

Unapproved Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Faculty Senate, May 6, 1993

Senators Present: Anderson, Asanbe, Badgett, Christian, Glass, Gore, Gotcher, Hagewood, Harris, Calovini, Mabry, Magrans, Matthews, McCluskey, Myers, Noel, Phy-Olsen, Richards, Robbins, Robison, Salama, Sears, Shaffer, Tatham, N. Woods, Yarbrow

Dr. Tatham called the meeting to order. The minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved. The agenda was approved.

Dr. Butler presented a plaque to Dr. Tatham in recognition of his service as faculty senate president for the 1992-93 academic year.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Matthews (Roads and Grounds Committee)

In response to the faculty senate resolution (March meeting) concerning parking, Dr. Page referred the matter to the Roads and Grounds Standing Committee. He requested that they take into consideration the issues mentioned in the resolution as well as other parking-related issues such as an increase in the number of faculty, etc. He asked that they present him with a recommendation by July 1, 1993 for implementation in the fall.

The Roads and Grounds Committee met twice to consider these matters. It was determined that there are 657 members of the faculty and staff. This year 790 blue faculty/staff decals were issued. A letter has been sent to the president with the recommendations of the committee.

These recommendations are:

- Each member of the faculty and each staff person should be limited to one decal.
- Faculty/staff parking privileges should be eliminated for graduate students.
- All recommendations concerning parking should come through the Roads and Grounds Committee so that these requests can be coordinated.

OLD BUSINESS

The issue of the selection process for the Distinguished Professor Award (as discussed at the April meeting) has been referred to the new senate.

NEW BUSINESS

The "Sit-In" in the Library

Dr. Tatham asked the senate to consider passing some resolution regarding the recent "sit-in" in the library. He read a prepared statement which he proposed as a "starting point" for discussion. The statement included

- Disapproval of Dr. Page's handling of the "sit-in;"
- Acknowledgement that Dr. Page acted on principle, with integrity, and with the best interests of the university in mind;
- Condemnation of the African American Cultural Center for contributing to an atmosphere which encourages such events as the "sit-in."

The motion was made and seconded that all faculty present, whether members of the senate or not, be allowed to participate in the discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lengthy discussion followed. Several senators commented that they did not know the facts concerning the "sit-in." During the discussion the following were presented as "points of information" to the Senate.

Dr. Butler: (Dr. Butler prefaced his remarks with the comment that he did not know all of the facts, and therefore could offer only partial information.)

- The current budget for the African American Cultural Center is about \$17,000. This amount does not include academic salaries. The budget document for 1993-94 contained (before the "sit-in") \$23,000 for the African American Cultural Center, exclusive of salaries. When the center was initiated, Dr. Page committed some support staff in the form of secretarial help, but because of the funding crises of the last several years, he has not before the present time been able to deliver this support. Salary and benefits for a full-time secretary would cost the university between \$15,000 and \$20,000. If you add the \$23,000 in the budget to the cost of a full-time secretary, you get the approximate figure of \$40,000 which has been mentioned in newspaper articles related to the "sit-in." Dr. Butler stated that secretarial help had been in the administration's long-range plans for the center since its inception, but that he did not know whether the decision to provide the full-time secretary at this time was made prior to the "sit-in" or not.
- As of 1992-93, Austin Peay has been more successful than any other TBR institution in recruiting a diverse faculty. The policy is to be sure that the recruitment process results in the presence of well-qualified women and African-Americans in the applicant pools. Then the best-qualified applicant should be selected from the pool. This year we offered contracts to four African-Americans, and three have accepted our offer of employment. Our efforts to diversify our faculty predate the "sit-in," and have nothing whatever to do with it.
- The African American Cultural Center is an academic unit of the university which reports to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs. It has academic freedom in the same sense that any other academic unit has academic freedom.

Dr. Randall:

- Some of the students wanted to culminate Handicapped Awareness Day a couple of years ago with a meeting. There were three facilities available on campus with handicapped access -- Executive Dining Room in Harvill Cafeteria, University Center Ballroom, African American Cultural Center. Access to the Ballroom is difficult and the Executive Dining Room was booked. The faculty advisor petitioned the African American Cultural Center for permission to use the facility. The request was turned down. The reason stated was that the function was not an event specifically related to African-American culture.
- In connection with classes that he teaches, Dr. Randall has collected information on the philosophy of Afro-Centrism. This information is organized into two folders, one containing arguments in support of this philosophy and the other containing arguments refuting it. Dr. Randall is willing to make these folders available in the library to interested faculty. A video tape on Afro-Centrism (purchased by the African American Cultural Center) is available in the library.

A summary of comments follows:

