REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

FEBRUARY 5, 1996

MINUTES

Senators excused were: Kenneth Biederman, Gordon Bonner, Hilton Brown, Steven Helmling, Vera Kaminski, Bill Lawson, Ajay Manrai, Kent Price, Alvina Quintana, David Roselle, Carolyn Thoroughgood, D. Allan Waterfield

Senators absent were: Margaret Birney, Paul Hooper, Lorenzo Lacey, Lynn Snyder-Mackler, Duane Milne, Kara Newport Paige, Joelle Perry, Peter Roe, Wendy Samter, Tracy Smith

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted with the remark that the Bachelor of Chemical Engineering abbreviation, as stated in Item A under New Business, should appear as B.Ch.E.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 1995 meeting were approved as written.

III. REMARKS BY UNIVERSITY PROVOST SCHIAVELLI

Provost reported, first, that undergraduate admission applications for the coming academic year are up by approximately 12% for freshmen and that within the Honors section, they are up about 25%. The overall quality of the applicant pool is enhanced and we have increased the lower-end cutoff to a higher SAT score.

Second, the Provost reported that he and other members of his expected that, with requested support from the legislature, the budget will be in balance without any budget cuts. The expectation is that the 1997-98 budget will also be in balance.

During the next two years, changes will be made in the overhead returns, 72% being returned to the several Deans, and, as now, 28% being returned to the Departments. This arrangement, which will take effect during the next fiscal year hopefully will encourage external grant activity. The following year the budgets will be totally under control of the Deans including monies from vacated lines. This is an attempt to move away from central control of the basic budget so that the Deans will have more flexibility and more control over the direction of the college.

In response to a question about the effect of possibly decreased outside funding, the Provost remarked that the faculty has been remarkably creative and productive in obtaining extramural support. The number of proposals to outside agencies is up dramatically over the past two years and the success rate has remained almost constant.

While there will be a swap of overhead recoveries for basic budget money, the buy-in cost for a college is on the low side of what people are expected to generate over the next two years. During that two-year period, a small contingency fund can be accumulated to level the effects of varying support levels.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHALLENGE

The three items on the list of Announcements for Challenge were introduced. The following items were adopted without objection:

1. Revision of the Ph.D. in Economics: Creation of concentrations in Finance and in Agricultural Economics

2. Revision of the M.Ed. Education major: Creation of concentration in Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education

3. New minor in Materials Science

V. OLD BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education for the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.C.E. (Bachelor of Chemical Engineering).

B. Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education for the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.E.E. (Bachelor of Electrical Engineering).

C. Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education for the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.M.E. (Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering).

The above three recommendations were included as a package for discussion by President Hall.

The proposal to establish new Honors degrees in Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering was supported by Professor Robert Brown, Director of the University Honors Program. He stated that the Honors Program welcomed the establishment of these degrees. He also remarked that it was the understanding that the phrase, "Graduate courses approved for this purpose by the department may be counted as Honors courses" is to apply to the honors credits that are called for in the major department or in courses of collateral disciplines specifically required for the major. The following resolutions were passed without dissent:

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.C.E. (Bachelor of Chemical Engineering).

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.E.E. (Bachelor of Electrical Engineering).

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the establishment of a new Honors Degree leading to the Honors B.M.E. (Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering).

D. Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (R. Taggart, Chairperson), to amend the Undergraduate Catalog, under "Changes in Registration."

Professor Taggart introduced the recommendation to change the portion of the Undergraduate Catalog which sets deadlines for the dropping of courses without penalty. While first semester freshmen have an eight-week deadline, all others have a six-week deadline. It was the opinion of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies that many students do not have enough information about how they are doing in a course by the six-week deadline. The Committee believes that a change to a uniform eight-week drop period would be helpful to the students, faculty, administration.

Professor Kenneth Koford, Chairperson of the Committee on Graduate Studies, stated that his committee had been asked to look at the deadline for graduate students and they recommended that the eight-week deadline be extended to all graduate courses and be so noted in the Graduate Catalog.

It was agreed to accept the proposal that the corresponding changes be made in the Graduate Catalog as a friendly amendment. Without further discussion, the

resolution was passed by unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, the current policy on withdrawal without academic penalty is set at eight weeks for first semester freshmen students only and six weeks for all other students, and

WHEREAS, an eight-week deadline would provide more adequate academic information for faculty and students than a six-week deadline, and

WHEREAS, a single deadline for all undergraduate students would be less confusing to students and more workable for college offices, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Catalog, under "Changes in Registration," page 16, paragraph 4, be amended to read as follows:

> Any changes in registration after the eight-week academic penalty deadline must be approved by the dean. Only in extenuating circumstances will approval be granted.

E. Introduction of New Business

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Angell
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

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