

**Unapproved Minutes of the Called Meeting
of the Faculty Senate, APSU
September 23, 1997**

Senators Present: Steven Anderson, Dewey Browder, Lori Buchanan, Patrick Bunton, Willodean Burton, Art Carpenter, Wayne Chaffin, Bruce Childs, Debbie Cochener, Sue Cloud Evans, Daniel Frederick, Meredith Gildrie, Mark Ginn, Buddy Grah, Ronald Gupton, Carlette Hardin, Max Hochstetler, Ellen Kanervo, Tom King, J. D. Lester, Larry Lowrance, Ramon Magrans, Maureen McCarthy, Rebecca McMahan, Bruce Myers, Stephanie Newport, David O'Drobinak, George Pesely, Michael Phillips, Bert Randall, Steve Ryan, Adel Salama, Abu Sawar, Paul Shaffer, Lori Slavin, Linda Thompson, M.D. Waheeduzzman, Wayne Whitmer, and Nancy Wright.

Meeting Called to Order: 4:00 p.m.

The Senate has three requests for attendance by nonfaculty: Aleeta Christian, who is a full time Director, Alicia Morehead, who is here as a student, and The Leaf Chronicle reporter, Becky Logan.

Motion made to approve attendance of Aleeta Christian, seconded, approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve attendance of student, Alicia Morehead, seconded, approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve attendance of the representative from The Leaf Chronicle, seconded, approved by show of hands. Guests invited to return to meeting.

Announcements: A called meeting requires that 50% of the Senators are in attendance for a quorum. Quorum confirmed. At a called meeting only the items on the agenda can be addressed by the Senate. Only Senators can be recognized from the floor without special approval. **Resolution and background letter distributed to Senate.** Senators informed that the Executive Committee received a letter from Chancellor Smith and a memo from Dr. Rhoda this morning. Request from Senate to read letters. Dr. Randall indicated that Chancellor Smith's letter was only a cover letter attached to Dr. Rhoda's memo. In his letter the Chancellor expressed support for and confidence in Dr. Rinella and confirmed Dr. Rhoda's response to questions raised in the Senate letter of August 1. Dr. Rhoda's memo read to the Senate with comments. (Chancellor Smith's letter and Dr. Rhoda's memo are attached)

Comments from Dr. Randall on the memo from Dr. Rhoda: Senators need to keep in mind that the Board referred to in the memo is the professional staff, not the Board that will approve or disapprove the agenda items. The memo indicates that interim reorganizations and positions need to be phased out and that the interim positions are unique to APSU. While Rhoda's memo indicates that the President has certain prerogatives, that does not mean that the faculty cannot raise questions about his decisions. The memo also indicates that there are no Board policies on some issues like faculty input for interim positions which can be addressed by a Senate Committee. In relation to the Solutions Center, the memo does not address the faculty's concern about the effects the changes may have on accreditation of the College of Business. The memo does not fully address concerns about the total dismantling of the College of Graduate and Professional Programs. The memo indicates inconsistencies at the Board Office in response to reorganizations. The most important issue, the one of real substance, is the role that faculty will play in the decision making process at the campus level.

Resolution: The Executive Committee requests that the word "appropriate" be changed to "official." The resolution addresses all the items from APSU on the agenda but one approved by the Academic Council to change the name of the Master's in Speech, Communication, and Theater to a Master's in Speech Arts.

Q: The letter is a little hard to digest all at once. I am concerned about what is taking place. How will the Solutions Center affect accreditation?

A: The College of Business's accreditation was based upon the structure we had. We need more time to examine the effect that the changes being made with the Solutions Center will have on accreditation.

Comment: As we make our decision today, we need to be aware that eyes across the state will be on APSU and our action today because of its relationship to the TBR and faculty governance. We need to educate the faculty and the Senate about the issues confronting us. The Senate is in a tough spot. Some will ask why we are not doing something or doing more and others will ask why are we making so much noise. This may well be the test case for the entire TBR system. We have already been reorganized without approval of the Board. Keep in mind that the major issue is one of self-governance. I could address other issues like Summer School and the salary of the Director of the Solutions Center.

Q: Are these comments relative to the item on the agenda?

