

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Date: 16 April 1984

To: James LeRoy Smith, Chair of the Faculty

From: Ione J. Ryan, Chair

Marsha Ironsmith, Secretary

II. Membership of the committee:

Conner Atkeson, History

Anne Briley, Library Services

Meta Downes, Allied Health

Rosalie Haritun, Music (alternate)

Carlton Heckrotte, Biology

Bob Hursey, Math

Marsha Ironsmith, Psychology, secretary

Ione Ryan, Counseling Center, chair

Sylvene Spickerman, Nursing (alternate)

Jerry Tester, Technology, vice chair

James LeRoy Smith, Chair of the Faculty

Chancellor John Howell

III. Committee meetings and members absent:

September 19 (Haritun)

October 3 (Tester)

October 24 (Atkeson)

October 31 (Downes)

November 14 (Atkeson)

November 17

November 22 (Spickerman)

December 5 (Atkeson, Haritun, Tester)

January 23 (Haritun, Tester)

February 13 (Briley, Hursey, Spickerman, Tester)

March 27 (Atkeson, Spickerman)

April 9

April 17 (Atkeson, Briley, Spickerman, Tester)

Two open hearings were held as well:

November 29 (Atkeson)

January 17 (Atkeson)

IV. Date of reports to Faculty Senate:

February 21, March 27, April 17, 1984

V. The committee was 1) mandated to "study the possibility of removing the restriction on non-tenure track positions which limits their length of appointment to six years," and 2) requested to consider the issue of emeritus status for faculty.

VI. The Faculty Affairs functioned as a whole for the most part, relative to issue #1 (see Section V). Two public hearings were held by the FAC at which 10 faculty members presented their views on the issue. Two subcommittees wrote and edited the report to the Senate relative to the study of fixed-term appointments.

A subcommittee worked on the issue of granting emeritus status to faculty. A recommendation, sent to the Senate Agenda Committee, for possible placement on the Senate agenda in April, was re-referred to the FAC for clarification. This matter was returned to the subcommittee for reconsideration in 1984-85.

- VII. The FAC devoted the academic year to the study of the issue mandated to it by the Senate in 1983. After extensive and exhaustive deliberation, the FAC completed its study of non-tenure-track positions and strongly recommended that the Senate voice to the Administration a reaffirmation of its belief on the impropriety of appointing faculty to non-tenure-track, non-probationary positions which are needed for longer than six years. The Senate, unfortunately, failed to take a position on the matter; instead, the Senate referred the issue to an ad hoc Task Force for study, which the FAC felt was a disfranchisement of a duly-appointed Senate committee. When this was brought to the attention of the Senate, they rescinded their action and re-referred the matter to the FAC. The FAC hopes that the Senate's re-referral of the issues to the committee will prove significant in furthering effective Senate committee functioning in the future.
- VIII. None
- IX. Evaluation of the committee:
- A. Structure: excellent
 - B. Duties: appropriate, as spelled out.
 - C. Functions: The committee functioned and performed its duties exceptionally well. The committee felt that the Senate's decision to refer the non-tenure-track appointment issue to a Task Force constituted a disservice to all Senate committees and threatened to undermine the Senate committee system. The committee commends the Senate's action in rescinding this motion and re-referring the issue to the FAC.
 - D. Personnel: Outstanding. The FAC members were diligent, committed and gave unstintingly of their time and effort.
- XI. Suggestions for improving the effectiveness of the committee: Within the committee, nothing. To improve committee service, the FAC believes that all Senate committees' recommendations to the Senate should either be passed, rejected or re-referred. The FAC would also like to see broader input into committees from other units within the University. Committee morale is weakened when issues are not brought to the attention of the committees in spite of repeated circulation of recommendations and open hearings. Issues which are not brought out until a recommendation reaches the Senate floor can rarely be clarified on the Senate floor.