

UT faculty airs work load plan

Members of the University of Texas Faculty Senate fear the legislature really means to impose a minimum work load on them, so they talked about it Monday.

They didn't do anything else, though.

At a meeting Monday, members of the faculty senate discussed a legislative proposal which would impose a minimum 12-hour a week classroom load on the state's university professors.

They decided informally, however, not to pass any resolutions on the proposal — at least for the time being.

Discussed was a resolution of support for UT president Dr. Lorene Rogers, who has decried the proposal, saying it will cost the university \$6 million.

"My dear colleagues," said Dr. Ira Iscoe, head of the university's counseling and research center, "I fear that this time they (legislators) really mean it."

Iscoe was referring to a Legislative Budget Board proposal which would financially penalize institutions if professors aren't spending at least 12 hours a week in the classroom. Gov. Dolph Briscoe has set a 12-hour-a-week teaching load as an absolute minimum for college professors.

"We brought this on ourselves," observed English professor Dr. James Sledd. "Last time this came

up, this university undertook a policy of ingenious evasion. I got credit for teaching courses every time I went to the bathroom, or so it seemed."

Sledd was alluding to a loophole provision in current state law that requires professors to carry a minimum nine-hour course load but allows credit for academic equivalents.

"Now," Sledd continued, "the legislators are mad."

He urged taking the opportunity to explain to legislators the nonteaching work required of university professors "instead of looking for a fight (in which) we are going to take a terrible whipping."

Senate members did take action on a resolution deploring the arrest of nine people during a University of Texas conference on Latin American violence.

Members urged that charges of disrupting a meeting lodged against the nine demonstrators last November be dropped.

The arrests, the resolution reads, "seem questionable in view of the rights ... that should be enjoyed in a university setting."

Also discussed but not acted upon was UT president Rogers' refusal to promote a number of university teaching personnel last December.

Members decided to bring the matter up at next week's University Council meetings.