

Minutes of the Emory Faculty Council

October 17, 1995

Present:

Arnold, Brogan, Buchter, Clark, Cody, Falls, Frye, Hughes, Kelley, King, Letz, Leibeskind, L'Hernault, Moneyham, Rubinson, Sale, Schlant, Sherman, L. Smith, K. Stein, S. Stein, and Weber

Dr. Letz presided at the meeting. Minutes of the September meeting were approved as circulated.

Dr. Letz reported that Dr. Chace would like to continue the Town Hall meetings begun last year.

The group suggested that there be a specific topic addressed for part of the meeting with an open question and answer period that follows. The presentation period might include faculty members presenting contrasting positions on the topic selected. Possible topic suggestions included the future of academic tenure, a general report on the finances of the University with emphasis on the effect on scholarship availability, parking, phased retirement, changes in the university that result from changes in the research environment (specifically funding sources), and the quality of teaching and our ability to assess it. Dr. Frye suggested that if a topic such as the quality of teaching were the focus it could then be the focus of faculty lunch discussions as well.

Dr. Frye reported that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees received routine reports and enjoyed a report by Dr. Curran on the School of Public Health. The year end financial close was the best in the history of the University, largely due to the increase in value of coca-cola stock. Dr. Frye observed that proposed changes in federal funding of students are likely to impact Emory but in what ways and by how much we do not know.

Dr. Frye led a discussion about the creation of a university-wide committee to review tenure and promotion decisions with the power of making a recommendation to the President and Provost. The positives would include a more uniform university standard with perhaps some increase in quality, an assessment of how the appointment affects the University as a whole, and a stronger faculty governance. Such groups have worked at other universities. In the discussion the need for good communication of expectations, the need for integrity in the process, and the need for faculty to understand the role of the committee were all identified. Concern about invasions of departmental integrity and prerogative, placing another hurdle in the path of faculty, and allowing for legitimate variations among the academic units were expressed. Members of the Council were asked to return to their units and discuss the proposal with colleagues.

The Council recommended that the language in the Statement of Principles Governing Faculty Relationships be amended to provide that the granting of emeritus status be in the rank held at the time of retirement. There was no strong sentiment for changing the requirements for attaining emeritus status.

Luther Smith provided an update on faculty relationships with the Carter Center. Dr. Smith together with Dr. Wenger and Dr. Kelley will be meeting with Joyce Jones at the center to develop more formal proposals for interaction.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be on 14 November, or perhaps the 13th or 16th depending on space available. Members of the Council are asked to assist in assuring that faculty come to the meeting.

Dr. Liebeskind inquired about the status of the Vice President for Research search and the job description. Dr. Frye noted that the position is intended to serve as a staff officer for the President and senior officers of the University.

Dr. K. Stein inquired about the status of having more office space for faculty. Dr. Frye responded that when current construction is completed that issue should be resolved.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.