

Minutes of the Meeting of 24 September, 1999

Faculty Senate 1999-2000

Full Assembly: Friday, September 24, 1999

Present: Gans, Susan (Proxy for Sandra Kerr); Kirschenbaum, Lisa; Lyons, Glenn; Bloom, Arvid; Berger, Helen; Smith, Paul K.; McVey, Randy (Proxy for Brian O'Neill); Winters, Thomas; Coffey, Darla Spence; Goodson, Felix; Zhang, Naijian; Broderic, Trish; Thomas, Diana (Proxy for Dick Swain); Drake, George; Van Liew, Maria; Coleman, Kim (Proxy for Marty Patwell); Schnell, Frauke; Ahramjian, Sylvia; Garrett, Robin; Glidden, Peter; Corbett, Idna; Teutsch, Chris; Ray, Judith; Volkwein, Karin.

Meeting was called to order by President Garrett at 1:15 PM.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Smith and seconded by Senator Drake. Minutes were accepted as presented.

II. Announcements

President Garrett informed the group that name tags are forthcoming. She outlined the role of the executive committee (to set senate meeting agenda), and her own role as liaison to President Adler. She made preliminary charges to the senate subcommittees. Faculty Welfare Committee charged with outreach to temporary faculty. Ethics and Student Welfare Committees charged to work collaboratively to follow up last year's task force report on academic dishonesty. Research and Curriculum Committee charged to consult with SGA on possible diversity component in curriculum, by request from SGA.

III. University Festival '99-'00

Donna Usher provided a list of current University Festival Committee members. President Garrett indicates the Senate's wish to act as more than passive receivers of information about such events, and asks how we might be effective in future planning. Senators Bloom and Kirschenbaum asked about the way the festival theme was chosen; the choice of topic for this year's festival was made by the current committee. Senator Van Liew expressed concern that student participation in this year's festival was limited relative to prior years; students have been asked to attend, but there are no student projects. They are provided lunch, and student music groups have been asked to perform. Donna Usher suggests that we act as conduits of information for our colleagues and classes. Cochairs of the Festival Committee are serving two year terms, and we are encouraged to attend festival planning meetings. The new format of the festival is backed by President Adler, who has provided funding to bring speakers to campus. We may participate by joining the Festival Committee and by making suggestions and volunteering our time. There is a post-festival

evaluation process. Currently the process of discussion/evaluation is not a group process. President Garrett suggested opening the discussion so we may address our festival as a campus. Donna Usher says that faculty are both present and involved in the planning process, but there is senate consensus that there are problems with the planning, execution, and evaluation processes such that faculty do not feel a proprietary interest in the festival as it stands. President Garrett will pursue further discussion of these issues.

IV. Update and Discussion on Contract Negotiations

Jana Nestlerode presented us with a negotiations update. She described the work of the campus action team and encouraged senators to vote for a strike, and to encourage our departments/schools to do the same.

- Strike mandate determined by a majority of faculty voting on all SSHE campuses.
- Discussion of governor's efforts to turn opinions of students and parents against "spoiled" faculty. Several advertisements and counter-advertisements by APSCUF discussed. Ridge has displayed a consistent record of lack of support for public education, and we are the next stop in his campaign.
- Review of statistics pertaining to our state's tuition, in contrast with our money spent on public education.
- Faculty are asked not to participate in any non-contractual obligations until contract resolved.
- Several senators express doubt that this will have any effect on negotiations. Nestlerode says that this will exert pressure on our administration, who will perceive the decrement in campus life quality.
- Deans have expressed sympathy for faculty, though President Adler has been reticent in her stance.
- Strike should be called prior to October 29 deadline for student reimbursement for withdrawal from classes.
- Faculty should call/write/email/FAX governor's office.
- Faculty should discuss strike, and ways of avoiding strike, with students, but not on class time.
- Policies regarding posting flyers discussed; faculty concerned that rules have been applied in a systematic way that specifically blocks strike-related posting.
- Strike is probably the only way Ridge's office will get our message. Board's proposal regarding step increments and numbers is illegal, and was challenged by APSCUF. If APSCUF wins this removes most egregious (but not the only terrible) proposal from the bargaining table. Sixty-eight percent of faculty would be affected by proposed salary changes.
- Discussion of relative funding/attention given to SSHE versus Penn State. Information about relative payrolls, etc., unavailable.
- Jana Nestlerode emphasizes need for faculty to picket and/or contribute other work in the event of a strike. Alternative work will be provided for faculty (particularly junior faculty) concerned with picketing. Faculty must set up lines to be crossed. Particular focus should be placed on special programs that are "pet programs" of administration.
- Senator Ahramjian asks if enough faculty might continue to work to prolong strike indefinitely.

- Nestlerode indicates that this is not likely to be the case because close to 100% of faculty would walk out, and adjuncts are largely indicating that they will not cross the picket line. APSCUF, particularly Em Jones, is responsible for rolling over adjuncts.
- Senator Berger asks about clearing personal belongings from offices. Faculty encouraged to do this, particularly items that would potentially allow courses to continue in our absence. All in our offices deemed university administration property in the event of a strike.
- Senator Bloom asks about discouraging students from crossing line during strike. Faculty are not to do that. Graduate assistants may continue to work.
- Faculty should be prepared for emotional fallout of any strike. Senator Coffey asked about email in the event of a strike.
- Faculty will, in all probability, lose access to email if there is a strike. Home email accounts should be utilized in this event (accounts not owned by the university).
- Another issue on the table is the board's proposal that each faculty member have an outside (off-campus) evaluator for tenure.
- Off-campus locations for meetings/communication discussed.
- Faculty encouraged to get administrative necessities (e.g. evaluations) done as soon as possible, and to set up phone/email chains in departments.
- Resolution to be sent to President Adler read to Senate (see below). Resolution edited, and accepted unanimously by Senate. President Garrett to send copy to President Adler and deans and directors.

V. Subcommittee Meetings

VI. Informal Reports from Subcommittees

VII. Other

Items V. - VII. skipped by consensus due to length of preceding discussion.

VIII. Adjournment Senators Bloom and Berger move to adjourn. Senator Kirschenbaum seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Text of Senate Resolution for President Adler:

The Faculty Senate of West Chester University strongly urges you to assert your leadership as President of West Chester University and as President of SSHE's Presidents Council in the current faculty contract negotiations by:

1. Relinquishing your "neutral" stance;
2. Clearly and loudly conveying to the Chancellor's Office the risk to both public education and the West Chester University community posed by SSHE's lack of good faith bargaining;
3. Taking constructive action to avert a strike.