

THE SENATE OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Meeting No. 218
7 Sept 1994

Synopsis: The Senate

- (1) Approved the minutes of Meetings 215, 216 and 217;
 - (2) Approved the meeting dates for AY 1994-95;
 - (3) Discussed problems in locating prospective committee members.
 - (4) Reconsidered Proposal 27-94: Mid-Term Grade Report Policy, and returned it to the Instructional Policy Committee for a recommendation;
 - (5) Learned that the University administration had accepted ten Senate proposals.
-

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Bornhorst called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, 7 September 1994, in Room B37 of the Electrical Energy Resources Center.

Secretary Jobst called the roll. Thirty senators or alternates were present, with three liaison members. Senators or alternate representatives from Chem Eng, EE, and AF ROTC were absent. Absent liaison members: Dean of Engineering, Dean of Sciences and Arts, and Staff Council. Absent Senators-at-large: David Reed.

2. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Recognized visitors included F. Dobney (Provost & Executive Vice President) and M. Goodrich (Tech Topics). President Bornhorst introduced the new officers for AY 1994-95: Ted Bornhorst, President; Janice Glime, Vice President; and Jack Jobst, Secretary. President Bornhorst welcomed the new Senate Assistant, Jeanne Meyers, and said that Ms. Meyers would staff the Senate Office in M & M 321, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

3. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Bornhorst referred to the published agenda [Appendix A of these minutes] and scratched Item 6.a.(2) "Athletic Council," replacing it with "Presidential Commission for Women" and proposed moving ahead Item 8, "New Business, Proposed Meeting Dates" after Item 4, "Approval of Minutes."

Bornhorst called for agenda adjustments from the floor; there were none. Bornhorst asked for objections to the proposed adjustments. There were no objections, and Bornhorst declared the agenda APPROVED as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bornhorst referred to the Minutes of Meeting 215 attached to the agenda sent to senators, and called for corrections; there were none. Vanek MOVED to approve the minutes; Mroz seconded. The motion PASSED without dissent in a voice vote.

Bornhorst referred to the Minutes of Meeting 216 attached to the agenda sent to senators and, called for corrections; there were none. Mroz MOVED to approve the minutes; McKimpson seconded. The motion PASSED without dissent in a voice vote.

Bornhorst referred to the Minutes of Meeting 217 attached to the agenda sent to senators, and called for corrections; there were none. Carstens MOVED to approve the minutes; Arici seconded. The motion PASSED without dissent in a voice vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS

-Proposed Meeting Dates

Bornhorst referred to the Proposed Meeting Dates attached to the agenda sent to Senators [Appendix B] and asked for discussion from the floor; there was none, and Bornhorst declared the meeting schedule for AY 1994-95 would stand as proposed.

6. REPORT FROM SENATE PRESIDENT

Bornhorst's comments:

A. The Senate should expect considerable business this year as part of the process of working on the Faculty Handbook. Of the many issues would be a revision of the Tenure and Promotion Policy. The Senate officers decided to change the agenda format: no section for announcements; senators and constituents wishing to address the Senate should arrange to be scheduled on the agenda. The policy of recognizing visitors will continue.

B. Bornhorst reported on various meetings between Provost Dobney and old\ new officers: (1) Participants discussed the status of various senate proposals, such as Academic Code of Ethics, Examination Policy, and the Student Integrity and Honesty Policy. (2) Sung Lee discussed changes to the Research Excellence Fund (REF) operation. Deans will now make the first cut in proposals. (3) Expect some minor operational changes in the Optional Furlough Program; these will be brought forward to the Senate. (4) The University Direction and Planning Committee has recommended the creation of a Department of Education in the College of Sciences and Arts.

The Provost (via memo) has asked Dean Seel to prepare a proposal for review by the University Senate [Appendix C of these minutes].

C. Bornhorst identified proposals which have been submitted to the administration for approval.

18-94: Ph.D. Program in Computational Science and Engineering [Appendix D].

23-94: Scientific Misconduct Policy [Appendix E].

24-94: Faculty Grievance Policy & Procedures [Appendix F].

25-94: Course Grades [Appendix G].

26-94: Release of Grades- -Right to Privacy [Appendix H].

28-94: Rescission of Policy on Distribution of Grading Practices [Appendix I].

29-94: Academic Calendar for 1994-95 [Appendix J].

30-94: Record of Course Drops [Appendix K].

D. Bornhorst reported that over the summer President Tompkins approved ten Senate proposals.

16-94: Smoke Free Campus, policy stated per Provost memo dated August 11, 1994, effective September 1, 1994. Not exactly what the Senate passed but fairly close [Appendix L].

