

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
September 5, 2002 3:30 PM Room 204, K-State Union

Present: Behnke, Hancock, Hartman, Hassan, Jones, Lawhon, Oberst, Rys, Schumm, Verschelden, Youngman

Absent: DeBres, Cook, Rowlett, Turnley

Visitor: Alfred Cochran

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Walter Schumm, Chair, at 3:40 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Announcements

A. Faculty Senate Leadership

Schumm reported that Faculty Senate Leadership Council (FSLC) met with the President's Staff and saw the budget presentations that will be given at all of the colleges. The basic gist is that state revenues fall short of what is needed. The 7.5% reserve that the state should have is gone and there could be further reductions. The next meeting with the President's Staff is scheduled for November 21. Some strategies that could be used to cover budget shortfalls are: mid-year tuition increase, lay-offs, furloughs, a hiring freeze, and the possibility of early retirements. Rys reported that the budget presentation for the College of Engineering was yesterday and that no solutions were offered. It was suggested that financial incentives to retire be offered to faculty of retirement age. Phased retirement is in place but not as many are in the program as you would think.

The committee agreed that furloughs should be used as a last resort. Faculty/unclassified have not received good raises for several years and with health care insurance going up, they will be making even less. With the budget cuts the university has faced in the last several years, there is not much left to cut but salaries. It was suggested that if furloughs are implemented, that the number of days faculty/unclassified are required to take off be calculated by salary.

Cochran said he talked with the President's Staff about morale and they listened carefully to his appeal. Cochran will meet with Ron Downey next week to discuss ways of showing appreciation to faculty since there will be no raises. Schumm suggested that the number of days faculty can consult be increased from two days to four days.

Hassan cautioned against not suggesting furloughs until it comes to that. Oberst said that we need to maintain our infrastructure and that we have chipped away at it in the last few years. Jones said that the state has pulled back funding now that we control tuition, but we need to be careful not to raise tuition so much that we alienate students.

B. Other

1. There was discussion about the football broadcasting issue. A settlement was reached, but the issue may not be over with yet. The signal that was used before reached all around the state, but the new one doesn't. Many farmers will not be able to get farm reports once the new signal is in place.
2. Schumm reported that the line schedule may not be printed in the future. It costs \$20,000 per year to print it. Rys said that the College of Engineering was writing a resolution to keep the paper copy and charge student \$1 - \$2 for line schedules. Verschelden reported that several years ago they cost a quarter and that the money was put into the cost of transcripts. If there was a charge for line schedules, we would get a more realistic number on how many to print. Verschelden said that Student Senate does not support the discontinuance of printed line schedules. Behnke said that when he is advising, he has to get the line schedule to take a flag off. Verschelden reported that they will make the catalog and the line schedule more user friendly if they go totally electronic.
3. Schumm said that the President of Faculty Senate, Al Cochran, is looking for volunteers for several committees. Colleges also need to give names of faculty to Cochran for professor of the week nominations. FSCOUP also needs a representative for the Schedule 25 Committee; Schumm did it last year.

IV. CCOP Information

- A. CCOP membership for each college (provide by e-mail if you wish)
Schumm asked FSCOUP members to e-mail the names of their college's CCOPs members to him.
- B. CCOP actions this summer to date, if any, regarding the current budget situation. Be prepared to discuss your Dean's use/non-use of the CCOP committee in your college, if this is an issue.

CCOPs should not be ignored in the budget process. Verschelden said that CCOP exist because of budget issues and FSCOUP needs to make sure that CCOPs are operative. The Provost doesn't think that we will be looking at financial exigency. He said that declaring financial stress is an option and is different from financial exigency. General Administration has said they will let deans decide how to handle budget cuts. Faculty need to have input in their colleges and before things get cut. The economic forecast will come out in November and the university will only have from November 21 through December 15 to figure out budget strategies.

- V. Health Insurance Increase - Potential impact of planned 27.6% increase in health insurance costs for your college's faculty if that occurs in January 2003.

Schumm reported that there is a flaw in the health insurance system when people are able to get health insurance cheaper on the open market than we can get as a group. Oberst said that faculty need to work collectively to try to get some changes made. Verschelden suggested that FSCOUP hold a forum and invite people to express their concerns.

- VI. Old Business - none

- VII. New Business - none

- VIII. For the Good of the University - none

- IX. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.