MINUTES OF MEETING NUMBER 127
OF THE
SENATE OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

15 December 1982

(Senate Minute pages: 2176-2189)

President D. Abata called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., December 15, 1982 in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union.

Roll: Twenty five members/alternates were present. Absent were: Asplund (AROTC); Beske-Diehl (Geol); Janke (Bl); Schwartz (EE); Whitten (VP-AA); Kaufman (Student Council); and Sathyanarayanan (Grad. Student Council).

Recognition of Visitors: Harold Nufer (SS) was recognized

Minutes of Previous Meeting - The Senate Secretary apologized for not having minutes available for the October 26, 1982 Special Meeting and Meeting 126.

President's Report:

The following items were included in the written report which is appended (page 2180 - Available by Request from the Senate Office).

i. Modified Harrington Seminar with Board of Control
ii. Faculty Handbook update
iii. New curricula
iv. Chairman for Faculty Fringe Benefits Committee
v. Veto of Proposal 5-82
vi. Miscellaneous discussion

In reference to item v. President Stein vetoed Proposal 5-82 which had proposed that the color blue be used for Ph.D. recipients. He noted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy traditionally referred to a broad understanding or awareness of knowledge in all fields of academia; this has changed in modern times to reflect a high level of expertise in a specific area. The wording of the diploma Doctor of Philosophy has been retained for tradition, but this is simply a title of a degree and does not reflect a specific expertise in the field of Philosophy. It is therefore acceptable to use an alternate color other than blue to reflect the field of expertise of the graduate.

Vice President's Reports

Written reports for two meetings are included with these minutes (page 2181-2184 - Available by Request from the Senate Office). Notable items at the November 19, 1982 Board of Control Meeting were:

i. Approval of new tenure policy
ii. Election of new officers for Board of Control
iii. Approval of tuition rates
iv. Approval of budget requests
v. Miscellaneous items

There were two major items at the December 7, 1982 Academic Council meeting:

i. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Statistics
   ii. Presentation on interaction between library and academic departments

Remarks were made about the increased costs for the library; many professional societies are passing increased costs onto libraries so that they do not have to raise individual member subscriptions. A comment was made concerning the legality of having faculty members subscribe to professional journals which are then delivered to the library.

New Business

Presentation on Committee E

This report was moved in front of the Committee Reports, old business and other new business. President Abata introduced Harold Nufer, Chairman of Committee E who reviewed the work of that committee. Nufer indicated that most of the work was currently being done at the subcommittee level. Four subcommittees have been set up with the following charges:

i. Review Committee C plan and its implementation possibilities
   ii. Receive input from faculty, students and the community on realistic goals to pursue by 1985
   iii. Review long-range plans of departments, schools and support services
   iv. Review literature on role of universities in the 1980's
Subcommittee two is approaching the community first and is conducting ten in-depth interviews with community leaders. The student council has a draft survey to determine how students feel regarding a number of topics and the faculty will be surveyed in the future. Subcommittee three also has a survey planned for various organizations, departments and services at Michigan Tech. Subcommittee four has been actively generating much reading material. Committee E will produce a progress report in the spring.

Committee Reports

A. Curricular Policy

Senator Ottenstein reported that the committee has two proposals for Masters Programs but they will not be introduced until the Graduate School has reviewed them.

B. Instructional Policy

Senator Hutzler reported that the committee has considered four items. They have reviewed the charge for this committee. Primary responsibility deals with problems of instruction, class size and teaching aids. In addition the committee deals with evaluation of students including grading schemes and scheduling of exams.

The committee has reviewed operating procedures and suggests that proposals submitted should have sufficient background material and should be channeled to the committee through the Senate President. On receipt of proposal the committee will determine if the matter can be resolved by some other means. If not, and sufficient background material accompanies the proposal, then it will be submitted to the Senate President for consideration by the Senate. In cases where there is insufficient background material or the committee feels the proposal has no merit, it will be returned with appropriate recommendations.

Proposal 1-83 has been submitted to the committee and will be considered under New Business.

As requested by the Faculty Handbook Committee (page 2172) the committee has considered textbook acquisition procedures. There is some concern that statements in the procedures manual interfere with academic freedom; specifically, the statement that no individual has the authority to negotiate with suppliers other than the bookstore.

It was pointed out that in many instances, reference materials can be obtained from professional societies at a substantial discount which can be passed on to the student. The bookstore is not able to do this. It was also noted that when student societies sell books to raise money, this may be in conflict with the policy.

C. Institutional Evaluation

Senator Francis indicated that the major item being considered is evaluation of the Senate. Letters have been written to other institutions requesting information, and documents have been received. Senators have been requested to poll faculty they represent to solicit suggestions for strengthening the Senate. The other current charge, i.e., head versus chairperson is awaiting information from the Civil Engineering department.

President Abata indicated that the suggestion for holding the present meeting in the Ballroom and the seating arrangement used were a product of the committee.

D. Promotional Policy and Professional Standards and Development

Senator Pintar reported that the committee had considered a proposal (3-83) to clarify the role of departmental faculty in the establishment of a departmental promotion committee. The background and proposal are detailed on pages 2185 and 2186. The proposal will be considered at the next Senate meeting and the committee requested input as to whether six committee members was a suitable number.

Senator Pintar indicated that the committee intends to look at promotion policy and the overlap between promotion and tenure policy, and pick up on promotion policy where the Ad Hoc Task Force on Tenure left off. On questioning, it was pointed out that the departmental promotion committee could take care of both promotion and tenure recommendations.

E. Budget - No Report.

In response to a question concerning the 12 percent increase in employee compensation in the 83-84 budget, President Stein responded that it is unlikely that the increase will come from the State. The State budget is about $500 million dollars out of balance and unless there is a tax increase there could be further cuts. It was also pointed out that the State has reduced the level of taxation as a fraction of personal income over the last 4 or 5 years.

F. Faculty Fringe Benefits - No Report.

G. Faculty Handbook

Senator Crowther reported the committee is continuing its work on preparing new material for the new handbook. They have prepared a copy of the Senate Constitution, with all the amendments included, which will be reviewed by the Senate Council.
Old Business - None

Other New Business

A. Proposal 1-83, Extended Use of 'P' Grade

Senator Hutzler as chairman of the Instructional Policy Committee moved for adoption of Proposal 1-83 on pages 2174-2175. After a short discussion the proposal was unanimously recommended for adoption.

B. Proposal 2-83, Constitutional Amendment to Change Residency Requirement

This proposal was introduced by Senate Secretary Adams. An editorial change was made so that the proposal now reads:

For election to the Senate, a two-year residency shall be required except for ROTC personnel, the student member, the graduate student member, and departments having less than three faculty members eligible to serve on the Senate.

The proposal was unanimously recommended for adoption.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.