

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1 October 2001
Gerberding Hall, Regents' Room, 2:15 p.m.

Present: Senate Chair Holt and President McCormick; Vice Chair Silberstein; Group Representatives Stygall (I), Pace (II), Wilcock (III), Salas (IV), Allen (V), Janssen (VI), Maizels (VII); Secretary of the Faculty Vaughn; Faculty Legislative Representative Ludwig, Deputy Legislative Representative Sjävik; Faculty Council Chairs Wadden (FCAS), Buck (FCEO), Haley (FCFA), Heath (FCR), Schaufelberger (FCUFS), Emerick (FCUR), UW Bothell Representative Jacoby, GPSS Representative Nixon, Special Committee Chair Krieger-Brockett (SCFW), Provost Huntsman, Government Relations Representative Taricani, Assistant to the President Niccolls.

Absent: Group Representatives Killien (VIII); UW Tacoma Representative Stackman*, Faculty Council Chairs Diaz(FCET), Carline(FCIQ), Martin (FCRIB), Nelson (FCSA), Meszaros (FCTCP), Zick (FCUL), ASUW Representative You

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:13 p.m.

Introductory Remarks of Brad Holt, Chair and Dick McCormick, President

In conversations last year with John Junker, Chair, Advisory Committee on Faculty Code and Regulations, Mary Coney, past Chair, discovered that there is not discrete language in the *Faculty Code* regarding faculty responsibility for either completing student assessment in courses that also use teaching assistants (TAs), or ensuring the integrity of those same courses. During and after the GSEAC strike last spring, many faculty had questions about their responsibility in this situation. Both Holt and McCormick agreed that it would be useful to establish a committee to suggest a policy or principles to cover this situation. McCormick agreed, stating that this committee will perform an important task, and that the result will be important advice. Thus, both Holt and McCormick were asking the SEC to approve the formation of a committee that would make recommendations on this issue, as provided in a charge letter, and report back to the SEC by 26 October 2001. (Letter attached in archival copy.)

Discussion

Craig Allen (Group V) began by asking in what way does the *Code* address these issues and Holt clarified the exact nature of the discussions between Coney and Junker. Lee Huntsman, Provost, amplified these concerns and expressed his hope that the committee's recommendations would be based in the *Code* and not just a free roving commission to inquire into this matter and make suggestions.

Donald Janssen (Group VI) asked whether this group would look at exactly what teaching assistants do, pointing out that there is no one pattern for the way in which TAs are used. Allen followed by asking exactly what a "statement of principles" would be because this phrase can mean different things to different people. Holt pointed out that there are several places in the *Handbook* where there are statements of principles. Holt added that the statement of principles could take a variety of forms: legislation, executive order, or statement of principles. The resulting product would appear in the *Handbook*.

Doug Wadden (Chair, FCAS) asked whether there is hard data about what happened with the grading last spring, or how many classes are left ungraded. His concern is that the short reporting date will not give the group time to find this information let alone react to it. Huntsman said that he does not have a number per se although Dean Hodge (Arts and Sciences) probably has the best sense of where we stand on this.

Dick Ludwig, Legislative Representative, opined that the charge seems broad enough to cover most situations but noted that the charge does not distinguish between individual faculty responsibility and collective faculty responsibility. This matters when one engages in departmental conversations about unit responsibilities. Holt stated that it was the intent of this letter that that type of discussion would take place, and that he felt that language in the letter covered Ludwig's concern.

Gail Stygall (Group I) expressed concern about the workload issue, particularly for people who supervise large numbers of TAs. Responsibility for multi-section courses adds greatly to the workload of faculty in that situation. She expressed the hope that the committee would be sensitive to this issue as well.

MOVED, That the SEC establish a Special Committee on Institutional Responsibilities in Courses with Teaching Assistants as described in the draft letter of 1 October 2001 to provide advice to the SEC.

Approved.

The next issue considered was whether the proposed Fact Finding Committee should be approved. (Draft letter of 1 October 2001; attached to archival copy) Holt emphasized that this committee would not be a mediator, and that the chair would be Karen Boxx (Law). David Nixon, GPSS President, said that, while he does not speak for GSEAC, that it seemed inappropriate for an outside group to come in. He was concerned that this would interrupt the confidential flow of negotiations and perhaps undermine the trust that has developed between the parties. He imagines that GSEAC may not want to participate so he speculated that the committee could end up with a one-sided report.

Holt responded that he has unofficially approached both groups regarding this proposal. He understands that GSEAC may not wish to speak to the group, or that, alternatively, we may wish to wait or suspend the operation of this committee. He is willing to be flexible, but felt that the Faculty, acting through the Senate, would like to understand the positions of the parties, especially because of the effect of any job action on the Faculty.

Stygall said that many faculty want a source of information that is unbiased so that they can make decisions about the situation. Allen pointed out that last year GSEAC seemed to have no hesitation last year about expressing their positions in the press and at meetings, although that information was coming at so late a point that it was hard to have enough time to evaluate the information. Nixon said that his understanding of this last year was that the administration had already put out a lot of information and the GSEAC was put in a position of having to respond to University administration allegations or characterizations. He felt that this means that the parties are put in a position of posturing rather than real negotiations. If GSEAC does not participate, he continued, we are still in the same position of not understanding the point of view of each side.

MOVED, That the SEC establish a Special Fact Finding Committee to provide advice and information to the SEC and that the Chair be empowered to appoint members to this committee.

Approved.

Closing Remarks: Next Monday, 8 October 2001, is the first regular meeting of the SEC and the distance learning proposal will be before the group. This issue has been around for a long time and is complicated, and therefore Holt asked that members come to the meeting prepared to discuss that legislation.

Adjournment

The meetings adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Lea B. Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty

APPROVED BY: Bradley Holt, Chair, Faculty Senate