

The Senate of Michigan Technological University
Minutes of Meeting No.191

I. Call to Order

President Sharik called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm on 7 October 1992 in Ballrooms 1&2, Memorial Union Building.

II. Roll Call of Regular Members

25 Senators or alternates were present. Absent: T. Shipley, P. Laks, M. Gruener, M. McKimpson, G. Pliska-Matyshak.

III. Recognition of Visitors

William Shapton (E.S.I.), James Waber (Physics), Marcia Goodrich (Tech Topics), Nancy Corrigan (temporary secretarial assistant).

IV. Minutes

The minutes of Special Meeting No. 7 were accepted and approved. The minutes of Meeting No. 190 were accepted, corrected, and approved with corrections.

V. Senate President's Report

A. President Sharik expressed the Senate's appreciation for the services of the previous officers and committee chairs.

B. Sharik discussed the ways in which he may interact with the university community in his capacity as Senate president.

1. President Tompkins has asked to meet once per month on a 1:1 basis with the Senate President; Sharik has agreed to do this. The first meeting has already occurred. Sharik agreed to ask the Senate to co-sponsor the "State of the University" Forum with Sharik as moderator. This request will be considered under New Business for the present meeting.
2. As Senate President, Sharik is a member of the Faculty Review Committee on ESI/Ventures, which was convened at the request of Will Shapton, VP for ESI. Instead of a report on the activity of the committee, Shapton was asked to report directly to the Senate on recent happenings at ESI.

William Shapton addressed the Senate: The Faculty Review Committee is intended to broaden the input to the ESI Board, meeting twice a week. The recommendations of the committee for the rapid liquidation of Ventures have complemented those of the board and the Senate. The problems with liquidation involve liability for the cleanup of old mining operations. The land and properties cannot be given away. ESI has sold about 10,000 acres. Land sales for the year are about \$1.7 million. Headquarters building on Sharon Ave. has been sold. Letter of agreement has been signed for the sale of Horner Flooring; a note for some of the proceeds of the sale may be passed on to the University. The Ventures assets are encumbered with mortgages. Back-taxes are about \$600,000. ESI hopes to sell the old Houghton High School building and adjoining lot, the Erickson sawmill, and Pelletech.

Questions and discussion centered on the possibility of a surplus of assets over liabilities, on the legal

liability for cleanup, and the unknown value of Pelletech.

3. Sharik is a member of the University President's Cabinet, and is currently the only direct link between the Senate and the Cabinet. The Cabinet has met only once this AY, on Sept 28; Sharik was absent. The Cabinet discussed the Senate proposal on spouse benefits, which the MTU Board of Control had tabled. Members of the Cabinet are looking into the proposal.

C. Sharik described the need for a written set of goals for the Senate for the year, and perhaps the need for a "vision statement" relative to the long-term direction for the Senate.

D. Sharik listed these items that the Senate might want to consider in the coming year:

1. The role of the Senate in the question of unionization of the faculty. Sponsorship of debates is one possibility.
2. The question of salary structure of the University.
3. Creation of a faculty club, including a facility. President Tompkins seems agreeable to the suggestion.

VI. Senate Vice-President's Report

Senate VP Vilmann reported on meetings of the Board of Control; his written summary is Appendix A of these minutes. There was a brief discussion of the Board's statements about ESI/Ventures. The Board of Control now has a 15-minute period for open questions at the end of their meetings.

Julien commented on the Board's handling of changes in the MTU Procedures Manual. This is important relative to Senate proposals sent to President Tompkins for approval and implementation. The proposals take effect only when they are incorporated in the Procedures Manual. President Tompkins seemed uncertain what to do with the three proposals on faculty governance forwarded to him from the Senate last spring. Sharik said he would consult with Tompkins on the handling of the proposals.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Election Committee: Chair J. Heyman reported that nomination forms for the vacant 1994 at-large Senate seat are circulating.
- B. Budget Liaison Officer: No report.
- C. Curricular Policy Committee: Chair T. Bornhorst reported receipt of the information about the baccalaureate proposal from the School of Technology.
- D. Fringe Benefits Committee: Chair L. Leifer reported partial acceptance of the retirement benefits package forwarded from the Senate in the spring. His written summary is Appendix B of these minutes. The Board is cautious about the plan's financial impact. They will get frequent reports, the first in January 1993. Discussion of the committee's plans followed. The problem of the Senate's 2-year-old proposal for spousal tuition was discussed.

