Minutes of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the ACADEMIC SENATE
Tuesday, April 28, 1992
Room 219, University Union, 3:00-5:00 pm

Members present:

Member                Dept       Member                Dept
Andre, Barbara        StLf&Actvs  Mori, Barbara        SocSci
Andrews, Charles (C)  Actg       Murphy, James        IndTech
Botwin, Michael       Arch Eng    Peach, David          Mgmt
De Mers, Gerald       PE/RA       Russell, Craig (Secty) Music
Devore, Jay           Stats       Vilkitis, James      NRM
Gish, Robert          SLA         Camuso, Margaret     Senate Staff
Gooden, Reginald      PoliSci     Kersten, Timothy     Econ
Irvin, Glenn          AVP         Koob, Robert         VPAA

Preparatory: The meeting began at 3:15 pm in room 219 of the University Union.

Discussion Items

Charles Lomas expressed frustration at the recent turn of events on campus. He said the faculty is really upset—they feel the Academic Senate should provide leadership. We should allow E.T. and Home Ec to come address the Senate. It is time for the Senate to act. We have a window of a couple of weeks. He felt that the Senate had been acting in good faith with the Administration.

J. Murphy felt we should invite the "targeted" programs to come and speak. Andrews asked what ground rules we should set up. Peach commented that at some point we should do something concrete. A proposal is needed. We need something that can be acted upon. Lomas stated that listening to the targeted programs is itself very important. At least they can say that they came, they spoke, and were heard.

Botwin observed the Senate has been excluded from the process and called the present state of affairs a "joke." Murphy said we hear a lot about consultation: now, we hear the Administration speaking with "forked tongue." The Administration is not dealing with the problem in the way they claim they do.

L. Gamble: It is time to go back to Athletics. We were never part of the that process. Baker would listen if we asked to shut down the search for the Athletic Director. J. Vilkitis: When the proposal came to out department, it was claimed that it was a 'done deal.' We should pick up on athletics very strong. Our 14-person committee [the PRC last review] asked that athletics be cut 100% before there would be cuts in academic programs. All fourteen of us agreed. It is time to reintroduce this issue. C. Andrews observed that some of the competition have decided to cut their athletics. G. DeMers commented that last year Athletics had 7 positions to teach activity classes within the P.E. Department. They were cut down to 3.6 within P.E. Now we've been told that P.E. has no control over those positions—they have been transferred to Athletics. In the meantime, P.E. has been told they will lose three tenure-track positions. J. Devore asked if Athletics got cut 100%, would that solve our budget woes,
or would there still be a substantial debt? Kersten replied that there would still be a financial crisis. But we need the cut on principle. It would be a symbolic action of where we place our priorities. Gooden stated that until he understands the funding formula he is reluctant to cut—it might hurt us. Andrews and Mori chimed in that funding formulas are gone. Previously, the enriched formulas for athletics generated positions. Gooden replied, we can say formulas are out, but something is driving the budget and allocations. Andrews said, "Yes—history." Gooden, "For the time being."

Murphy also commented on the Administration pay scale. He felt a voluntary reduction in salary ranges by administrators was in order. The Administration needs to show good faith.

Andrews commented he had spent the day with Koob and they exchanged information. Baker has decided that no tenured faculty will be laid off now. But some tenured faculty will be given one-year notice. In addition, all non-renewable contracts (i.e., temporary lecturers) are being disposed of where are cuts are needed. People on 2-year contracts will get a 1-year contract. Ten probationary faculty will be terminated (receive notice) after this academic year.

Devore asked if this is in addition to Home Economics and E.T.? Andrews responded, no. This is the implementation of cuts in Home Ec. & E.T.

Andrews also observed staff has been cut more than faculty. All areas of the campus have been hit. Koob was present at our meeting Wednesday. Andrews told Koob that we have a contract with students with respect to the catalogue, and we need to let them graduate.

Kersten: "One faculty member wonders why the cuts were not across the board. Is this the wisest plan?" Andrews replied that at the last meeting of Executive Committee no one objected to the vertical cuts as opposed to horizontal. Gooden observed that if E.T. is cut vertically it has a horizontal effect because it creates fewer students in GE&B. Peach observed that the Budget, Long-Range Planning, and Personnel Policies Committees recommended vertical cuts, and he was in agreement.

Andrews commented that for targeted programs, there still is a process for eliminating a program. There must be a program review for discontinuance. D. Peach stated that the layoffs have not been consistent with the program phase out or targeted areas for cuts. M. Botwin observed that if we do program review after the program is cut then its is not only illegal—it is immoral. Vilkitis felt we should have been given the opportunity to debate the issues or recommendations of the committees regarding vertical versus horizontal cuts. If the faculty of a program is already gone, then a review doesn't amount to much.

Koob observed that there are two types of responses: academic and budgetary. We can "unfund" a program but leave it on the books. The President has the right to unfund any program. It falls to the Senate whether or not they want to keep that program on the books if funds become available. A program discontinuance is not a department discontinuance. We have one set of rules for budget considerations, and we have another set of rules for academic considerations. It is important to separate funding and program decisions.

J. Devore asked Koob if it was correct that there would be no 120-day notices going out to tenured faculty. Koob said that is correct. Devore asked, if the original proposal with the 120-day notice supposedly saves money, why have things changed? Koob answered with a graph that depicted the budgets put together with the Budget Change Proposals (BCPs). Those budgets were put together in consultation with the deans. When we got them back we noticed a startling reduction in equipment. The President called for another alternative budget that did not suffer such extreme reductions in O&E. Rather than solve the problem in one year, the President preferred to view it in longer terms. He wanted to establish a pattern and view the problem over the long range with an eye to the future. And we understood that the advice from the Senate was to make vertical cuts.

Gooden asked Koob if the President has considered Athletics. Koob said he would put it on the table.

Kersten asked what the money amount was that we were looking at [with respect to Koob's budget diagram]. Koob responded that we are working with the same dollar amount this year as last year. But with the President's model [with more O&E] we now have a
cushion, because if get another cut, we have some cushion in O&E rather than having twice as many layoffs.

Murphy asked what Koob and the President would like from the Senate. He responded that he would like some guidance regarding the faculty's views on horizontal vs. vertical cuts. He also stated it has been difficult for the Administration to act without cross-departmental evaluations. It would be nice to know the academic decisions before making budgetary ones. [At this point Koob had to leave.]

Andrews asked how many senators had gotten the news from the dean. The only positive response was by Russell and Mori who were both well satisfied with Dean Ribeau.

There ensued a brief discussion in which many senators expressed the view that the deans played a larger role in the budgetary decisions than they were letting on. Kersten said the deans were trying to diffuse the heat by blaming it all on someone else. That breeds mistrust. Murphy stated that there is no way that Koob would have made a decision of cutting Home Ec and E.T. unless the deans had given him the information through consultation.

Kersten stated we need to have a meeting of the full Senate to discuss fully [vertical vs. horizontal cuts] and to have Baker come and explain his plan.

Vilkitis made a motion (2nd by Gamble) that was immediately revised by Kersten to say we would invite the senior administration to come to the next Senate meeting to explain the budget, the strategy to meet the budget shortfall, and explain their plan for implementation. After a brief discussion it was decided that it should be a Senate meeting rather than a general meeting of the faculty. It was also agreed to place this on the agenda "Time certain at 3:30" The motion passed through general consent. The meeting adjourned shortly before 5:00.

Craig H. Russell, Secretary of Academic Senate