



Clarksville, Tennessee 37040

FACULTY SENATE

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 4, 1986

President Harriett McQueen called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Since this was an informal meeting, no roll was taken; however, a headcount showed that about 40 faculty and administrators were present.

Dr. McQueen first introduced President Robert O. Riggs, who made several announcements:

1. The State Board of Regents was to meet on the Austin Peay campus December 4 and 5. Faculty were invited to attend any sessions.
2. The final appropriations request from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has been released. THEC suggested a funding increase for Austin Peay of 2.3 percent; this proposal compares to an average 4.3 percent suggested increase for all state four-year schools.
3. Asbestos was to be removed from ceilings in Clement over Christmas break. Every building on campus has been surveyed and every building has asbestos.
4. Officials were negotiating with a prospective Fort Campbell Center director. Interviews with candidates for director of Woodward Library will begin after Christmas.
5. A \$500,000 computer upgrade is being planned. Funds will come from a special grant and from money set aside for computers under SBR regulations. The upgrade will include buying 16 units for the Fort Campbell Center and 20 units for faculty, replacing Hazeltine terminals with DEC terminals, and buying five laser printers (three to be placed in academic buildings).

Dr. McQueen next introduced State Board of Regents member, William O. Beach. Mr. Beach asked those present to suggest ways in which the system could be improved.

Richard Gildrie suggested downgrading the athletic program.

Mr. Beach said he knew the program was a "serious financial problem" for Austin Peay.

Dr. Gildrie said it is a problem throughout the system.

Dr. Riggs said Chancellor Garland has "full, complete, unembellished understanding of our athletic dilemma." He added that Garland wants no institution to make a unilateral move on athletics.

Charles Calhoun asked Mr. Beach to investigate the possibility of the state's allowing sabbatical leaves, suggesting that it is difficult for faculty to be excellent without some relief.

Mr. Beach said he would like to see a case carefully outlining rationale for faculty sabbaticals.

Dr. Riggs said the Board could institute a sabbatical program without legislation and suggested that, with the philosophical change in education under Gov. Lamar Alexander, there is more interest in quality and perhaps the idea of sabbaticals would receive more interest now.

Phil Kemmerly suggested that the state health care program needs improvement.

Mr. Beach said he would be glad to bring the matter up with SBR if he were provided with specifics on exactly what the problems are.

Richard Yarbrow said another major problem in Tennessee higher education is inequality of pay across state universities.

Dr. Riggs responded that the system is "absolutely unfair across the state." He said that, based on appropriations per student, Austin Peay's is the lowest in the state, and to compound that problem, Austin Peay is an inefficient size. It could handle 7,000 students with little more expense.

Dr. Riggs said that to raise the salaries of our faculty, staff and administrators to the state average this year would take \$2 million. "It's not right in my view. The most frightening thing I see on the horizon for this institution is that disparity in funding is directly linked to enrollment. At the same time, we have been asked to become a liberal arts institution and to upgrade admission requirements. If we're serious about our mission, we've got to have the funding to carry it out. If the state is not willing to fund a unique mission for us, we need to open the floodgates and get bodies. This is the fundamental issue facing Austin Peay State University," Dr. Riggs said.

Mr. Beach asked whether all those present agreed. Heads nodded.

Dr. Kemmerly asked Mr. Beach what committee he is on. Mr. Beach replied that of the two main committees, academic affairs and finance, he is on the finance committee.

Solie Fott asked how the lines of communication are between THEC and SBR. Mr. Beach responded that Chancellor Garland feels good about the communication. Dr. Riggs added that communication is much better these days.

Dr. McQueen thanked Mr. Beach for coming and thanked Dr. Riggs for providing refreshments for the meeting. The meeting was adjourned around 3 p.m.

1-12-87

Date

Eileen Vanamont for

Secretary

Clark Kinsfield