18-94: PhD Program in Computational Science and Engineering [Appendix M].

19-94: Policy on Class Attendance [Appendix N].

20-94: Optional Retirement Furlough Program [Appendix O].

22-94: University Senate Administrative Evaluation Procedure approved with the proviso that the support for the work of the commission (travel, secretarial assistance, postage, etc.) be financed by the University Senate [Appendix P].

23-94: Scientific Misconduct Policy [Appendix Q].

26-94: Release of Grades - Right to Privacy [Appendix R].

28-94: Rescission of Policy on Distribution of Grading Practices [Appendix S].

29-94: Academic Calendar for 1994-95 [Appendix T].

30-94: Record of Course Drops. Needs Board of Control approval (See Board Policy 17.2.2. Grading System) [Appendix U].

E. Bornhorst reported that on September 1, 1994, he made a short presentation to the new faculty regarding the University Senate and its role in shared governance on campus and received many favorable comments.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORTS

A. BOARD OF CONTROL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. Bornhorst reported that the Senate now enjoys regular representation at the Board of Control meetings as part of the Academic Report by the Provost. Bornhorst gave brief reports at the May 20, 1994, and August 6, 1994, meetings. Senator Leifer asked about future breakfasts or other meetings with the Board; Bornhorst says these are often difficult to arrange in the short amount of time available to the Board members, but they should occur when possible.

B. CAMPUS SPACE COMMITTEE. The committee has eight members, with Bornhorst as the Senate representative. The committee met several times over the summer. VP Dobney commented that "space belongs to the University and not to departments." A senator asked if departments might be in danger of losing, say, lab space, and Dobney replied that the committee was not going to reassign space being used, but would focus instead on underused space.

C. AD HOC UNIVERSITY CLOSURE COMMITTEE. The committee has met and will meet again this week. A policy statement will be sent to the Provost and then to the Senate for review. It will be a simple statement with a few controversial elements that the Senate will want to consider closely.

D. ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TEACHING. Senators were reminded of Bill Predebon's presentation from a previous meeting at which he discussed the need to oversee the Distinguished Teaching Award, Teaching Evaluations, the Center for Teaching Excellence and other issues related to teaching. Officers, in consultation with the Provost, recommend an ad hoc committee be established to deal with such issues. Proposals from this ad hoc committee would be forwarded to the Instructional Policy Committee, then the Senate. The Senate agreed with this course of action.

E. UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. Bornhorst reported the difficulties he experiences locating Senate representatives to serve on committees, and he asked the Senate for suggestions.

It was suggested that a commission independent of the Senate, perhaps something akin to a Committee on Committees, or the current Elections committee, obtain a file of nominations from each department and various units. That is, every unit would be responsible for supplying names. The Senate could select the needed committee members from this list of nominations. The Senate constitution, however, designated the Executive Committee to deal with committees.

Bornhorst reported that the University President was disbanding the Athletic Council. One senator asked whether that was within the power of the president, and whether the committee was mentioned in the Senate constitution. Bornhorst said he would check into it.

F. PROPOSED 1994-95 AY SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. Bornhorst distributed a handout (Appendix V of these minutes) identifying proposed AY 1994-95 Senate Committee Membership. Bornhorst directed the committee interim chairs to attempt scheduling a meeting prior to the 21 September 1994 Senate meeting. Any requests for changes in committee memberships should be forwarded to the Senate Office by Monday, September 12, 1994.

8. OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSAL 27-94: MID TERM GRADE REPORT POLICY. This proposal continues the use of midterm grade reports. In the past, few faculty have actually submitted grades, and last year, with the problems of implementing a new computer system, the Registrar's Office did not distribute forms to faculty. Keen MOVED to amend the proposal by striking all wording through

the first word of the last sentence, the entire proposal to read "It is strongly recommended that instructors inform all students in their classes about their midterm grade status by the end of the fifth week of the quarter." Bulleit seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, Senators argued that midterm grades notify students they are in trouble, and they help academic counselors working with students in academic difficulty. Others argued that few faculty use the system, and students usually know when they are in trouble. Galetto said the cost for the midterm grading system is not high since most grades are mailed to campus addresses.

Fynewever MOVED to refer the proposal back to the Instructional Policy Committee for further review. Heyman seconded the motion. After discussion ended, the motion PASSED on a voice vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mroz MOVED and Arici seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion PASSED. Bornhorst declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Submitted by Jack Jobst
Secretary of the University Senate

.