

**MINUTES FACULTY SENATE**  
**Gowen Hall, Room 301**  
**2:30 p.m., Thursday, 1 March 2001**

The meeting began at 2:37 p.m.

**Announcement**

Prof. Jaimie Diaz asked senators to urge their colleagues to complete the technology use survey. This will enable faculty to have a voice in technology planning on campus.

**Report of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB)**

Brad Holt, Vice Chair, began by noting that "a lot of things are going on." He highlighted the following topics that are under discussion:

1. Tuition Policy: Most of the focus here has been on establishing differential tuition. For example, there is a proposal to raise the tuition for the MBA program by \$6000 over time and return part of the tuition to the Business School.
2. Olympia: As will be reported below, budget talks are continuing in Olympia. The Governor's budget proposal does not provide for full funding of even minimal salary increases so discussion has focused on how to cover the short-fall to make up 2%.
3. Long and Short Term Revenue Strategies: The changing legislative and state funding climate makes it incumbent on the University to develop new sources of revenue. This calls for all of us to ask fundamental questions about the budget process and develop new strategies for bringing revenue into the University.
4. Employee Benefits: Another consequence of the changed legislative landscape is that Faculty will have to shoulder more of their own healthcare costs. Because this is part of our compensation, it affects the overall package. Current discussion call for an across the board cut, but this flat approach will take a bigger percentage of those faculty with lower salaries. Some discussions have been held about how to minimize the impact of benefit cuts on faculty with lower salaries.
5. Unit Salary Adjustment Policy: Currently, there is not a firm policy for how salaries should be set during a unit adjustment. The SCPB has begun discussions to focus on developing a clearer policy on this front.

**Legislative Report**

Noting by implication yesterday's 6.8 earthquake, Legislative Representative Dick Ludwig stated that he was not able to go to Olympia. We are, however, about halfway through the legislative session. The budget picture continues to be grim. Given the expected rise in social welfare caseloads and spiraling medical care costs, a \$400 million dollar "hole" is expected in the budget. For this University, this has translated into a \$600 million cut, no money for utility price hikes, and very little funding for salary increases. He fears that there may be more cuts before the session is over. At this point, there are three different budget proposals emanating from the Governor, the Senate and the House. They vary on details such as tuition, local control of tuition and other items. Finally, as developed in response to a question, the legislature is also addressing an ambiguity in the state Ethics Law as it pertains to the conflict between state and federal law on technology transfers.

## Report of the President

Before turning over the bulk of his time to Provost Lee Huntsman, President McCormick stated that he was glad to report that we survived Wednesday's earthquake largely unscathed, thanks in large part to good planning and preparation. While there was some damage to the T-Wing of the Hospital complex and to Schmitz Hall, some of the repair cost will be covered by insurance as well as federal emergency funds. Also, he noted that while it is not clear whether the TA enabling legislation will pass, he is hopeful that the Graduate Student Employee Action Coalition (GSEAC) will extend their agreement with the University. The University is working hard to make the legislation a reality.

By way of introducing Provost Huntsman, McCormick said that at this time, we need to make some core decisions about our budget and our future. He anticipates that he will be making some very "tough calls" in May and June, but this will be done only after a "consultative and transparent process." He is not happy about having to make these decisions, because there is no way to satisfy every group on campus, but he is hopeful that a good process will allow the entire community to provide input into the decision-making process.

