Faculty Senate Monthly Packet February 1989

Portland State University Faculty Senate

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January 24, 1989
To: Senators and Ex-officio Members to the Senate
From: Ulrich H. Hardt, Secretary to the Faculty

The Faculty Senate will hold its regular meeting on February 6, 1989, at 3:00 p.m. in 150 Cramer Hall.

AGENDA

A. Roll

*B. Approval of the Minutes of the January 9, 1989, Meeting

C. Announcements and Communications from the Floor

   The Future of Higher Education in the Metropolitan Area and PSU's Role in It
   -- Paul Bragdon

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. Winter Quarter Registration Data -- Tufts
   2. Up-date on Quarter Reconversion -- Diman
   3. Legislative Strategies for PSU -- Edgington

F. Unfinished Business -- none

G. New Business

H. Adjournment

*The following documents are included with this mailing:

B Minutes of the January 9, 1989, Meeting
Minutes: Faculty Senate Meeting, February 6, 1989
Presiding Officer: Marjorie Burns
Secretary: Ulrich H. Hardt


Members Absent: Becker, Cease, Daily, Edner, Ellis, Hakanson, Jones, Millner, Poulsen.


APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 9, 1989, Senate meeting were approved as circulated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BURNS distributed a memo containing responses received by Secretary to the Faculty Hardt from legislators and Mayor Clark in support of the January Senate resolution regarding the future and development of graduate education at PSU.

BURNS then introduced Paul Bragdon of the governor's office saying that he would talk on the topic of the future of higher education in the metropolitan area and PSU's role in it. She read the following three questions which had been given to Bragdon for his response:

1. The 1985 Ways and Means Sub-committee budget note said that PSU should become, as soon as possible, a comprehensive research university. Do you agree?

2. There have been at least eight studies showing the need for PSU to be the focus of graduate education in the Portland metropolitan area. What will be accomplished by a ninth study as is being proposed?
3. PSU experienced a loss of momentum due to the dispute over President Sicuro. Do you believe that there will be further loss of momentum if the PSU presidential search is put on hold for a number of months?

BRAGDON reported that the governor senses the importance of education at all levels and appointed Bragdon, in part, to demonstrate that. The governor has a mind of his own, but Bragdon is to help him make a reality of the ideas. He cited other appointments in the office of education as further evidence of the importance the governor places on education. Bragdon's responsibilities are outside of policy making. Roger Bassett's role is that of program review, approval, and policy planning.

BRAGDON talked about the competition for limited funds by the many worthy agencies and agendas: corrections, crime, mental health, children, the aged, K-12 education and higher education. The governor senses that citizens are not in the mood to raise taxes. And while he supports more money and better salaries for higher education, he wants the citizens to support it also. Higher education, therefore, must show the benefits to the citizens, otherwise it will merely be viewed as another special interest group.

BRAGDON complained that his own statements had been misunderstood and misquoted; therefore he reiterated three points:

a. We have to target our resources more wisely and meaningfully.

b. We must collectively tell our story better than we have been, telling the good things that are happening in Oregon.

c. We have to find ways to cooperate more with sharing resources and programs. This is easier to say than do. It is exciting to share what different faculties in the state are doing; e.g., the research of the new science council cooperating with UO, OSU, PSU and the Graduate Center in work in bio-technology and plant biology.

He emphasized that the governor saw higher education as the most important ingredient in economic development and was interested in forging business and academic relationships. Citing the arrival of the new chancellor, the new higher education board, and the promise of a new president at PSU, BRAGDON said that things are not as gloomy at PSU as one might think.

He admitted that a ninth study of the delivery of higher education in the Portland metropolitan area could be discouraging, but it was important to proceed with this state-generated study. He described previous studies as self-generated. He saw greater prospect of some success if another study was undertaken at this time, and quoting Camus he said: "It is necessary to try."

The 18-month study will be overseen by a disinterested group assembled for this project. Academic leaders from outside the state will be hired; subgroups will assist them; before any public meetings will be held, many individuals will be talked to in advance. BRAGDON emphasized repeatedly that PSU is not the only institution in Portland; other institutions must
be brought into the picture: high schools, community colleges, private schools, the graduate center, OIT, science, engineering and technology. There are many resources, and possibilities of match-up with business and society exist.

Regarding the loss of momentum and the presidential search at PSU, he had this to say. The memory of the Sicuro years will be short, and good things have happened from this crisis, e.g., as new cohesion. The University is in good hands with Roger Edgington (but he must be told how long he will be in the interim position). We should let the dust settle first before the search begins. It's important to have the strongest pool possible for this position, and the new chancellor must decide under what conditions that can be achieved. An optimum time must be found, and a very special person must be found for this important urban University. BRAGDON, however, disavowed any direct responsibility for the presidential search.

In answer to the question of the 1985 Ways and Means Sub-committee budget note moving PSU to "comprehensive research university" status as soon as possible, BRAGDON said that the new chancellor and governor needed to review that entire matter. He said that the label was not meaningful to people outside of academics and reiterated that we must think of what the needs of the Portland area are. We must have a new look at strategic planning with the new chancellor and board; the board, not legislative bodies, must do their own planning--it's in their purview.

In discussing the governor's budget proposal, which gives PSU $3 million matching funds and UO and OSU $6 million each, BRAGDON said it was not the governor's intention to give a signal that PSU should be downgraded or that graduate programs should be stripped; rather, PSU should continue on its mission. The tuition increase differential was proposed with the PSU student population in mind, not wanting to cut off access or placing a burden on students.

It was pointed out to Bragdon that the commissioned study was perhaps too narrow and should include other contexts, such as what is involved for OSU and UO by year 2020. What makes PSU sensitive and paranoid is that the other state institutions are not mentioned. BRAGDON said that they should be; particularly OIT, OSU, and UO should be drawn in, as well as the community colleges and private schools. He admitted that the governor has frequently spoken well of PCC as being important and the biggest college in the Portland area, but that was not to denigrate PSU; he simply sees a significant role for community colleges in society.

Several questions were asked regarding long-range planning. BRAGDON said he believed in planning, but not global planning. Planning must be done on a continuing basis, and, anyway, it was the board's job since it has fiscal responsibilities. It was his view, however, that PSU should move right along during this interim period. There was no reason not to hire faculty, department chairpersons, or deans, or to stop the ordinary academic flow of program development. He was not willing to discuss the specifics of the $1.2 million contract the Oregon Graduate Center had with the board for brokering classes.
At the end of the 1:17-hour presentation and question period, BRAGDON said that he knew the last two years had been difficult at PSU. He hoped the feelings and fatigue of that time have ended, and he urged PSU to face the future with confidence and assurance, rather than be prey to interpret matters over which there are opinions. Go to the essence of things.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEES

1. TUFTS reported on winter term registration. 8+ SCH enrollment is up by 3% over last year while 7 or less SCH is approximately the same.

2. DIMAN urged departments to process quarter re-conversion forms as quickly as possible and to pass those on to the Curriculum Committee when ready, department by department. A school or division should not wait for all of its courses before going to the Curriculum Committee.

   MORRIS asked whether 400G courses were still going to be moved to corresponding 500 numbers, and DIMAN said they would be.

3. BURNS announced that a group of PSU supporters, administrators and faculty would appear at a legislative hearing in Salem soon, and urged Senators to write letters of support. WISE added that an initial meeting to coordinate legislative activities was being scheduled. Persons wanting to give input should contact Bogue or Ward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 16:28.