

Minutes of the Emory Faculty Council

16 September 1997
Room 400 Administration

In attendance: John Boli, Virgil Brown, Susie Buchter, William Cody, Douglas Falls, Rich Freer, Luke Johnson, Harriet King, Laura Porter Kimble, Sharon Lewis, Jerre Lutz, Helen O'Shea, David Pacini, Sid Perkowitz, Gay Robins, Rick Rubinson, Claire Sterk, Keith Wilkinson, Betty Jones.

Excused absences: Martine Brownely, Deepika Petraglia-Bahri, Nanette Wenger

I. Welcome and Notes on Agenda

Council Chair Bill Cody called the meeting to order at 3:15. He announced that unexpected schedule conflicts for the presenters of two announced agenda items -- Discussion of the Teaching Commission Report and Discussion of the Chaplains' Proposal for Guidelines pertaining to the use of University Chapels -- had prompted their postponement until the October meeting of the Council.

II. Introductions, Affiliations and Concerns

Each of the members present at the Council meeting introduced themselves, and identified both their University affiliation and some of the principal concerns that they hoped the Council would address during the year. Prominent among these concerns are the need for a faculty club, concerns over the balance between research and teaching, issues of fragmentation and marginalization within the University; Science 2000; greater clarity about the Campus Master Plan; airing of strategic plans of individual schools; need for revisions in the Faculty Handbook; faculty teaching load; use of University chapels; and the relation between the Strategic Plan and the Campus Master Plan.

III. Minutes of 8 April 1997 Council Meeting

The minutes of the 8 April 1997 Council meeting were distributed to the members of the council for review. Approval is scheduled for the October meeting.

IV. Faculty Council By-laws and Committee Structure

Council Chair Bill Cody distributed to those in attendance copies of the bylaws of the University Faculty Council, as well as copies of the Roster of the Faculty Council. He reviewed the committee structure of the Council, together with the charges to these standing committees.

V. Faculty Hearing Committee Status Report

Richard Freer, Chair of the Faculty Relationships Committee, reviewed with the Council the work of last year's committee to establish changes in the hearing procedures that pertain to issues of termination. The present procedures have proven both ambiguous and cumbersome. The recommendations from last year's committee included the establishment of separate procedures for mediation and hearings making recommendations to decision-makers, as well as a more carefully defined procedure for hearings. During the course of the summer, a specific occasion for termination arose that raised questions about the proposed procedure that urged the completion of a hearing prior to termination. It became evident that some issues of termination include in their purview probabilities of risk to others that mandate immediate action at the discretion of the dean. Revisions in the wording of the committee's proposals from last year is currently under consideration.

VI. Comments from President Chace

President Chace reported to the Council on the work of the Presidential Advisory Committee. The committee, consisting of nine faculty members drawn from across the University, serves to advise the President on matters that arise requiring consultation from across the University. Beyond such occasional advice, the committee's specific commission has been to develop an inventory of files and folders on promotion and tenure, in order to assure a uniform and equitable system. President Chace announced that he has asked the committee to assume this year the additional responsibility of conducting the search for the new provost.

President Chace also reported that the search for a new dean for the Business School is moving ahead.

VII. Faculty Handbook Project

Vice-Provost Harriet King reported that the Faculty Handbook is undergoing a thorough review, and asked that members of the Faculty Council review the document with an eye toward recommendations regarding items to be revised, removed, or added.

VIII. Other Business

Nancy Wilkinson has requested an additional faculty member to serve on the Traffic and Parking Committee.

Council Chair Bill Cody, after reminding council members that the agenda for the October meeting is very full, adjourned the meeting at 4:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Pacini, Secretary