

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

March 4, 1985

The seventh meeting of the Faculty Senate for the academic year 1984-85 was held in Room 212 of the Main Building at 2:15 p.m. on March 4, 1985.

Chairman Waneen Spirduso (Physical & Health Education) presided at the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

I.

Present: Lear L. Ashmore, Barbara Becker-Cantarino, Gerard Behague, Simon J. Bernau, Lowell J. Bethel, Julie H. Bichteler, R. H. Bing, Terrell Blodgett, Thomas D. Boyd, Ben H. Caudle, Kathleen F. Conlin, Wayne A. Danielson, Wm. C. Duesterhoeft, Betty S. Flowers, Maureen M. Grasso, Alan Gribben, Vickie L. Hampton, Ira Iscoe, Gaylord Jentz, H. Paul Kelley, George B. Kitto, J. Parker Lamb, Clarence G. Lasby, Steven W. Leslie, Joan I. Lidoff, Rueben R. McDaniel, Jr., David M. Rabban, Alice Redland, Walter L. Reed, Bonnie Rickelman, Ramon Saldivar, Diane L. Schallert, Leonard G. Schulze, RoseAnn Shorey, James H. Sledd, Waneen W. Spirduso, H. Eldon Sutton, James W. Vick, Claire E. Weinstein, Lewis R. Wiman, Robert E. Witt.

Absent: Edwin B. Allaire, Mark B. Baker, F. Stefan Bertram (excused), Allen H. Bizzell, David L. Bourell, Randall Charbeneau, Eleanor W. Jordan, E. L. Lundelius, Jr., Jane C. Marcus (excused), Jack Otis (excused), Charles A. Sorber (excused).

Total members present: 41

Total members absent: 11

II.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. The Minutes of the Meeting of February 4, 1985 (D&P 2071-2086) were approved after clarification changes were made on D&P 2073 and 2074. These pages as corrected were distributed to members of the Faculty Senate and will be in the 1984-85 Bound Volume of the Documents and Proceedings of the Faculty Senate.

III.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Report of Chairman. Ms. Spirduso first announced that Phil White (History) had attended the postponed COFGO meeting on February 22 and 23 as a Faculty Senate observer. She asked Mr. White to report.

Mr. White reported that the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations, composed of representatives from faculty governance organizations at the State Universities of Texas, met on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning the 22nd and 23rd at the Quality Inn South in Austin. Its first action was to hear a briefing on the legislative situation from Gerald Hill, U.T. System lobbyist, and from representatives of the Coordinating Board, Texas United Faculties (AFL-CIO), and the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT). The gist of these reports was that while severe cuts in the next biennial budget for higher education are unlikely so also is any increase. The Council also heard a report from a Coordinating Board staff person on enrollment trends. It also chose Don Coer of Sam Houston State as its new coordinator and chose three new regional leaders, including one from Texas A&M. In the usual exchange of information it became evident that faculty senates in many instances are working with their administrations in preparing plans for financial exigencies; at some institutions these plans include reduction in faculty. At one institution an eighteen-hour teaching load is under consideration.

Mr. White went on to say that COFGO has as its principal function the exchange of information. He thought it unfortunate that the Faculty Senate of the University of Texas at Austin was not a member.

Ms. Spirduso next reported that she had received five responses to the Vick Committee report on the College of Education Teacher Preparation Program and the College's response to that report. She had summarized those responses and the summary had been handed out at the meeting.

Mr. Caudle (Petroleum Engineering) MOVED that the summary be forwarded to President Flawn as the Faculty Senate response to these documents.

Mr. Kelley (Educational Psychology) wanted more time for consideration and discussion so he MOVED to table the motion and take up the matter next month.

The motion CARRIED.

(The report has been circulated to the Faculty Senate as D&P 2121-2122.)

B. Report of Vice Chairman. No report.

C. Report of Secretary. Mr. Bernau told the Senate that a brochure published by The Society of Research Administrators on Circular A-21 had been received and was available in the Faculty Senate Office. Circular A-21 was concerned with the effort reports which had been required by the Federal Government.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Faculty Representation on the University Cooperative Society Board of Directors

Four nominations had been received from the Director of the University Cooperative Society Board for the panel of three to five from which President Flawn will select a faculty representative for the Board. There were no further nominations and the Faculty Senate approved the submission to President Flawn of Richard L. Dodge (Architecture), Beverly L. Hadaway (Finance), Sally M. Jones (Accounting), and David A. Kendrick (Economics) from whom to select a Faculty Representative for the University Cooperative Society Board.

