

Meeting No. 16 417

November 5, 1971

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

ABSENT

Norton (excused)
Voigtel (excused)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

President Steen
Vice President Lewis
Dean Walker

1. Mr. McDonald called the meeting to order, the roll was called, the minutes from meeting number 15 were corrected and approved.
2. Mr. McDonald explained the meeting was called jointly by Vice-President Lewis and himself to resolve possible discrepancies between Faculty Senate recommendations* and administrative action in the selection procedure for a new Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics. According to Mr. McDonald, the Academic Council of the School of Science and Mathematics was notified by Vice-President Lewis that Dean Miller had resigned as Dean Effective August, 1972, and Mr. Lewis consulted the Council on selecting a new dean. Mr. McDonald said that after the Council meeting the question was raised as to why the Senate recommendations had not been followed for selecting a new dean. Mr. McDonald said the major concern in the matter was the legitimacy of the Senate's recommendation. Mr. McDonald then asked Vice-President Lewis to explain the present situation as he understood it.
3. Mr. Lewis said that he wished to apologize to the Senate for failing to remember the full Senate recommendation, that at the time he had operated from a memory of faculty concern that faculty be allowed to participate in the selection process. Mr. Lewis said he recommended to the Science and Mathematics Council that it elect one member from each department to serve on a faculty selection committee and that he appoint two faculty members from outside the School of Science and Mathematics. He said he had excluded department heads from the committee since if the new Dean were selected from the School of Science and Mathematics he would probably be one of the present department heads and would therefore interfere with the objectivity of the committee. Mr. Lewis said the Council insisted that everyone in Science and Mathematics be allowed to elect the members of the selection committee, and he had agreed, although he had suggested only tenured faculty be permitted to vote. Mr. Lewis said he had suggested that the

*See Faculty Senate Minutes of Meeting number 11, May 5, 1971, Appendix A, Section II.

departments be polled initially to determine whether the School wanted a new dean from outside. The Council had insisted that the selection committee should be left completely free to decide this for themselves. Mr. Lewis said he had asked the Council if there were further questions or comments and that there had been none. He said he had asked the Council to give him the names of the selection committee by November 10, 1971.

4. Mr. Lewis admitted again the oversight in failing to remember the Senate recommendations, but he added that had he read them again or remembered them completely, he would have come to the Senate to ask for changes in the recommendation because the School of Science and Mathematics' Academic Council of 15 members is too large for an efficient selection committee, because the Council has a disproportionate number of administrators (six department heads and one dean) to function objectively as a selection committee. Mr. Lewis pointed out that as he had set it up, the department heads must have a majority in favor of any faculty selection committee choice before the candidate would be considered by the administration. Mr. Lewis said finally that of the five department heads he had polled in Science and Mathematics all approved of his recommended procedure. The sixth department head from the School, Mr. Lewis said, he had been unable to talk to. Mr. Lewis then asked the Senate to reexamine its recommendation, to forgive his oversight, and to at least temporarily approve the five members of the selection committee who had already been elected by their five departments in the School of Science and Mathematics.
5. Mr. Alexander pointed out that he was not at all convinced the Senate recommendation had not been followed and that a selection committee of fifteen members was certainly too large.
6. Mr. Bourbon pointed out that the Senate recommendation had also called for a majority of elected faculty members on the individual School Academic Councils and for Deans of the Schools to be ex officio members of the Councils, and that the Science and Mathematics Academic Council had violated the Senate recommendation in having its Dean as Chairman of the Council.
7. Mr. Robertson said the Council could easily elect a new chairman, but that two appointed faculty members from outside the School of Science and Mathematics gave some departments outside the School of Science and Mathematics as much influence in the selection of the new Dean as it did some departments within the School of Science and Mathematics. He pointed out further that the present Academic Council provides a more proportionate representation within the School than does the one department, one vote concept. Mr. Lewis said he saw nothing wrong with reducing the number of members appointed from outside from two to one.

8. Mr. Clark said that he had worked closely with the Senate committee recommending faculty participation in the selection of deans and that he believed the basic intent of that committee was to involve the faculty in the selection. At that time, he said, procedures were not that critical. The Academic Councils had been recommended because they were an already existing apparatus. If anything, Mr. Clark suggested, the very fact that most departments had elected to the selection committee someone other than the man they had elected to the Academic Council suggested that the Vice-President's procedure was preferable. Mr. Clark concluded by reiterating that Senate intent was not violated, that the Senate should be flexible, and that the people he had talked to in Science and Mathematics, with the exception of those in one department, were happy with the one department one vote concept.
9. Mr. McDonald pointed out that the discussion had raised several questions. He pointed out that because the Senate recommendation was vague, no one could be sure of what the Committee was to do and asked if the selection Committee would be limited to consideration of the candidates suggested to the Committee. He pointed out that there was a question raised as to the general make-up of the Academic Councils and finally that there was question as to the efficacy of Senate recommendations. (This issue was resolved by President Steen, who said that he had worked from the assumption that when Senate recommendations were officially approved by the administration they became University policy.) This, Mr. McDonald said, brought up the question of what the Senate was to do when its recommendations were not followed, and he suggested that the Senate insist on its recommendations by pointing out discrepancies to the higher administration.
10. Mr. Clark made a motion that Mr. Lewis's plan be accepted by the Senate (this motion was amended to limit the Selection Committee to one member from outside the School of Science and Mathematics instead of the two Mr. Lewis had suggested), the motion was seconded and approved with but one dissenting vote.
11. Mr. Rodewald made a motion that a Senate subcommittee re-evaluate the existing Senate recommendations for the make-up of Academic Councils and the process for the selection of Deans. There was a second to the motion; the motion was passed with several dissenting vote.
12. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Rodewald
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

REVIEWED: John T. Lewis
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

DATE 12-13-71

APPROVED: [Signature]
President

DATE 12-13-71