A: I was trying to explain the background of the current situation, but I will yield.

Comment: We need to act together. The Board policies seem vague, I think we need to be cautious.

Response: The resolution does not address Board Policy only the faculty's ability to have input into decision making.

Q: Why do we need the resolution now that we have staff response?

A: It is a response from the TBR staff not the Board itself. Our resolution is to the Board.

Comment: Should we not assume that the staff has talked with the Board members.

Comment: We need to remember that it is not a one way street. We are told we have to follow the rules when they want us to, then they don't follow the rules.

Q: If we act, we need proof of a violation or misdeed, was it wrong for the changes to be implemented prior to approval?

A: We were told that the Board has to approve all reorganizations prior to implementation.

Comment: We need to remember that many of these issues were implemented contrary to faculty input.

Comment: It would have been better to start over, solve this in house, instead of going to the Board.

Comment: We need to realize that raising questions may not sway the Board, we asked for no action in the letter.

Q: Once the Board staff approves something, can the changes go forward?

A: The committee on reorganization looked at the policy and called TBR for clarification. We were told that when a reorganization is being considered that the university must file a letter of intent, submit paperwork by a designated date, and that before the changes are made the Board must approve them. The committee has developed a four-page list of changes made since 1995 and we can find no record of approval in any TBR Board minutes. It is a bigger issue than the one addressed by the resolution. We need to say that we expect policy to be followed.

Comment: Keep in mind that the changes have been made without approval.

Comment: Over and over again I have been told that changes could not be made without approval. I would not dream of make changes without approval.

Comment: The wording of the resolution seems to indicate a power play. Could we not change the wording to express that we have concerns and reservations?

Comment: I too have been told that could not make changes until the were Board approved, but now that the administration wants changes they are making them without approval.

Comment: I have always been told we could not implement new ideas without approval of the Board.

Q: If the Board does not approve the items on the agenda, what will happen to the Solutions Center?

A: Many of these items have some support, but there are problems related to the budget. If not approved, we can go back to the table and do this properly. Policies need to be followed or we have anarchy. Not even administrators can act in isolation, they must act with approval.

Comment: I'm not sure about how the word "adequate" will be interpreted since the reorganization was discussed by the faculty, but was changed after our discussion by the VPAA. We need to communicate our dissatisfaction.

Q: I was not happy with Dr. Rinella's recent Q&A memo to the faculty. It indicated that Nursing, Social Work, and Health and Human Performance were on hold, but it seems that they are on the agenda. What is on hold?

A: Only the name is on hold until December.

Comment: The reorganization was opposed by the faculty, that's what we need to say.

Motion made to close debate, second, approved unanimously.

Motion made for a secret ballot, second, approved unanimously.

Ballots distributed to Senators, counted by Senate Secretary and volunteer Senator.

Motion to approve resolution carried, 29 for approval, seven against approval, no abstentions.

Amendments to resolution:

1. To reword the second whereas, "the agenda items were implemented despite considerable faculty objections," deleting "without adequate faculty consultation." Seconded, approved unanimously.

2. To change order so that the third whereas becomes the second and the second whereas becomes the third, seconded, approved unanimously.

Discussion of the background letter to accompany resolution:

Comment: I don't believe the letter is a good idea. The resolution clearly states our position. The letter is overkill.

Comment: The letter is too wordy. Sending the resolution is enough.

Q: Would it be possible for Dr. Randall and the last two prior Senate presidents to go to the Board?

A: If we went, we could not be recognized.

Comment: Without the letter, the Board may not have an adequate background to understand the problem. The President will be there and can address the reorganization.

Comment: How often is something like this sent? It may not have ever happened before. I think sending the resolution is a very strong statement.

Q: How would the letter go?

A: As cover letter providing information.

Comment: Some issues in the letter are not related to the resolution.

Call for question, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Motion for a secret ballot, seconded, denied by hand ballot.

Motion to send the letter, defeated by voice vote.

Resolution will be sent by FAX tonight to Chancellor Smith and the Board President with a brief cover letter from the Senate President indicating the date of the Senate action and the vote. The office of the Chancellor and the Board President will be called Wednesday morning to confirm receipt of the resolution.

ADJOURN: 5:30 p.m.