B. Report from the Committee of Counsel on Academic Freedom and Responsibility Concerning the Tenure Policy adopted by the Regents of Texas Technology University.

Mr. Kelley said that the Committee report had been circulated as D&P 2090-2091. The supporting documents from Texas Tech had been circulated to members of the Faculty Senate already and would be recorded in the Bound Volume for 1984-85 as D&P 2093-2118. The Committee had drafted a position statement for the Faculty Senate to consider. This began on the middle of page 2090 and ended on page 2091. On behalf of the Committee of Counsel he MOVED that the Faculty Senate approve that position statement.

Mr. Bernau (Mathematics) considered the Committee report excellent and supported it wholeheartedly.

Mr. Sutton (Zoology) thought the first paragraph of the report was superb. He had problems with the second and third paragraphs, however, because we could make no independent assessment of the facts. He would be happy with a statement which affirmed both the policy here

and the AAUP policy as the way to proceed, but did not specifically address the program at Texas Tech.

Mr. Iscoe (Psychology) said that the Committee, of which he was a member, had felt obliged to go further than the first paragraph. He emphasized that the materials from Texas Tech, if true, indicated dangers for all of Higher Education in Texas. The Committee saw a situation which called for conciliation and negotiation so as to restore a proper collegial spirit.

Mr. Kelley requested the privilege of the floor for Neill Megaw, another Committee member.

Mr. Megaw (English) said that the Committee agreed that if the packet of documents accurately represented the facts at Texas Tech, then the situation was very grave. This was why the Committee had added the second and third paragraphs. The Committee had tried not only to avoid passing judgement on the basis of incomplete testimony but also to provide some positive help. This was the reason for pointing to the two most important AAUP documents in the third paragraph of the resolution.

Mr. Gribben (English) asked if it was true that the new system at Texas Tech turned tenure into a seven year contract situation.

Mr. Megaw said that this issue was not quite clear. The present policy at Texas Tech did represent a gradual retreat from one in which a five year review was a clear threat to the expectation of continued employment. The Tech administration had not replied to repeated carefully targeted requests for clarification of this issue.

The motion to approve the position statement was put to the vote and CARRIED. There was one no vote.

C. Waiver of the English 346K Requirement for 1985/86.

Ms. Spirduso said that the Faculty Senate had been asked to discuss the waiver of the English 346K requirement. She understood that this was a one year waiver which deans had granted in response to a request by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research.

Mr. Sledd (English) had distributed copies of two motions. He began by MOVING motion number one:

That the Faculty Senate shall call on the administration to maintain continuity of instruction in composition at every level in the undergraduate curriculum while the requirement of E. 346K is suspended. Specifically: Within the limits of its staff and budget for 1984-85, the English Department should offer a series of elective courses in composition, including or drawn from E. 307, 308, 310, 317, 325M, and 346K.

In speaking to his motion Mr. Sledd outlined some history of the U.T. English requirement. Prior to 1970 two composition and two literature courses were required. Then there was a reduction to nine hours, one composition course and two literature courses. This was compromised to the requirement of E 306, either E 307 or E 308, and a third course chosen from options which depended on whether E 307 or E 308 had been taken. Most recently we had the requirement of E 306, E 316K, E 346K with two additional substantial writing component courses. In addition, for the weakest freshmen E 106 and E 206 might be required.

This made, as the central responsibility of the English Department, the provision of E 306, E 316K and E 346K. To make room for E 346K, the new writing course, four composition courses, E 307, E 308, E 310, E 317, were abolished.

Now E 346K had been suspended and E 106 and E 206 were not being offered. This left the University with only one required course in composition, E 306. In addition E 316K was not listed as having a substantial writing component even though it had been represented to the University Council as a writing course.

The sequence of five courses presented to the Council as involving substantial writing had been sharply reduced.

His purpose, said Mr. Sledd, was to make available some sort of temporary program in composition for students who need such instruction now, while the University settles what its English requirements should be.

Mr. Rabban (Law School) asked who made the decision to waive the requirement and under what governance document this decision was taken.

Mr. Sledd indicated that this matter would be covered by his second motion and should be postponed until the second motion was discussed.

Mr. Rabban felt himself unable to vote on the first motion without this information. As far as he could tell there was no official recommendation from any governance body within the English Department.

Mr. Sledd said that the question was legitimate, the answer was that "nobody knows." He would give some information which he had intended to give under his second motion.

