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Special Faculty Meeting Agenda and Minutes, June 3, 1970

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Wright State University - Main Campus

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS COMMUNICATION

Date: May 25, 1970
From: Brage Golding
To: All Faculty
Subject: Special Faculty Meeting

Place: Oelman Auditorium
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 1970
Time: 3:30 p. m.

The agenda for this meeting is restricted to the purposes of a petition signed by 80 members of the full-time faculty. The petition reads:

"The undersigned faculty members request that the President of the Faculty call a special meeting of the faculty of Wright State University, before the end of the Spring Quarter, to discuss the following resolutions which were passed at a meeting of over 500 faculty and students on May 6:

1. That we disapprove of the use of the National Guard on college campuses to deal with student demonstrations,
2. That we feel all American troops should be withdrawn from Cambodia immediately and from Vietnam as soon as possible,
3. That we disapprove of the presence or the use of guns or firearms on our college campus."

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING

June 3, 1970

- I. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman of the University Faculty, Dr. Emil Kmetec, at 3:30 p. m. in Oelman Auditorium.

This meeting was called for and restricted to the purposes of a petition signed by 80 members of the full-time faculty. (Attachment A)

A. The Vice-Chairman ruled that the meeting would be conducted as follows:

1. Each resolution would be considered separately and in the order of 1, 3 then 2.
2. A short report from President Golding was requested regarding his appearance before the House Judiciary Committee.
 - a. President Golding reported that the Legislature was getting backlash from its constituents over the violence and closing the state universities, and legislation was being created to respond to public reaction. President Golding indicated his feeling that peaceful dissent and demonstration is a right, but violence cannot be tolerated. H. B. 1219 was felt to be least desirable since it is the most repressive. He advised the Judiciary Committee that the Board of Trustees of the state assisted universities already have the power to do all necessary to maintain the operation of the university. H. B. 1220 provides the possibility of salary and credit suspension in a "state of emergency". It was President Golding's feeling that if everyone stands to lose by closing the university then everyone would have a stake in keeping it open therefore, he recommended H. B. 1220 rather than H. B. 1219.

The fear among the presidents of some of the state assisted universities is that the universities may not be able to open in the fall.

President Golding agreed to place copies of these and related bills in the Deans' Offices and in the Library.

- b. Dr. Cox moved, Dr. Emanuel seconded, that the Faculty commend President Golding and express its support of his stand before the state legislature regarding pending legislation pertaining to campus disturbances.

Motion carried.

II. Business of the Day

A. Resolutions

1. Mrs. Olds moved, Mr. Leavitt seconded, that we disapprove of the use of the National Guard on college campuses to deal with student demonstrations.

Discussion: Several questions were raised about whether or not the intent of the motion was to exclude the National Guard and all military services under all circumstances. No specific response to these questions was made, but the feeling among the proponents seemed generally to be to exclude all military under all circumstances.

Mr. Weng moved, Dr. Fritz seconded, to amend the motion by substituting for it the following resolution:

We request that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution and that they encourage the Boards of other Ohio universities to adopt similar resolutions; we also pledge our full support in implementing this resolution if adopted:

Whereas the students, faculty and staff of Wright State University have expressed their commitment to cooperate fully with the President of the University in preventing the occurrence of violence in any form on this campus; and

Whereas we have confidence in the President's ability to respond appropriately to any possibility or threat of violence; therefore be it;

Resolved that this Board strongly opposes the dispatch at any time of either military or police forces to this campus by the Governor or any other public official outside the campus unless their presence is specifically requested by the Board and the President of the University, or his designated representative in the event of his absence.

Discussion: Mr. Weng indicated that in a real situation he might not agree with the decision to call in the National Guard, and would place human rights above property rights. President Golding cited Sec. 2.02 of the Wright State University "Code of Regulations" which requires that he maintain the security of the properties, facilities and personnel of the University.

Dr. R. Smith urged passage of the original resolution on the basis that it is a simple statement and does not abrogate the President's power to control problems on campus. Dr. Dolphin felt that simple statements tend to be misinterpreted by the public.

Amendment carried.

Mr. Frueh moved, Dr. Battino seconded, to accept the amended resolution for the original resolution.

Motion carried.

2. Mrs. Olds moved, Mr. Weng seconded, that we disapprove of the presence or the use of guns or firearms on our college campuses.

Dr. Pabst moved, Dr. R. Wade seconded, to amend the motion to read "We disapprove of the presence or the use of guns or firearms on our university campus, other than those authorized by the Board of Trustee".

Discussion: Mr. Leavitt argued that weapons beget weapons and for those in authority to carry deadly weapons is only an invitation for those on the other side to carry weapons.

Dr. Thobaben reminded the Faculty that a security officer at Wittenberg had killed an unarmed student. He felt that not carrying weapons may be more protection to the security officer than the weapon itself would be.

Amendment carried.

Motion as amended carried.

3. Dr. R. Smith moved, Mr. Weng seconded, the motion "we feel all American troops should be withdrawn from Cambodia immediately and from Vietnam as soon as possible".

Dr. Battino moved, Dr. Gray seconded, to amend the motion by substituting the following:

"The Faculty of Wright State University reaffirm in these troubled times their dedication to the historical traditions of universities and especially to the tradition of academic freedom. We intend in our role as members of the university and as individual citizens to resist the politicization of the university by right, left or middle political groups or by any governmental group or official. The strength of the university lies in its non-partisan educational, scholarly, and service contributions to its constituencies. The university has a positive obligation to foster communication, dialogue, and good citizenship, and its resources should be used to promote these ends.

The members of the university - faculty, staff and students - should be actively encouraged to participate as individual citizens in the processes of democratic government. As a Faculty we endorse these principles."

Discussion: Dr. Battino argued that individuals should be free to take stands on political issues, but the University as a whole should not take a stand on political issues and if it does so risks eventual destruction. Dr. Arbagi felt that the original motion was a misuse of academic freedom. Dr. Treacy pointed out that the university has taken political stands in the past and that this war does affect the university. Mrs. Olds indicated that Wright State University's ties to military and industrial organizations makes talk of non-political positions by the University inaccurate. Mr. Weng argued that to be politically neutral is self-deception.

Dr. Dreher moved, Dr. J. Hughes seconded, to delete the last three sentences from the substitute motion.

Discussion: Dr. Dreher felt the three sentences contained words and cliches which are difficult to define, i. e. , "good citizenship".

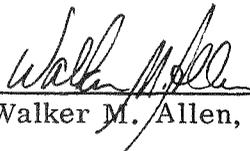
Amendment to delete the three sentences failed.

Substitute motion carried.

A Quorum Call indicated that a quorum was present.

Motion as amended carried.

III. Meeting Adjourned at 5:45.


Walker M. Allen, Secretary