

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Monday, Nov. 4, 1996

The meeting started at 4:05

Senators Attending: Beardsley, Haltom, Hummel-Berry, Kirchner, Lind, Matthews, Maxwell, Nagy, Potts, Robertson, Smith

Visitors Attending: A. Rex

Minutes of the meeting of 9/30 were approved as modified.

Announcements:

Keith Maxwell and Bob Steiner have been elected to the Faculty Senate

The Academic Standards Committee has determined that the printed version of the University Catalog is the official version (and not, for example, the version on the University's web page)

The academic calendar is under review by the Curriculum Committee (an ongoing charge of that committee). The Faculty Senate declined to review the result unless the Chair of the Faculty Senate determined that there were conceptual changes.

Open/closed files: Kirchner passed the gavel to Beardsley so that she could participate more fully in the discussion of this issue.

Haltom proposed the issue of open/closed files, arguing that the decision to make files open or closed should be at the discretion of the colleague being evaluated in all cases. He proposed arguments based on ethical concerns (the right of an individual to know what is being said about him or her which may affect the individual professionally), legal concerns, and bureaucratic concerns (the problems of summary letters on closed files). With respect to the last item, he proposed to do away with summary letters except for files closed at the request of the colleague undergoing evaluation.

Potts asked if the proposal to discuss this issue at this point would be consistent with the agreement reached recently to review the Faculty Code, since the committee charged with that task is to identify controversial issues for later consideration. After some discussion, it was generally agreed that code issues could be addressed at any time.

Kirchner reported on the trustees' interest in the Faculty Code, and questioned if the trustees would be willing to consider this issue before the work of the review committee is submitted to the Faculty and to the Board. She reported that one of the concerns of the Board is the possibility of lawsuits arising from ambiguities in the Code. Potts shared her concern on timing.

Haltom argued that we should not let our concern about how Faculty deliberations would be received determine what we discuss. Smith asked how we would know what trustees feel about the issue of open and closed files.

Action: After some further discussion, the Senate moved to the following "sense of the Senate": That the Chair of the Faculty Senate meet with the President to discuss placing this issue before the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for discussion.

After some discussion on this and related issues, the Senate adjourned at 4:44.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Matthews