Mr. Sledd then referred to two letters from the Chairman of the English Department. These, he claimed, were, in part, demonstrably inaccurate. It was not true that the Council had required every student should take E 346K. Indeed the Council had been assured that transfer credit for a composition course beyond E 306 would suffice. Later, the Council was told that such courses would transfer not as equivalent to E 346K but as writing component courses.

"Now..., I have simply to say, nobody knows what happened. We are not allowed to know what happened."

After listing various contradictory reports of the decision to waive the requirement for E 346K, Mr. Sledd continued.

"And that is why I made my second motion. The question needs to be answered but we in English are not allowed to know what is going on in our own department so to ask for an answer now is to ask what this committee, if it is lucky, may be able to determine, but nobody else knows."

Mr. Gribben said that he could answer Mr. Rabban's question. Vice President Fonken had postponed the full implementation of the E 346K requirement at the urgent request of the Chairman of the English Department.

Continuing through interruptions and a point of order, Mr. Gribben hoped the Faculty Senate would turn down both of Mr. Sledd's motions. The Senate was being treated to a family quarrel. It was simply false to imply, as Mr. Sledd had done for years, that the English Department had no interest in composition, and the Senate should not presume this during the ensuing debate.

Ms. Spirduso called on Mr. Sutherland, Chairman of the English Department, to verify this statement.

Mr. Sutherland (English) said that he had made the recommendations to the Dean [of the College of Liberal Arts]. He added that the requirement for E 346K had originally read "... E 346K, Writing in

Different Disciplines, or an equivalent course offered in another department." The President had decided to delay offering equivalent courses in other departments. Therefore all undergraduate degree programs require E 346K.

Mr. Sledd insisted that this did not resolve the transfer credit issue.

Mr. Rabban continued trying to elucidate the governance situation in the English Department while Mr. Gribben continued to provide explanations and to wish the embarrassing questions about his department would cease.

Ms. Spirduso extended the privilege of the floor to Mr. Sutherland and invited him to speak to this governance decision.

Mr. Sutherland said that he was the Chairman, and the English Department has an Executive Committee, normally elected in March. A new governance document for the department had been accepted [by the Department] and was being forwarded to the administration. When it had been approved the department would hold its regular spring Executive Committee elections under this new order.

He had made this recommendation [on E 346K] to the Dean and had so informed the Executive Committee at its next meeting. One member had disagreed but he had strong support from the Executive Committee for his decision. He had not asked for an Executive Committee vote. With the acrimony in the English Department he thought it wise for him to take responsibility and not ask others to share the attacks that would ensue.

Mr. Rabban said that now he had some idea of what had happened and he had two concerns. Chapter IV, Section 2 of the Regents' Rules required that, subject to various administrative authorities, faculties should play a major role in governance in Area 2.11, General Academic Policies and Welfare. This issue seemed to fall under this heading so he was disappointed that the faculty seemed not to have had a 'major role.' Secondly he did not see how the Faculty Senate could reach an informed decision without hearing from the department most directly involved. This meant both majority and dissenting views. He urged the Senate to request this.

Mr. Iscoe felt that we were in the middle of a family quarrel. In all family quarrels the important thing was to stay out. Mr. Rabban's points were covered by the second motion. The upcoming report on the Status and Role of Lecturers was also pertinent, but a separate issue. It was not for the Faculty Senate to tell the English Department which courses to teach. He would vote against the motion.

Mr. Sledd insisted this was not a family matter, rather it was a matter of University requirements. The Dean had forbidden the English Department to hold meetings so it had no way to give advice. He first learned of this from the Daily Texan.

Ms. Ashmore (Speech Communication) asked for the privilege of the floor for Mr. Kinneavy.

Mr. Kinneavy (English) began by handing out a four page document entitled 'The Decomposition of English.' His aim was to react to three positions on the writing program taken in public by members of the English Department. His thesis was that the writing program at this University is being systematically dismantled at almost every level and an attempt to replace composition courses by literature courses is underway.

The view that the English Department did not have the personnel qualified to teach writing for different disciplines was contradicted by fifty years of successful teaching of technical writing both here and in hundreds of other Universities.

The large numbers of teachers required for composition courses was indeed a problem, but not a new one. Ever since the 1950's the vast majority of English composition courses had been taught by graduate students or people with non-tenured track appointments. He understood Mr. Sutherland had calculated that 15 additional lecturers would be needed if E 346K were offered next fall. This would bring the number of lecturers to 68, essentially the same as in Fall, 1983. The problem then was not E 346K itself, but the need to provide a second composition course. He did not consider this need could be met by the support courses for composition offered in other departments. He would retain the lecturers needed to staff the course and slowly convert them to regular faculty members.

