

Wake Forest University Senate
Minutes of the 1st Meeting
October 8, 2003

The University Senate held its first meeting of the 2003-2004 year in DeTamble Auditorium of Tribble Hall. The following were present:

Administration: Paul D. Escott, Deborah Lambert, Robert K. Walsh, Ron Wellman

College: Jane Albrecht, Eric Carlson, Donald Frey, Katy Harriger, Paige Laughlin, Mark Welker

Graduate School: Dale Dagenbach, Greg Shelness, Mary Sorci-Thomas

School of Medicine: Amy McMichael, Ron Zagoria

School of Law: Michael K. Curtis, Alan Palmiter, Tom Roberts

Calloway School of Business and Accountancy: Sheri Bridges, Yvonne Hinson, Page West

Babcock School of Management: Scott Shafer, Jeff Smith

Divinity School: Neal Walls

Staff: Dana Hutchens, Marc Sears, Gloria Stickney, Eric Winicov, H. David Womack

Don Frey called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

A moment of silence was observed for Rhoda Channing.

New senators were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

The minutes of the meetings of 4/23/03 and 5/22/03 were approved as posted on the Senate web page.

Senate committee reports were given:

Mark Welker reported that the Intra-University Operations Committee would be working to fine-tune the administrator evaluation instrument and procedure.

Michael Curtis noted that one key job of the Senior University Appointments Committee was to nominate honorary degree candidates, and asked faculty to offer suggestions along with a brief summary of the proposed candidate's accomplishments.

Dale Dagenbach reported on the data gathering by the Fringe Benefits Committee. The data collected indicated that while dental and vision benefits were adequate in comparison to the cross-admit institutions, retirement benefits were low (6th out of 8 in terms of employer contributions), and health care benefits were even worse (8th or 9th out of 9 in terms of cost of coverage).

Tom Roberts reported that the Health Affairs Committee would be meeting with John Anderson in the near future, and that existing projections indicated 15-20% increases in the cost of health care for the coming year.

Hank Kennedy reported that the University Oversight Committee would be examining the allocation of resources given the stringent financial climate, summarizing previous reports on parking and daycare, looking at sources of revenue and endowment performance, and looking at the implications of planned subsidiary enterprises such as Piedmont Park.

Don Frey reviewed the charges to the Senate committees for the upcoming year. Most remained the same as in the previous year or were changed only slightly. An added charge was given to the Intra-University Operations Committee to begin to study how compliance with laws and regulations might be met with the least burden on the missions of the university, and the Senior University Appointments Committee was asked to strengthen its efforts to develop a process through which the Senate would have input on the search for, and appointment of, any future President of the University.

Provost Emeritus Ed Wilson then gave an invited talk on intercollegiate athletics and academics. In response to what has been seen as increased professionalizing of collegiate athletics, a faculty organization called the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics has come into existence. Faculty senates around the country have begun to weigh in on this debate.

Ed Wilson first reviewed the administrative structure of the NCAA and the ACC, noting that the NCAA moved away from having a large town hall meeting every year that was attended by university presidents, faculty representatives, and athletic directors to a representative system that may have weakened the faculty voice. He then reviewed the oversight of athletics on this campus, noting that there is an existing committee of the college dedicated to that function. Questions about why WFU supported ACC expansion were then addressed. Ron Wellman observed that although some of the new schools would require greater travel, the net effect might be to reduce travel because those schools might be replacing out of conference events at even greater distances.

Old Business: Don Frey acknowledged receipt of the required annual report from the Grievance Committee chaired by Tom Roberts.

The Senate then unanimously approved the following motion

To President Thomas K. Hearn:

On behalf of the Wake Forest community, we express our concern at the news of your illness, and our hopes for your full and rapid recovery.

An Ad Hoc Committee to advise on “A Framework for Comprehensive Athletic Reform” was then appointed. The committee members are Katy Harriger (Chair), Sheri Bridges, Robert Browne, Eric Carlson, Bob Evans, Harry Titus, Ron Wellman, & Ken Zick.

The committee was asked to consult with the existing college committee as it formulated its response, and to report back to the Senate at the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.