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Academic Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes, February 2, 1982

Donald F. Pabst

Wright State University - Main Campus

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Date: January 21, 1982

To: Members of the Academic Council

From: Donald F. Pabst, Steering Committee Chairer and
University Faculty Vice-President

Subject: Agenda for Academic Council Meeting of Monday, February 2, 1982, at 3:10 p.m.

Place: Rear Section of the University Center Cafeteria

Agenda:

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of minutes of the January 4, 1982 meeting. Please make the following corrections: Item IV.B. - The new chairer for the Calendar/Elections Committee was appointed by the Steering Committee. Item VII.B. - A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the policy.
- III. Report of the President including a special report by the President and/or Provost on the "budget crisis"
- IV. Report of the Steering Committee and Faculty Vice-President
- V. Reports of the Standing Committees:
 - A. Curriculum
 - B. Faculty Affairs
 - C. Library
 - D. Student Affairs
 - E. Budget Review
- VI. Old Business:
 - A. Recommendations for new courses from the Curriculum Committee:
 1. COM 304, "Implementing Career Decisions", P/U grading
 2. NUR 317, "Selected Topics", ABCDF/PU grading - optional
 - B. Recommendation from the University Budget Review Committee that the nonvoting members on the University Budget Review Committee be changed to: President, Provost, and Vice-President for Administration.
- VII. New Business - None
- VIII. Adjournment

DFP:mlr

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 1, 1982

- I. The meeting of February 1, 1982 was called to order by Provost John R. Beljan at 3:10 p.m. in the Cafeteria Extension of the University Center.

Present: H. Andrews, B. Beeler, J. Beljan, C. Cary, J. Castellano,
B. Denison, J. Gabbert, R. Gardier, S. Ghosh, J. Greene,
J. Hoying, B. Hutchings, A. Hye, R. Iddings, J. Jacob,
R. Kegerreis, B. Mann, M. Moloney, D. Pabst, C. Queener,
K. Reed, W. Sawyer, J. Schrader, S. Sexson, G. Skinner,
A. Spiegel, J. Sullivan, B. Tea, R. Weisman, R. Williams

Absent: P. Batra, I. D'Agostino, M. Dahlinghaus, C. Hartmann,
M. Roach, H. Viets

- II. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 4, 1982 meeting with the following amendments: Item IV.B. - The new chairer for the Calendar/Elections Committee was appointed by the Steering Committee. Item VII.B. - A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the policy. Item V.C. - Should read "but the Library staff has been on the move."

Provost Beljan at this time wished to express thanks to the following members of the Placement Committee for their work on the Placement Testing and Advising Policy: Emil Kmetec (Chairer), William Collie, Kenneth Davenport, Lawrence Hussman, Marc Low, Paul Merriam, Edgar Rutter, and Anne Shearer.

- III. Report of the President: President Kegerreis said that the state of Ohio's massive budgetary problem announced January 14 stems from primarily two factors: (1) The basic economy of the state of Ohio is suffering a virtual depression, if not an extreme recession, and the taxes from income-producing enterprises are correspondingly reduced because profits and revenues of those taxpayers are reduced. The extent of the reduction in the revenue flow had not been properly addressed until the first days of 1982 when the new budget director took office. (2) The brand new taxes enacted in late November did not produce the revenues expected. These two factors resulted in an extreme imbalance in the budgetary situation in Ohio. The state is now facing a \$1 billion deficit in the remaining 17 months of the biennium. This translated in terms of action into a 17% cut for Wright State University for the remaining 5 1/2 months of the fiscal year. Various methods of bringing the current year's budget back into balance were planned by the state universities, such as, freezing salaries, cutting travel, and retarding the handling of contracts for capital equipment. Wright State University formed a special Task Force to array the potential budget adjustments. Meetings were held with the Council of Deans, the University Budget Review Committee, and the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees concerning the budget crisis. When this budget crisis was presented January 14, it was in the nature of an emergency but since that announcement, there has been no action from the Office of Budget and Management of the state of Ohio, and the long series of political meetings since that announcement have delayed the effective date of any cuts and over this past weekend, have had the effect of reducing the announced cuts. At this date, a list of cuts and exact nature of the cuts is still not available from the Office of Budget and Management. It is anticipated such an order is soon to be issued with an initial reduction in the neighborhood of an annualized 3%, which converts into 8% or 9% when applied to the final five months of this fiscal year and contrasts with the 17% reduction which the University was to receive two and a half weeks ago. The state university presidents tend to believe that these reductions are strictly temporary in their nature and will be followed in the state legislature by a battle for new taxes which will be followed by additional cuts if the new taxes fail to be enacted. These subsequent actions put the University further into the budget year, making it difficult to produce a savings to balance the budget. President Kegerreis will recommend to the campus community that it do the best possible job of

producing its own forecast of the eventual total reduction in subsidy for this year and act accordingly. That will be no less than 15% and perhaps as much as 20% reduction in subsidy. The proposal to be submitted to the legislature as soon as it is drafted by the governor's staff will most likely be as follows:

1. A 3% reduction on an annualized basis in subsidies for higher education and an estimated 6% for FY 1983.
2. These cuts will be connected with "trigger" taxes which were included in the November 1981 bill stating that those taxes would be put into motion given a further decline in the economy.
3. A new additional 1% sales tax to take effect March 1 and to extend through the biennium.

