

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
27 Sept. 1988

Topic: The Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee regarding procedures for the election of Arts and Sciences representatives to the Faculty Assembly.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Lutzer at 3:34 p.m.

Announcements:

1. Professor Jack Edwards has accepted the office of Parliamentarian.
2. Professor J.D. Tabor has resigned from the office of Secretary of the Faculty; a temporary substitute has been conscripted, but a special election will have to be held as soon as possible.
3. Voting in this meeting must be confined to those who are defined as voting members of the Faculty in the Bylaws.
5. Those aspects of the FAC report being considered here which are resolutions require only a simple majority to pass, but those which are changes to the bylaws require a 2/3 majority.

At the invitation of the Dean, David Finifter, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented an opening statement: he first pointed out that the effort to make sure that the establishment of the Faculty Assembly was entirely legitimate uncovered unexpected complications; then he reviewed and elucidated the essential points of the 10 page document dated 7 September, 1988, which had been previously distributed.

Dean Lutzer presented additional clarifications of procedures and Robert's Rules for this type of discussion.

Professor Winter introduced a procedural motion that there be one discussion of the issue as a whole and that the Faculty vote to accept or reject the entire report in one vote.

The motion was seconded by Professor Fuchs.

Parliamentary questions were discussed in detail, especially the fact that this would require a 2/3 vote to pass the document as a whole.

Professor Delos proposed a friendly amendment that would allow reconsidering the document one point at a time if the initial vote failed.

The amendment was seconded and accepted by Professors Winter and Fuchs.

The motion as amended was carried by a voice vote.

Professor Schwartz requested and received a clarification of the effects of the vote just taken.

Professor James Harris asked whether or not part II B of the report would impose an unbearable workload on Faculty Affairs Committee members and whether it would be possible to have only two people from FAC stuck with both jobs.

Professor Willis responded that the Faculty Affairs committee had not and would not consider two levels of FAC membership.

Professor Selby added that the workload had been considered and that we can only wait and see what develops. It is likely that the Assembly will have to create its own committee structure to make the workload bearable.

Professor Johnston wondered whether the growing size of the faculty would make it an advantage to vote by areas so that one could choose among people one knew better.

Professor Finifter responded that the prevention of barriers between areas was a higher priority to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Professor Garrett emphasized that it was never the intention of the drafters of the Assembly proposal to separate the Arts and Sciences Faculty into areas in their elections.

Professor Johnston reaffirmed the advantages of knowing the people to be voted for.

Professor Selby expressed concern that any division in the voting would partly disenfranchise people.

Professor Shaver stated that the report only allows one to vote across areas if one so chooses; it avoids mandating it.

The report was adopted by a voice vote without audible opposition, followed by distinctly audible applause.

A motion to adjourn was requested, made, and seconded, thanks were expressed to the Faculty Affairs Committee, and then everyone made a motion toward the door.

*James R. Baron
acting secretary*