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General Faculty Meeting Minutes, February 22, 1977

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GENERAL FACULTY MEETING
Winter Quarter
February 22, 1977

- I. The second quarterly meeting of the academic year was called to order by the Vice President of the University Faculty, Glenn Graham, at 3:33 p.m. in 101 Fawcett.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the Fall Quarter Faculty Meeting were approved as written.
- III. Report of the President and Provost, Mr. Kegerreis reporting.

Mr. Kegerreis made the following remarks to the faculty:

"This is an uncommonly pleasant day, whose character must have been influenced by the occurrence of the Winter Quarter Faculty Meeting. My remarks today are divided into three parts: The National Scene (for Higher Education); the State Situation; and the Local or Wright State campus view.

National. For higher education, the national picture is always dominated by policies and administrative practices of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The environment there is chaotic. The incoming administration has, as expected, swept away all but one of the top level office holders in DHEW and has slowly begun filling these slots with new people. Many key positions are still open. Statements are made daily about radical changes in long-standing programs. An example is the statement by President Carter that the NDSL (National Defense Student Loan) program ought to be wiped out. We tend to forget, between inaugurations, that these periods of upset and indecision are natural. It will be months before the dust settles, and we can begin to perceive the shape of the Carter/Califano policy toward higher education.

State. In Ohio we have plunged headlong into our biennial madness known more formally as the passage of the Appropriations Bill. Hearings are being held, and more testimony about our needs will be presented tomorrow. In contrast to the nearly unbelievable confusion two years ago when three competing budgets were actively considered, at the present time the Republican Governor's budget proposal--the "Executive Budget"--is the vehicle being used by the Democratic legislature for its analysis, hearings, and amendments.

All of us (Mr. Atwater, Mr. Spiegel and I) are fighting to prevent a further erosion of the Executive Budget request for state universities. If the current version holds, and if our own enrollment level is increased slightly, we hope to be fiscally able to increase faculty compensation by as much as five percent. This is more modest than in some recent years, but is a higher increase than we were forecasting a few months ago.

The legislative process will grind on for several more weeks, and there are many interest blocs who will try to divert funds from the university education budget. These aggressive beavers, gnawing at our fiscal support structure, include public schools, two-year colleges, welfare supporters, and a vast array of miscellaneous supplicants.

Please help us--and yourselves personally, by writing to your own legislator-- State senator and State representative--about the need to continue supporting their universities. Public school enrollment is decreasing, but Ohio's post-secondary enrollments are still rising.

Local Scene. We have almost emerged from an exceptionally trying period which we have experienced 2 1/2 days of interruption, discomfort, gross inefficiencies caused by weather and low temperatures, much higher unbudgeted costs and a decline in our organizational spirit.

All of us, I know, will be glad to put the Winter Quarter of 1977 behind us. Enrollment in the Winter Quarter declined somewhat from Fall Quarter but not nearly as much as usual. Perhaps the odd enrollment drop from Fall 1975 to Fall 1976 was one of those periodic accidents that fall outside the long-range trend line. We won't be able to settle this point with any conviction until November of this coming Fall Quarter.

Meanwhile, we do know that we must continue our policy of fiscal restraints, both to protect funds for compensation increases and to avoid the kind of financial weakness which forces drastic cutbacks, which in turn could lead us into a downward spiral. There is no doubt that our university cost structure is being pushed inexorably upward. We cannot postpone student fee increases much longer. Already Bowling Green, Ohio State, University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, Miami University, and Kent State have increased fees, and many of these same institutions will raise fees again this year.

We remain embarrassingly weak in scholarship aid to deserving students. We cannot fund this area of growing need solely from the operations budget. Something must be done to make it more financially practical for good students to choose Wright State.

However, if we can lift our sights from the tally sheets and the budgetary tables, we see around us a vigorous university, still full of promise, still a great place to be, and Spring, in more ways than one, is just around the corner!"

IV. Report of Academic Council, Mr. Graham reporting.

Mr. Graham reported on the action of the Academic Council since the last general faculty meeting. The Council approved the discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science in Business degree with the major in Office Administration which was offered by the College of Business and Administration. He, also, reported that an articulation agreement with Southern State College had been approved. A calendar which is to be considered under new business today was approved by Academic Council.

V. Old Business: no items carried over from the Fall Meeting.

VI. New Business:

Academic Calendar

There was a motion and second to accept the Academic Calendar as approved by the Academic Council. Mr. Marc Low moved to amend the Summer Quarter of 1978.

After a great deal of discussion and amendments to the Winter and Summer Quarters that were defeated, the calendar was approved as originally presented.

A motion was made and seconded and approved that the Academic Calendar Committee should review the Summer Quarter calendar and report back to the General Faculty at its Spring Meeting. ~~See~~

- VII. No further business was introduced; the motion was given, seconded, and carried for adjournment at 4:40 p.m.

/dlc