Mr. Kinneavy then argued that strong ideological bias against the course by influential departmental members, and their desire to eliminate those who teach the course, had led to a lack of administrative support for the course and a claim that the course was beset by logistical problems. A major objection by Mr. Sutherland had been that students could not get the sections they needed. Mr. Kinneavy said that 27% of undergraduates are in Business but no E 346K sections are offered in Business, 40% are in Science and Engineering but only 19% of the E 346K sections. He closed by claiming, "The administration of the course has been a farce for the past three years. It has been placed in the hands of people who do not believe in the course, there has been no single administrator given time and place to administer the course.... The administration had four years to get ready for this course. The English Department is not ready because the administration of the department does not want to be ready -- now or ever.

"Two brutal questions have to be answered. First, does the University really not have enough money to finance basic literacy? Second, if the department which has been the traditional agent for literacy no longer cares to carry out this responsibility, should not the charge be given to another department which will take it seriously?"

Mr. Iscoe considered he had been victimized by the discussion. The motion had not been previously circulated. He MOVED to TABLE motion 1.

The motion to TABLE motion 1 CARRIED.

Mr. Sledd said that he needed to change his second motion as he had originally handed it out. He therefore MOVED:

That the Chair of the Faculty Senate shall appoint a committee to ascertain how and by whom the decisions were taken which have drastically altered the program in writing which was formally approved by the University Council, the President of the University, and the Board of Regents. Among such other inquiries as it may make, the committee shall determine whether the rights of the faculty and the Council have been violated and whether contractual obligations to the students have been breached. And that the committee shall investigate the feasibility of offering a series of elective courses in composition, including or drawn from E. 307, 308, 310, 317, 325M, and 346K.

A point of order was raised that the last sentence of Mr. Sledd's motion was a reintroduction of part of the previously tabled motion.

Ms. Spirduso ruled that the last sentence of Mr. Sledd's motion was out of order and that the motion to be considered was the motion that had been handed out, namely the first two sentences of what Mr. Sledd had just moved.

[This part of the transcript is confused as some people did not use the microphones. The issue was clarified later in the meeting on a point of information raised by Mr. Danielson (Journalism).]

Mr. Rabban considered both the Faculty Senate and the English Department to have a role in the matter. We needed to hear from the faculty in the English Department and to know the governance processes by which the decisions had been made. He opposed the motion, and, if it was defeated, would have motions to elicit the information he considered essential.

Mr. Gribben agreed that the motion went further than the Senate should do at this point. He considered the wording of the motion hostile, not a calm request for facts. He was happy to see things turning into a regular English Department meeting so that the Senate would get a real idea of the situation. He then asked for the privilege of the floor for Mr. Carver.

Mr. Carver (English) considered things were going pretty well even with the suspension of E 346K. The substantial writing component course provided two more composition courses than there had been three years ago. It was not true, as some of his colleagues claimed, that without E 346K there would be only one composition course next year. The argument, as Mr. Carver saw it, was over how composition should be taught. He did not agree that teaching writing by subordinating mechanics to content and stressing reading was to neglect composition in favor of literature. Mr. Carver advocated writing across the curriculum rather than making an English Department solely responsible for literacy.

A real problem, said Mr. Carver, was that beginning in 1978 the English Department had begun hiring people on one year appointments primarily to teach composition. Now there were, potentially, sixty of these one year part time people "... debating, deciding, thinking about what your curriculum should be. Regardless of your respect for those people ... you really wouldn't want that to happen to your department."

Mr. Danielson (Journalism) favored the motion. He thought the basic question was whether the English Department was trying to avoid its mandate from the Faculty and Administration to offer the course, or whether emergency conditions existed which made it impossible to teach.

Ms. Spirduso said that there had been a determination of an emergency situation and this gave deans a clear right to waive requirements. She wanted to know if the English Department had plans to deal with the situation beyond the temporary waiver.

Mr. Sutherland said that he would appoint a group to work on this and he expected to have recommendations for the University Council next fall.

