

GRADUATE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 20, 1991

United Nations Room, 3:30 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 P.M. Associate Dean J. Henkel presided.
2. It was moved (J. Smith), seconded (A. Abramson), and passed without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the September 25, 1991 meeting.
3. The meeting was devoted to a continuation of the discussion begun at the last meeting of the flexibility legislation passed last July. Wilbur Jones, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Fred Hathcote, Director of Purchasing; and Richard Carterud, Director of Grants and Contracts, were present to speak about the implementation of the flexibility legislation and to respond to questions from the floor.

Jones spoke first, offering an overview. Initial opposition to the proposal to grant the University greater fiscal flexibility was significant. The State's worsening fiscal situation, however, underscored the need for the University to have greater fiscal flexibility. The measure finally did pass in the Legislature and rapid implementation throughout the University was established as a high priority. A committee, having widespread representation, was assembled to consider proposals which would allow the University to maximize the flexibility permitted by the legislation. Among others, purchasing and travel emerged as key areas of concern.

J. Koberstein, Chair of the Research Support Committee, introduced three main areas of concern to initiate discussion: purchasing, travel, and grants and contracts.

Travel was discussed first. In his responses to questions, Jones informed the Council that there have been reassignments of personnel in the travel area. Travel representatives who will interface with faculty engaged in research will be sensitive to the objectives of the flexibility legislation. Further, Jones emphasized the distinction between policy issues and procedural matters. He urged Councillors to communicate directly with managers on policy issues.

Koberstein noted that he encountered difficulty in attempting to arrange for a representative from the travel area to meet with the Research Support Committee. Jones indicated that broad-based representation on the implementation committee had been sought. Koberstein affirmed the willingness of his Committee to provide

input and noted that such participation throughout the University should be viewed as essential in the implementation process.

There was discussion about the role of the Office of Grants and Contracts in the processing of paperwork related to the expenditure of various external-support monies. The University is but one of the parties to any contract, Carterud observed.

The focus of the discussion shifted to the new FRS accounting system. Jones pointed out that this system is now in use by about 400 colleges and universities, and it is considered by many to be the top of the line. When fully implemented, the FRS system will permit individual faculty members to obtain accurate, regularly-updated information on their research accounts simply by glancing at a computer screen.

In the purchasing area, Hethcote noted that on-line requisitioning now is possible. The FRS system can be used to verify immediately the sufficiency of funds in the account to be charged.

Jones spoke about attempting to maximize fiscal flexibility in terms of the use of budget pools (or categories). He spoke also about the rather significant restrictions and regulations (State and federal) which continue to impinge on the University in the conduct of its fiscal affairs.

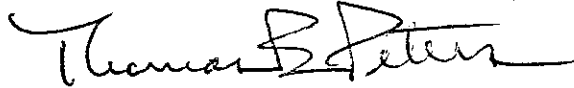
Discussion of related topics was extensive. Among others, these areas of concern were raised and addressed: bill paying, processing of employment authorizations, co-principal investigators sometimes involving personnel at other institutions, and reimbursement for research-related purchases made by an individual rather than the University.

At the close of discussion, Jones stressed the importance of fiscal accountability. He also encouraged faculty to work with department heads and managers in Finance and Administration on matters of concept and policy.

Koberstein offered the services of the Research Support Committee with respect to the implementation of the flexibility legislation and in the area of fiscal policy development.

4. A motion to adjourn passed on a standing vote at 5:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Peters  
Secretary

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors

A. Abramson	P. Douglas (alt.)	M. Leman
G. Anderson	G. Epling	B. Lovell
J. Ayers (alt.)	A. Farina	R. Miller
B. Bible	L.C. Faustman	K. Nuki (alt.)
S. Biggs	J. Gatta	T. Roberts
R. Buck	S. Greenspan	R. Shaw
F. Carstensen	H. Hansen	I. Silverblatt
W. Chapple	D. Herzberger	J. Smith
P. Clapp	T. Kehle	W. Smith
R. Colwell	J. Knox	T. Yang
D. Cournoyer	J. Koberstein	C. Zirakzadeh
J. DeWolf	C. Lammi-Keefe (alt.)	

Graduate School

J. Henkel	E. Sellers	T. Peters
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