

GRADUATE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 25, 1991

United Nations Room, 3:30 p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Dean Giolas presided.
2. It was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the April 17, 1991 meeting.
3. Tom Giolas presented for discussion the topic of legislation and the flexibility bill and introduced Jonathan Pelto (D, Mansfield), Provost Thomas Tighe, and Scott Brohinsky (Governmental Relations Office) as the guest speakers.
4. Brohinsky outlined the idea and purpose of flexibility legislation, and addressed the specifics of the bill. He covered the legislative year in some detail, highlighting other bills that were likely to benefit the University in the future, including a "fast-track" construction process.

He covered some of the topics affected by the Flexibility legislation, which provides state funding for the University as a block grant. He stated that from a State perspective, all funds at UConn are considered as one, with the exception of the research fund. The new legislation will affect the following, among others:

purchasing authority
hiring authority
leasing property
printing authority
equipment, including motor pool
travel on all funds
Department of Higher Education no longer approves budgets

5. Jonathan Pelto then spoke at length, providing detailed insight into the ramifications of the flexibility bill for the University, as well as the risks involved in its implementation. For example, we must still meet and adhere to state fairness and nondiscrimination regulations.
6. Provost Tighe then spoke, thanking Mr. Pelto for his accomplishments in this regard. He addressed the fact that the University is different from other agencies and this will allow us to be all we can be. He urged all to become familiar with this legislation so we can make the most of it.

He further stated that due to the poor fiscal climate, increased funds did not come with the bill.

He cautioned that we need to ensure that we don't restrict ourselves by "dropping the ball" ourselves during the implementation of the flexibility legislation. He stated that

we should make plans and decisions as wisely as possible for the best interests of the University.

7. Discussion, comments and questions from councilors followed. Some of the pertinent comments and topics include the following:

A task force to examine the question of assistantship vs. lectureship was discussed. Dr. Tighe stated that he would be glad to set up a committee to study this further.

The question of travel advances was raised, from the perspective of non-State employees coverage, if funds are appropriate and earmarked for that purpose. The reply was that this would be something to address during implementation.

The tuition and fee-setting process is not affected by the bill, except that DHE's Board of Governors can no longer change the request.

The Provost was then asked, "How can faculty help?" He replied that the implementors need to hear from faculty during the implementation process, so that the best, most comprehensive result can be obtained. He stated his willingness to do whatever he can to produce the best implementation.

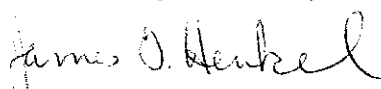
Provost Tighe was asked if something can be done about the UConn Foundation. Faculty perceive that it has not been very effective to date. The reply was that the flexibility legislation has made the potential for benefit much greater, since we now can use state dollars for fundraising.

The process of local accounting and check-cutting was expected to be in place by January 1. There were some constitutional issues to be resolved with the State Comptroller's office.

Finally, Representative Pelto addressed the State budget and income tax issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Henkel
Secretary pro tem

Councilors Present

A. Abramson
L. Allen
G. Anderson
B. Bible
S. Biggs
W. Bohlen
P. Clapp
R. Colwell
J. DeWolf
N. Doherty
G. Epling
A. Farina

C. Faustman
N. Gray
S. Greenspan
D. Hanink
H. Hansen
D. Herzberger
A. Hiskes
K. Kazerounian
J. Knox
J. Koberstein
D. Krutchkoff
M. Lerman

E. Pagoulatos
S. Pfeiffer
P. Rosenberg
R. Shaw
W. Smith
S. Weller
P. Willett
B. Williamson
T. Yang
C. Zirakzadeh

Councilors Sending Regrets

T. Jones

T. Roberts

Graduate School Members Present

T. Giolas

J. Henkel