

Minutes
Faculty Board Meeting
October 17, 2001
Room D-9

Members Present: Judy Sieg, Jon Backman, Paul Turner, Marilyn Clarkson, Joel Livesay, Tim McBride, Karen Ravan, George Ford, Gretchen Maultsby, and Debbie Jennings.

Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

Judy Sieg called the meeting to order. After minor revisions were made to the minutes of the September meeting, they were approved.

II. Dr. Pelham's Report: At the last Area Commission meeting, the audit report for last year was accepted, the plant fund budget for this year was accepted (providing funds for the remaining office furniture in the West building), and in response to a recommendation by one member, there was a unanimous decision to include as part of the STC budget, a membership at the Carolina Country Club for Dr. Terhune.

Dr. Pelham also informed the board that demolition in the East building will be completed this week with ground breaking for the front of the East to take place before the holidays. Judy Sieg asked if faculty could be forewarned of disruptive work. Tim McBride suggested Tommy Bullman have Peggy Martin contact faculty prior to nearby construction activity. Dr. Pelham indicated he would follow up on this but warned that often Tommy has no forewarning himself. Once the contractors come on campus, they are in charge.

In addition, Dr. Pelham announced that the copier in C-wing of the West building will be moved to the lobby of C-wing and the Physical Plant will take over the present copy room.

III. Old Business

Adjunct Faculty in Faculty Assemble: Judy announced that the revisions to the by-laws passed.

STC's Reaction to Sept. 11: Gretchen Maultsby indicated over 300 attended the panel on the Mideast and terrorism. Most of the feedback has been positive.

Calendar Committee: According to Debbie Jennings, the committee met with Henry Giles, Regina Eaker, and Nancy Garmroth to present its choice for 2002-2003 calendar based on faculty input. The faculty's major request was for more choice of optional days. The committee was informed that its request was unrealistic. Henry Giles' position was that if there are optional days at Christmas, his staff would have

to be on campus also. As a result of this meeting, Steve Faulkner, committee head, decided the calendar sent to the President's Council will be very similar to the present calendar. After a highly charged discussion, a decision was reached that Judy Sieg would make a proposal to Steve to at least present to the President's Council a version of the calendar that would reflect the faculty's desire for more choice of optional days.

IV. New Business

Communication Issues: In response to expressed faculty frustration over communication issues, the suggestion was made that having a representative from Faculty Board on the President's Council would improve communication. Judy expressed concern of faculty members in the delay between the time decisions are made and the time faculty receives the information, especially when faculty is directly affected by the decisions.

Another communication issue is the disagreement with Pete Gallen over the misuse of e-mail. While several members objected to the tone of the message from Pete, Joel Livesay brought to the board's attention that, to his knowledge, STC has no written campus policy concerning e-mail. Consensus was that Judy should remind Dr. Pelham of this and inform him that if a policy is instated, faculty would like to have input. Judy asked Gretchen to research whether other colleges have policies and what those entail.

Faculty Survey: Judy presented the desire of some faculty for a faculty survey by which the faculty could express their opinions of the performance of management and other faculty-related issues. Debate arose over the need for this, its design, and the use of any results. Some members reminded the board that previous surveys yielded no results. The decision was made that Judy would approach Bob Isenhower and ask him to consider the survey issue.

During this discussion, the point was made that there is no grievance policy for a faculty member unhappy with a decision by his superior and that there should be such a policy. Gretchen agreed to chair a committee to research how other academic institutions handle faculty grievances. George Ford volunteered to serve on the committee.

Four-Day Work Week: In response to a faculty member's request we look into a four-day work week, the board was of the consensus that this is unrealistic. However, Jon Backman raised the question why someone whose class schedule is Monday-Thursday and who meets his 37 ½ hours (including 8 office hours) would be required to come in on Friday. Discussion revealed that some departments allow this while others do not. The consensus of the group was that the policy should be uniform throughout the college—not departmental. Judy volunteered to look up the policy which covers this issue. George Ford expressed bewilderment at the number of contact hours (22) he is required to teach and the difference between his department

and others. Since time was running out, the decision was made to discuss contact-hour requirements at the November meeting.

- V. The next board meeting will be November 20 at 3:00 in D-9. The meeting adjourned at 5:00.