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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

MEETING OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

April 3, 1974

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. by the Chairman, President Dykstra.

Corrections and additions to the minutes of February 28, 1974, were called for. The Secretary stated that he had been informed that the comment on the first page, third paragraph, that all capital outlay projects had been eliminated except the maintenance building was incorrect: The comment pertains to the addition to the central heating and cooling plant. With the further correction of the spelling of the word quorum, the minutes were declared approved.

President Dykstra reminded the Faculty of the coffee hour the following day at 4:00 p.m., meant to provide Faculty an opportunity to ask substantive questions not so urgent as to prompt them to make appointments with him. He also stated that he would be available for informal discussion after the present meeting, with those who wished to remain.

President Dykstra recognized Professor Sundell for continuation of discussion of the main business of this meeting, the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Changes in the Faculty Senate. Professor Sundell stated he had no more to add, and no further questions were forthcoming from the floor.

President Dykstra pointed out that an amendment had been passed at the previous meeting, offered by Professor S. Brown, to the effect that a petition to reverse a specific decision must be submitted no later than two weeks after the distribution of the minutes reporting the Senate action, affecting section IIA2a.

Professor Snyder was recognized, and moved that section IA be amended to include the Deans of the several undergraduate Schools as voting members of the Faculty Senate. The amendment was seconded. Professor Snyder commented that many people thought the Deans could offer an input very helpful to the Senate in its deliberations. Professor Sundell stated that the Committee had considered this, and was cognizant of the inconsistency involved in including other administrators while excluding the undergraduate Deans. Three considerations had led to the recommendation: (1) The need to preserve the Faculty character of the Faculty Senate. (2) The objective of keeping the size of the Senate small, and yet avoiding overrepresentation of other than primarily teaching Faculty. (3) A general dislike in the Committee for voice-but-no-vote participation. While those involved were not wholly comfortable with the result, they still regard it as the best compromise.

President Dykstra commented that the size of the administration contingent would go from four to six at present.

Professor Lankford pointed out that the recommendations as they stand do not preclude a College from electing its Dean if it chooses.

Professor Snyder commented that it should be unnecessary to elect the Deans. Leaving the recommendations as they stand would leave them inconsistent: to exclude all administrators except the President would be one way to make them consistent. As it is, adding two more administrative votes does not significantly affect the proportionality.

Professor Jordan commented that he and some others had seen the inconsistency as arising from the exclusion of the undergraduate deans despite the inclusion of the Dean of the Graduate School. Professor Jordan stated his intention, if the amendment failed, to offer an amendment that the Graduate Dean also be excluded. The Provost is the logical person to give administration input, and the presence of the others is redundant.

Professor Phillips commented that their ability to quote statistics makes Deans handy persons to have at meetings.

Professor Tongren pointed out that there might later be a subdivision of Colleges into Schools, and asked if the recommendations might later cause Deans of rather small subdivisions to become voting members of the Senate. While in favor of having Deans of Colleges on the Senate, Professor Tongren expressed reservations about including Deans of smaller subdivisions.

Professor Sundell suggested that Professor Snyder change the wording of his amendment, to include the Deans of Colleges and independent Schools as voting members of the Faculty Senate. Professor Snyder and the seconder accepted the change.

The amendment passed by a standing vote of 49-43.

Professor Snyder offered another amendment, that after the first senten in IB of the report, the wording "When the number of collegiate units is five or more, no one unit may have more than 50% of the elected faculty membership." be added. The amendment was seconded.

Professor Snyder commented that the intention of the amendment was to limit the extent to which the largest unit would predominate when there were a large number of small units. President Dykstra commented that without the change the maximum possible percentage for the largest unit is 55% with five units; the percentage is greater with fewer units, and less with a larger number of units, since the fixed total restricts the percentage when there are many units.

Professor Draper asked if this amendment "shorts out" the formula, and also how the redistribution would be carried out. Professor Snyder replied that the amendment supplements the formula, and does not change the way redistribution would be carried out.

Professor Kiley commented that the amendment would have an almost negligible effect: it would reduce the maximum number for the largest unit from 20 to 18.

Professor Hobson commented that the overall provision might mean that no College could outvote another.

Professor Sundell commented that he felt the amendment improves the provision.

The amendment passed in a voice vote.

Professor Kiley offered an amendment that the following wording be substituted for the last sentence in section IA: "Voting membership of the Faculty Senate shall consist of thirty-six elected Faculty members from the several Colleges and independent Schools." The amendment was seconded.