Provost Huntsman gave a PowerPoint presentation on budget issues facing the University. What is interesting, he began, about our current budget problems is that they are not the result of cyclical problems in the economy. But whatever the cause, he continued, the University faces budgetary cuts and no funding for new initiatives. Thus, we will face rising fuel and energy costs, salary pressures and competitive pressures from our peer institutions that are not facing these funding crises. Speaking about problems that are a result of both the "season" and the "age," he used these problems as an entree to discussing the need for short and long term planning. Unlike our peers, we face significant state funding limitations. But, on the other hand, like our peers we are facing an environment in which states are backing away from subsidizing higher education. Additionally, the new economy has raised questions about new ways of financing education that are being debated at all universities. Given these issues, he is asking the University community to undertake concurrent, i.e. short and long term, budgetary planning. As to the long-term issues, he pointed to the examples of the University of Michigan and the University of Virginia. For the short-term 01-03 budget cycle, units will face cuts and possible revenue shortfalls. For the longer picture, the University plans to seek more control over our financial future by being more strategic and by seeking more local control. In the midst of this, one of the biggest looming problems is the need to seek funding for at least \$800 million dollars of deferred maintenance. Because of these issues, the Provost has launched a series of efforts to inform the community about these issues as well as to seek input about our choices. To that end, there is a campus webpage on the budget, there will be articles in University Week, and there will be a series of campus meetings. Additionally, all of the appropriate University bodies will be consulted, e.g. Deans, Faculty Senate Councils, etc. The results of these deliberations will be integrated at University Budget Committee meetings, and result in a final decision by the Regents.

This presentation garnered several questions and responses. Huntsman acknowledged that part of this process is not so much to influence our budgetary picture in Olympia as to allow us to get in front of a looming problem and control our own agenda. In the last few years, we have learned more about how to explain our need for greater autonomy to the legislature in ways that are culturally acceptable within the state. As we move in this direction, we may ask for more tuition authority, and more bonding authority. When asked about the Michigan and Virginia models, he replied that there are a number of models

around the country that we should look at and consider. For example, one proposal circulating at other universities has been that all professional and masters level education should be self-supporting. There are lots of different answers, he concluded, and we will need to debate where the taxpayer subsidy in Washington should be focused. There will not be one answer since each university must respond to different local concerns.

### **Call to Order - Approval of the Agenda**

A quorum was achieved at 3:31 p.m. and the meeting was called to order. The agenda was approved as written.

### **Summary of Executive Committee Actions**

Senators were referred to Item 5 on their agenda.

### **Announcements**

1. The results of the balloting on the voting status of research faculty will be available next week, and the final results will be posted to the Senate Homepage. Ballots will be accepted through noon tomorrow, Friday, 2 March 2001.
2. UIF Update: Last week's open meeting was a success. Coney also credited graduate research assistant Robin Waters with success for the poll of the University community. Over 2000 responses to the poll have been received.

### **Memorial Resolution**

Be it resolved that the minutes of this meeting record the sorrow of the entire faculty upon its loss by death of these friends and colleagues:

Clinical Professor Emeritus Lucius Davis Hill III of Surgery, who died on January 23, 2001 after having served the University since 1958. Clinical Associate Professor Milan Starks of Endodontics, who died on February 11, 2001 after having served the University since 1948. Assistant Professor Emeritus Martha Trotter of Rehabilitation Medicine, who died on January 26, 2001 after having served the University since 1963. Professor Emeritus San-Pin Wang of Pathobiology, who died on February 5, 2001 after having served the University since 1961.

Be it further resolved, that the senate chair be directed to communicate to the immediate survivors the action taken, together with the condolences and sympathy of the faculty.

### **Class A Legislation on Tri-Campus Legislation – Second Consideration: Volume Two, Part II, Chapter 22, Sections 37, 41, 42, 47, 52, 62 and 74; Part IV, Chapter 42, Sections 31, 32 and 46; and Chapter 44, Section 31**

Coney reviewed the process that had been followed since the last Senate meeting, including a presentation of the legislation to the Senate Executive Committee, the President and the Advisory Committee on Faculty Code and Regulations for review. The Advisory Committee recommended several small changes and the SEC adopted those changes. Holt moved to adopt the SEC amended version of the legislation. There was no discussion, and the legislation, as amended, passed unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Lea B. Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty

APPROVED BY: Mary B. Coney, Chair, Faculty Senate