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Special Faculty Meeting Minutes, January 12, 1988

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SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING
WINTER QUARTER
January 12, 1988

The Special Faculty Meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 1988, was called to order by Charles E. Hathaway, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, at 3:30 p.m., in the Creative Arts Center Concert Hall. The meeting was called by President Paige Mulhollan for the purpose of hearing faculty comments on the draft of Wright State University's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Hathaway's introductory remarks were on the importance of education in our society. He then explained the role of a metropolitan university. He noted in particular that the university and its use of the term "metropolitan" does not limit itself by geographical area. Discussion ensued.

The first speaker noted that metropolitan is given more prominence than eminent, university goals are not well articulated, it is not clear which programs are important, the plan is not clear, and that more time should be given to the development of the plan. Mr. Hathaway responded that there was no conflict between metropolitan and eminent. Because a program was not mentioned in the document does not mean that it is excluded from the university's long-term plans. He indicated there is a difference of opinion as to how the plan is to be interpreted.

It was noted that there was no mention of gifted students in the document. Graduate research is being slowed down by the displacement of the card catalog with COLS. The graduate programs are looking at the needs of local areas rather than the national needs. There is insufficient mention of the competition for good students.

Mr. Hathaway responded that in no way does the university wish to overlook the national perspective. He noted that there are programs on campus that already have a national reputation. He noted that graduate programs are the strength of a university. He remarked that the university must position itself to get access to library holdings for the faculty. It is important that the university have this electronic network with the other university libraries in Ohio. Students must be ready for college, and in order for this to be accomplished the university must take an active role in getting them prepared.

It was noted that eminence must be foremost in the university, and this is only accomplished through scholarship. Charles Hathaway responded that metropolitan does not diminish the service or research aspects, but the university's first business is teaching.

It was recommended that the term "metropolitan" be dropped and a better term found—perhaps the word "national." There should be a greater commitment to library, honors programs, and scholarships. Education abroad should be expanded. Charles Hathaway responded that we do live in a global situation where we will be a window to the world.

It was noted that the document needs improvement. The document should clearly explain the place of teaching, research, and service. The university should not only transmit knowledge, but should excite students to seek knowledge. Teaching, research, and service add to the excitement of seeking knowledge. Some faculty may do one better than another; therefore, do all faculty have to be involved in all three? Charles Hathaway agreed that individuals have different degrees of ability in various areas, but teaching is to be prominent. Faculty must determine what standards the university is to use to measure faculty service.

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It was asked whether a program would be in jeopardy if it does not meet the needs of an area. Charles Hathaway stated that this is not to be read into the document; this item will be noted in the rewrite.

A question was raised as to the influence of evaluation of professional services on promotion and tenure. Up to this point the faculty has had no impact on the study. Charles Hathaway responded that not all faculty will serve in the same manner in professional services. Each of the colleges and their faculty must set up such standards. At such time as a plan is fully developed it will be reviewed by the faculty. A faculty member noted that professional service is an important part of promotion and tenure, and yet there is nothing in the document as to what and how professional services will be evaluated.

Charles Hathaway asked that all faculty continue to send him their comments on the document, but that it should be done within the next two weeks. He indicated that he hoped the process would be concluded by the end of January.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

LF:jl