Professor Kiley observed that the ability of non-elected members of the Senate to sway the results of votes would undermine the Faculty nature of the Faculty Senate. The non-elected members can provide the input that is their purpose in being there, without the responsibility of voting.

Professor Sundell noted that the Committee had not been unanimous in its rejection of voice-but-no-vote participation. But those who are members should have both the right and the burden of voting, of standing up and being counted. Also, the institutional roles of the participants in question have a Faculty character, those with Faculty rank but completely on the business side still not being included. The Committee had thought that the possible influence on results of votes was the lesser worry.

Professor Snyder commented he agreed with Professor Sundell that there should be no second class membership in the Senate.

The amendment failed by a show of hands.

Professor Pacheco pointed out that there is a constituted By-Laws Committee of the Senate at work, which has formulated provisions whereby these arrangements can be reviewed and revised after a few years.

Professor Lankford moved to change the name of the Senate back to "University Senate." The motion was seconded, and failed in a voice vote.

President Dykstra commented that he was pleased that the input from the College of Professional Studies had been possible, even though he had felt it would not be in the best interests of the Senate to grant a request for a postponement of the present meeting.

The Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Changes in the Faculty Senate as amended passed without opposition in a voice vote.

Consideration then began of "Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Changes in the Faculty Senate," which deals with suggestions for conduct of meetings of the General Faculty.

Professor Sundell pointed out that a few words had been omitted from the last clause in section V, which should read: "at the request of fifteen voting members of the Faculty an item of new business not on the agenda shall be referred to the Faculty Senate."

Mr. Larkin noted that section IV excludes the librarians other than the Director of the Univesity Libraries from voting.

Professor Sundell stated that it had not been the intention of the Committee to impugn the professionality of librarians, but rather to recognize that their role is quite different than that of teaching faculty, particularly in a teaching-oriented University.

Mr. Larkin responded that the role of both teachers and librarians in a teaching-oriented University is instructional, and that librarians should not be excluded from the Faculty political process.

Professor Kelley agreed with Mr. Larkin, and commented that inclusion of librarians had been a forward-looking action on the part of the previous administration. It would be a shame to turn the clock back now.

Mrs. Henderson stated that it is not unusual for librarians to be given Faculty rank, that this is done in about 70% of institutions nationwide, and in about 80% of Virginia institutions, according to a survey.

President Dykstra verified this, and asked if the wording of section IV meant full-time Faculty status and assignment to a department, thereby enfranchising Faculty administrators who teach part-time. It emerged that his interpretation was what had been intended.

Mr. Larkin commented that there are currently 10 librarians with Faculty rank, and this is expected to go up to 13 or 14.

Professor Bradley remarked that the real criterion should be whether AAUP rules on academic freedom apply to the Faculty rank librarians.

Professor Kiley pointed out that non-teachers' votes could affect outcomes if the attendance of teaching Faculty was poor.

Professor DeMarce observed that librarians are an essential part of the academic process, and should be encouraged to participate if cooperation between teachers and librarians is to be at its best.

Mrs. Lowe asked what would be the status of persons with Faculty rank who neither teach nor are assigned to a department. President Dykstra stated that some universities have a category labeled "non-teaching professionals," and librarians are not customarily included in it. Further discussion, in which Professor Sundell, Professor Cabell, and the Provost, Professor Krug took part, established that those who were full-time on the payroll, including those who have less than full teaching schedules because of grant-sponsored research, were included under section IV.

Mr. Larkin offered an amendment to change the wording of section IV to read: "The voting membership of the Faculty shall consist of all full-time members of the Faculty assigned to academic departments or to the University libraries." (Some of this wording was suggested by Professor J. Smith.) The amendment was seconded, and passed in a voice vote.

Professor Stanley offered an amendment to the wording of section IV, to make it read: "The voting membership of the Faculty shall consist of full-time employees of the University who are members of the Faculty and who are assigned to academic departments or to the University libraries." After some further discussion, the amendment passed without opposition in a voice vote.

The report as amended passed without opposition in a voice vote.

Professor Kiley called the Faculty's attention to section IIIA of the report on the Faculty Senate, the first of the two reports just considered. If this section is implemented, new elections will now take place, and those elected will serve for about a month. An intricate discussion of the implications of this took place, in which Professors Sundell, Kelley, Elstun, and Snavely took part, as well as Dean Boothe and President Dykstra.

Professor Sundell moved that implementation, previously described in IIIA "Section I", take place according to the normal procedure described in IB, using appropriate fugures as they stand September 1, 1974. This has the effect of delaying implementation of those aspects of the report that pertain to reapportionment until the fall. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition in a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund D. Cohen
Secretary to the General Faculty

EDC:vbp