A political debate is anticipated on these proposals. If a new revenue-producing measure is not enacted, the University will go back to the drawing board and make further cuts, etc. The February subsidy check should be received intact. Reductions will probably take place later in the year.

The special Task Force formed has a two-part mission: (1) to collect a series of potential budget adjustments to bring the current year into balance, and (2) to provide a more deliberate array of strategies and reductions and increases which can affect the following year so that the UBRC, the Council of Deans, the University Planning Task Force, the Provost, the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, and the President can finally decide upon the optimal assortment of the various factor-indexed related measures that will produce the least damage to the University, not only in its programs but in its morale. It is anticipated that the Board of Trustees will take a position on this situation and will give guidance on how to proceed. There are at least seven different bodies consisting of faculty and students involved in setting the course of action to be taken by the University. The University Planning Task Force is being asked to produce earlier than originally scheduled a set of program priorities so that all other decisions can be synchronized with that set of preliminary priorities.

Provost Beljan, Chairer of the special Task Force, commented that the Task Force has had two meetings, the last one with the Council of Deans and the UBRC. Suggestions have been made in regard to methods of cost reductions and cost savings and are being reviewed. A series of small committees will be formed, largely of staff, to investigate these recommendations which deal with support functions, but the intent is to use the augmented ad hoc Budget Committee as a committee of the whole to iterate the recommendations from all of these groups. No one group will work in isolation; there will be the benefit of iteration of ideas, suggestions, and conclusions by members of the other groups. In addition, Wright State University is canvassing other institutions who have recently undergone similar difficulties to determine if there are other strategies worthy of review. Provost Beljan expressed the belief that the University can maintain the strength and vitality of the University and can make some creative approaches in cost reductions that in the long term, will sustain the University through the 1980's. Provost Beljan welcomes new ideas and new approaches to this problem.

IV. Report of the Steering Committee and Faculty Vice-President: Mr. D. Pabst gave the following report:

A. Steering Committee:

1. The committee has held three meetings in January. The budget crisis has required considerable discussion.

2. Calendar/Elections is continuing its study of a possible conversion to the early semester calendar. Barbara Murphy will continue to chair the committee.
3. A report was received from the Student Affairs Committee on the property of the Sailboat Club and that report is still being considered by Steering.
4. A report was received from the University Faculty Affairs Committee on terms of employment of faculty on 9-month contracts. Steering hopes to finalize action on this topic soon.
5. A report was received from the Calendar/Elections Committee on Academic Council constituencies; Steering will probably have a recommendation to Academic Council at the March meeting.

B. Faculty Vice-President:

1. Faculty Vice-President Pabst has spent a tremendous amount of time on the budget crisis. Faculty input is being provided on the budget situation by the UBRC, Task Force, other members of faculty governance, and the Faculty Vice-President.
2. The Faculty Vice-President's Newsletter was distributed January 18.
3. Mr. Pabst reminded Council of the Winter Quarter University Faculty Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 16, 3:30 p.m.

V. Reports of the Standing Committees:

A. Curriculum Committee: No report

B. Faculty Affairs Committee: Mr. J. Jacob, Chairer, reported the committee has completed its report on terms of employment of faculty on 9-month contracts, and that report is now being considered by Steering Committee. The Faculty Affairs Committee has also met with the academic deans to discuss questions surrounding the promotion and tenure process at Wright State University and is continuing the study of that issue.

C. Library Committee: Ms. C. King, Chairer, gave the following report:

1. The 1981-82 acquisitions budget is remaining intact at this moment. The approval plan is still operating. An increase to this budget which had been approved by the Provost has had to be shelved.
2. Inter-University Library Council identification cards are now available to faculty members and graduate students and will permit holders to borrow books from any Ohio state-assisted university.
3. The OSU library collection is now available on-line at WSU. Not only can one find out whether OSU has a given title (this information is available through interlibrary loan for a good many cooperating libraries), but one can find out the current status of this title - on shelf, in circulation, missing, etc.
4. The Library Committee and staff are studying ways to make the limited acquisitions budget stretch. One avenue is allocation of all funds to departmental or program level with the idea of increasing selectivity and flexibility.

D. Student Affairs Committee: No report

E. Budget Review Committee: Mr. L. Hoehn, Chairer, reported that the Budget Review Committee has become a part of the ad hoc committee on budget but is also continuing to function as a University Budget Review Committee. The committee will begin evaluating various possibilities and recommendations concerning possible budget cuts. The Fringe Benefits Subcommittee is making a selective study of existing fringe benefits and also payroll deductions in regard to retirement accounts with a deadline of February 2 for input. The Salary Subcommittee is presently studying salary policy and anticipates that some revisions will be proposed after a few more meetings.

VI. Old Business:

A. Recommendations for new courses from the Curriculum Committee: A motion was made and seconded to approve the following: COM 304, "Implementing Career Decisions," with P/U grading; and NUR 317, "Selected Topics," ABCDF/PU grading - optional. Motion passed by voice vote.

B. Recommendation from the University Budget Review Committee that nonvoting members on the University Budget Review Committee be changed to: President, Provost, and Vice-President for Administration. Mr. Pabst commented that this action is to update the activities of UBRC in light of the new central administration structure. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the subject recommendation.

VII. New Business: None

VIII. Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m. Date of next meeting: March 1, 1982.

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