Continuing, Mr. Sutherland said he wished to defend himself against some false statements which he considered an attack on him as a faculty member. He pointed out that he had not known in advance what Mr. Sledd planned to do. During his nearly two years as Chairman he had never been questioned in his office by Mr. Sledd. Mr. Kinneavy is a member of the English Department Executive Committee and that Committee had met from 12:30 to 1:30 this afternoon, but nothing had been said to Mr. Sutherland at that meeting.

The statement that the writing program at this University is being systematically dismantled was not true. Mr. Sutherland was Director of Freshman English before Mr. Kinneavy joined the Department and had served two three year terms at different times.

"I am committed to composition on this campus and I do not like arguments in favor of E 346K to attack me personally."

Mr. Sutherland pointed out that Mr. Kinneavy was a member of the E 346K Committee which Mr. Kinneavy had described as a farce. Exemptions from E 346K had only started to come from that Committee after the waiver was approved. Mr. Sutherland did not consider the administration to have been a farce. He had assigned a most creative person as chairman of the committee and the committee had done its best.

"I think the Senate should understand that there is very little kind of conversation back and forth. Mr. Kinneavy sits on the Executive Committee and waits until he gets in the Senate to say these things to me. There is something quite wrong about that."

Mr. Bernau said that after the personal attacks that had been heard he did not want to vote for this motion. He thought Mr. Rabban had the best idea in calling for something which was not judgmental and was possible. In the hope that Mr. Rabban would go ahead with his ideas, he MOVED to TABLE Mr. Sledd's Motion two.

The motion to table CARRIED.

Mr. Rabban MOVED

That the Faculty Senate request a report from the appropriate faculty governance committee in the English Department on their views regarding the decision to waive English 346K. The Faculty Senate would also welcome the views of any dissenters on that committee.

Ms. Shorey (Home Economics) was concerned about students in Home Economics who were required to have a technical writing course for certification by the American Dietetic Association for their professional degrees. This had been E 317, was switched to E 346K, and now there was no course to give them this certification requirement.

Mr. Sutherland said that this seemed an appropriate matter for the English Department's fall report. The E 317 matter was under discussion between himself and his and other deans.

Mr. Sledd pointed out that Mr. Rabban's motion would exclude comments from the English Department membership.

Mr. Rabban said that he had that matter covered by a subsequent motion.

The question was called and Mr. Rabban's motion CARRIED.

Mr. Rabban MOVED

That the Faculty Senate request a report from the Chair of the English Department and from Vice President Fonken on the process by which they made the decision to waive E 346K and on the reasons for that decision.

The motion CARRIED.

Mr. Rabban MOVED

That the Chair of the Faculty Senate appoint a committee to receive this information, and any other information the committee sees fit, and to report back to the Faculty Senate.

Mr. Gribben hoped that the Senate would not continue to dabble in this matter. He believed that every action taken by the University Council or the Senate had worsened conditions in his department.

Mr. Sledd asked for privileges of the floor for Ms. Frost.

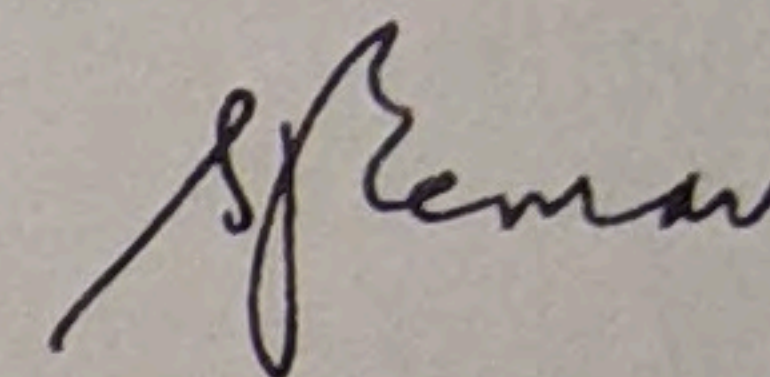
Ms. Frost (English) said that she was a literary scholar, the Associate Director of Freshman English and a winner last year of the

President's Teaching award for composition. Nevertheless, she had neither a voice nor even an ear in her department. People like her needed the chance to talk to people who would listen and might be able to help.

Ms. Becker-Cantarino (Germanic Languages) thought this a University-wide matter. It was in the interest of all to get unbiased information, to sift it and then discuss it intelligently. She strongly supported the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Following a motion to that effect, the meeting ADJOURNED at 4:05 p.m.



Simon J. Bernau, Secretary
The Faculty Senate

Distributed to members of the Faculty Senate and to members of the General Faculty who want minutes on March 27, 1985.