- Four issues are really under consideration:
 1. The "sit-in" itself;
 2. The president's handling of the "sit-in;"
 3. The involvement, if any, of the African American Cultural Center, directly or indirectly, with the "sit-in;"
 4. The African American Cultural Center itself.
- The philosophy of Afro-Centrism at this time is highly inconsistent with the philosophy of multiculturalism.
- There are a wide continuum of views all under the general heading "Afro-Centrism," and they are not all necessarily inconsistent with multiculturalism.
- Some faculty feel that there has been a deterioration of an environment for learning on the campus, partly as a result of the influence of the African American Cultural Center. Examples were given which included disruptive behavior in a particular class, especially when sensitive issues were discussed. The instructor indicated that he was hesitant to take action because of concerns that he would be branded a racist since some of the students involved were African-American. He felt uncertain of the backing of the administration if he did take disciplinary action. We cannot use one student or one group of students to condemn the entire African-American Student Association.
- Lots of groups have been, at times, late to class or disruptive (certain members of certain fraternities, etc.)
- We must be careful not to take a stand that could be distorted as a racist point of view.
- We should make a statement about crisis management. How are decisions made during a crisis?
- We need an open, secure forum on this campus to discuss such matters. I understood that the center was to be a multicultural center. What happened to that idea? As a faculty member, I have a lot of unanswered questions. Will I be regarded as a bigot for asking them?
- The main problem here is that students suffered because of impaired access to the library.
- Is the African American Cultural Center accomplishing what it is supposed to or is it moving in a direction which is counter to the mission of the university?
- We should have seen Dr. Tatham's statement before the meeting. We should not vote on such a statement without seeing it in print and without having time to study it.
- We should take some action today. We don't have the luxury of time to iron this out, send it to committees, study it at length, etc.
- We have a significant student and faculty morale problem. This issue will not go away, and we need to make a strong statement about it.

The question was asked, "Does the African American Cultural Center get specific attention in the SACS self-study which is currently being prepared?" No one present knowing the answer, the following motion was made:

THE FACULTY SENATE DIRECTS ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A RESOLUTION TO PRESENT AT THE NEXT SENATE MEETING REQUESTING THAT A STUDY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER BE MADE AS A PART OF THE APSU SACS SELF-STUDY.

The motion was seconded and passed with 21 senators in favor and no senator voting in opposition.

A motion was made that the senate pass the following resolution:

DR. PAGE SHOULD NOT MAKE BUDGETARY DECISIONS IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT PROTESTS.

The motion was seconded and passed with 20 senators voting in favor and no senator voting in opposition.

A motion was made that the faculty senate pass the following resolution (adapted from Dr. Tatham's opening statement):

The faculty senate disapproves of President Page's handling of the April "sit-in." In our judgement, he made a bad decision. But while we condemn the action, we do not condemn the man. We reject the charges against him of weakness, of "selling out," of acting out of expediency. We believe that he acted on principle and did what he regarded to be in the best interests of the university.

The motion was duly seconded. It was proposed that the motion be amended to contain the phrase "in reinforcing harmful behavior" after the words "bad decision." The amendment was seconded. A motion was made and seconded to table the amendment. The motion to table the amendment passed. A motion was made to table the motion. After being duly seconded, the motion to table passed.

Procedure for Chair Selection in the Department of Health and Physical Education

This issue was referred to the new senate for assignment to a committee for study.

Standing Committee Assignments for 1993-94

The motion was made that the senate approve the standing committee list which had been distributed to all senators. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Election of Senate Officers for 1993-94

The ad-hoc nominations committee presented the following slate of nominees:

Ramon Magrans, president; Paul Shaffer, vice-president, Charles Richards, secretary; Joseph Asanbe, executive committee member at large; Richard Yarbrow, academic council representative; Dolores Gore, TBR faculty subcouncil representative.

Dr. Tatham asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion was made and seconded that this slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The Academic Red Committee (chaired by Prof. Byrd) is studying the campus smoking policy. Faculty are invited to submit suggested policies.

Dr. A. Christian (International Studies)

Interested faculty are invited to come to the planning meetings and to participate in any of the five subgroups that have been formed and which were outlined at the last meeting of the Senate.

The satellite dish does not work and it is hoped that this problem can be corrected soon.

We are hopeful that Internet will be available very soon.

A study is currently being made of the international studies minor
An international studies major is being discussed.

Dr. Magrans (International Studies)

Twenty Austin Peay students are going to Mexico this year. About thirty students from other institutions will be joining them.

Dr. Yarbro (Distinguished Professor Award)

Over the past 18 years, 16 Distinguished Professors have come from the College of Arts and Sciences, 1 from the College of Business, and 1 from the College of Education. There are 22 faculty in the College of Business, 36 in the College of Education, and 146 in the College of Arts and Sciences. No disparaging remark is intended toward any prior recipient of this award, but the "power of the vote" lies with the College of Arts and Sciences. Faculty from the other colleges have little chance of receiving this award. Is there a more equitable way to determine the recipient of this award?

Comment: The faculty are not the only people who vote to determine the recipient. Students with GPA's over a certain number and a group of alumni also vote.

Answer: However, the larger colleges also have more students and alumni.

The issue of the Distinguished Professor Award was referred to the new Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee to Review Policies and Procedures for Chairs was present and distributed the attached memorandum. It was emphasized that this memorandum contains a working draft only. The following points were mentioned in the discussion.

- Although the memo specifically refers to the College of Arts and Sciences, the committee was appointed by Dr. Butler to study the position of department chair in general.
- The College of Business was represented in that Dr. Carmen Reagan is a member of the committee but was not present at the meeting.
- No recommendation has yet been made about how the temporary chair mentioned in 3) would be chosen. This position was not necessarily seen as a "year-in-training" for a new chair.
- The degree to which department members should and actually do or do not have input into the selection process as it relates to the four-year review was discussed. The current process allows department members to have the opportunity to vote to retain or not retain the current chair, but at least in some instances there has not been an opportunity to consider other people for this position. In other words, members of the department might prefer another person as chair without being dissatisfied with the current chair.
- The acting chair would serve as chair during the second review.
- The reference to "leave" in 3) should probably read "reassigned time."

Senators were urged to solicit comments from their colleagues with the idea that this issue would be discussed again at future meetings of the Senate. Senators are invited to submit written amendments to the draft policy at the next meeting of the Senate.

The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

