change what the full legislature did, unless there are unforeseen developments. The only basis on which the Emergency Board would act in this instance is the enrollment recovery, and the Board's decision will be made in early March. One other factor possibly affecting that decision will be what the revenue estimates have been; the latest projections, however, are essentially unchanged from the December projections.

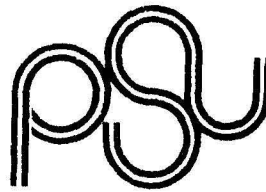
BLUMEL commented on the consequences of the reductions on PSU. They will obviously reduce the support services significantly in various places, as indicated in the proposed final plan of the reductions -- e.g., Audio Visual Services is reduced -- and they will mean reductions in teaching staffs in several departments; this could well lead to some reductions in enrollment in those departments. The hope is that PSU will increase enrollment in other areas so as to hold enrollment constant in the coming year. If we can do that, BLUMEL believed that our prospects are quite good, because PSU's cost of instruction is reaching a point of parity with the other institutions, thus placing us in a much better situation for future allocations.

BLUMEL also commented on the BAS formula. Two elements of it continue to be of concern -- the library component and the equipment component. He speculated that the model will continue to be adjusted and was encouraged by the Chancellor's understanding of the problem for the younger institutions.

L. NUSSBAUM observed that PSU's cost of instruction, because of the larger percentage of part-time students, will of necessity be higher. BLUMEL agreed but acknowledged that the budget allocation model does take the part-time student question into account in various places. HARMON asked about the Chancellor's commitment to developing PSU into a comprehensive research university. Harmon noted that the pressures to generate enrollment can be so intense as to detract from research activities, not to say anything about such things as PSU's computer resources -- perhaps less than one-tenth of those at UO -- or release time for doing research. BLUMEL responded that he would like to let the Advisory Council report on the results of the meeting with the Chancellor, since it was their meeting. The President did indicate, however, that he believed that the Chancellor accepts in general the principle that ultimately this institution should be a comprehensive research university; that issue has been formulated to him a number of times. The question is how fast and by what mode do we get there. The Chancellor's answer is that we should not expect to get there in the next two or three biennia; however, there are select opportunities for moving in that direction, and those are the areas we should be sensitive to and emphasize. BLUMEL said he concurred with that view.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.



10 February 1984

OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY
Box 751
Crescent
97031

TO: AAUP Executive Council
Fred Waller, President of the PSU Faculty Senate

FROM: *Richard Jones* *Larry A. Clawson* *B. S. Lippert*
Robert O. Jones *R.D. Jackson* *G.L. Calvin*
Stan Piller *W.H. Taylor* *L. Dudley Smith*
John Thomas *William Paudler*

We object very strongly to the main part of the resolution, proposed by AAUP and passed by the Faculty Senate, concerning the Faculty Excellence Awards.

We join in congratulating our colleagues who received the awards and we strongly agree that excellence in the PSU faculty should be recognized and rewarded.

We take sharp exception, however, to the part of the resolution opposing merit awards on the grounds that some faculty face termination. Terminations brought about by inadequate funding of higher education are indeed lamentable. They cause serious personal hardship and significantly weaken the university's ability to fulfill its role in society. But to lose some of our best faculty members because we do not pay them well enough would only compound the problem of trying to develop and retain the best faculty we can in spite of harsh economic times. The contention that merit awards should be deferred until all current faculty can be guaranteed their positions is completely indefensible in the context of fostering academic excellence.

We urge that every means of persuasion be employed to increase the funding for the Oregon State System of Higher Education. We also urge that especially vigorous efforts be made to increase, now and in the future, the amount of merit pay that can be awarded to deserving faculty. Attracting, encouraging, supporting and retaining the best faculty possible simply must not be deferred.

cc: W. H. Taylor, Head of Biology
William Paudler, Dean of CLAS