- E. Institutional Evaluation Committee: Chair D. Hubbard presented a written report (Appendix C of these minutes). The ME-EM Dept has a charter that may serve as a model. In addition, the Chemistry Department is writing their charter; L. Julien is the contact.
- F. Instructional Policy Committee: Chair K. Heuvers reported

on the probable activities of the committee, including a proposal for Recognition of Quality Teaching, consideration of a +/- grading system, and liaison with the Center for Teaching Excellence for faculty evaluation.

- G. Board of Control Liaison Task Force: Chair C. Vilmann reported no activity.
- H. Constitution & Constituency Committee: J. Waber reported on recent activities of the committee, and a constitution which he had drafted. Waber had talked with President Tompkins about the makeup of a faculty senate, which Tompkins favors. Waber discussed definitions of faculty members, and representation.

Senate discussion and questions initially concerned the makeup and size of the prospective faculty senate, its role as an advisory vs. approving body, the size vs. effectiveness of the prospective senate, and the best method of presenting the new constitution to the constituency.

Further discussion concerned the makeup of the Constitution and Constituency Committee, and whether the committee was proceeding properly. Heuvers, Vilmann, and Mullins volunteered to serve on the committee, with Heuvers serving as chair.

VIII. Reports from Affiliated and Ad Hoc Committees

- A. President Tompkins's Cabinet: President Sharik reported on cabinet activities in his report to the Senate.
- B. Task Force on Tradeoffs: Cost, Quality and Size: No report.

IX. Old Business

- A. Proposal on Quality Teaching: No discussion.
- B. Secretarial assistant for the Senate: The position was discussed by Sharik. Nancy Corrigan had agreed to serve temporarily for another few hours. Although only temporary and part-time at 10 hours per week, the position had to be posted with Personnel Services. Nine applications were received. The Senate Council will select 3 persons for interviews. An office for the assistant is needed, to serve as a focal point for Senate business, and storage of records.

X. New Business

- A. Sponsorship and participation in the "State of the University" Forum: Sharik had introduced the topic in his report; he described the event to be co-sponsored by the Senate and Staff Council, with himself as moderator. The Senate and its goals will be introduced. A United Way appeal will be presented. President Tompkins will address the meeting, and field questions from the floor.

Heuvers moved that the Senate co-sponsor the forum; Hubbard seconded. Discussion involved cost of the Forum (none), and Senate visibility. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote. Sharik requested that committee chairs send lists of committee goals to him for presentation at the forum. A sign-up sheet for forum attendance was circulated.

- B. Presidential Commission for Diversity: Sharik had a memo from President Tompkins requesting appointment of one faculty person from each college. The matter was referred to the Elections Committee. Discussion concerned selection procedures. A deliberate method seemed appropriate, and Heyman indicated that nomination forms would be sent to all senators, with selection at the next Senate meeting.
- C. Replacement of Cabinet Alternates: Sharik reported that the loss of two serving faculty members from President Tompkins' Cabinet had resulted in the two alternates (Drummer and Plichta) moving into their positions. Vilmann moved that the Election Committee solicit nominations from among the faculty

for the appropriate numbers of alternates. Heuvers seconded. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

- D. Board of Control Liaison Task Force: Vilmann said that the function of the Task Force has been to keep the Board aware of what the Senate is doing. He questioned its effectiveness, and asked for the Senate's opinion on its function. Further, most Task Force members have left the Senate. Discussion emphasized the Task Force's importance as contact between Board and Faculty, however tenuous. The Board Secretary can schedule meetings with the Task Force. A suggestion that the Senate minutes be sent to Board members was accepted. Bulleit, Hubbard, Jambekar, and Julien volunteered to serve on the Task Force.
- E. Senate Luncheon: Sharik announced that the Senate will sponsor informal luncheons monthly. The first luncheon will take place at noon on Thursday, October 15.
- F. Salary Structure: Sharik queried whether the Senate should have a role in how salaries are determined in the University, both at the faculty and administrative level. Initial discussion concerned the point at which the Senate's input could occur, e.g. in recent "market value" adjustments. Sharik requested that information on salary structure be forwarded to him. Vilmann pointed out that for the Senate to play a role, the bylaws would have to be changed, requiring approval of the Board of Control.

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Robert Keen
Senate Secretary