

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
Thursday, May 13, 1976
3:20 P.M.

Present: Cochran, King, Mackie, Mandelstamm, Taylor, Torgersen,
 Waugh, Wilson
Absent: Hall, Harper, Oliver
Guest: Dr. Mary Quam

1. Announcements: (1) Dr. Wilson has drafted and sent to four schools the letter requesting information on administrative difficulties which may have been encountered by institutions which do not prohibit private consulting by members of their faculties with other agencies of the state.
(2) Notice was taken of the election by the Faculty Senate of Senators Milka Bliznakov and Ray Dickman to membership on the Commission, effective September 1.
(3) Chairman Cochran expressed to Dr. Wilson the appreciation of the Commission for the lunch meeting hosted by Dr. Wilson on April 29.
 2. Agenda: In keeping with reality, the Agenda was amended to include consideration of the minutes of the meeting of April 20, instead of the minutes of April 22 and 29. Consideration of the G. Burke Johnston award was added if time permits. With these changes, the Agenda was adopted.
 3. Minutes: With several changes in detail, the Commission minutes for April 20, 1976, were approved.
 4. Consideration of the specific recommendations of the General Leave Study subcommittee: Dr. King distributed copies of a revised draft of the subcommittee report. In the ensuing discussion, the following major points were made: (1) The VPI&SU Educational Leave program is part of a compulsory, state-wide program available to all state employees for the completion of relevant, formal education. It is, therefore, neither in need of nor subject to change;
(2) Major subcommittee proposals involve a redefinition or an expansion of the existing Study-Research Leave program;
(3) An essential objective is the establishment of a "legitimate expectation" of eligibility for leave in or after the seventh year of employment. Some standardized form and procedure, to include Peer Review of applications, will be basic to the establishment of this "expectation."
- T The Commission agreed on specifics as follows: (1) Three options should be open: Full year at half-pay; two quarters at three-fourths pay; or one quarter at full pay;
(2) Active, tenured, full-time teaching or research faculty in one of the seven academic colleges should be eligible.

Using the August, 1970, program statement, the subcommittee will incorporate the above suggestions of the Commission and present a final report in time for a June meeting.

5. Employee Benefits Committee: Brief discussion of the overall role of the Employee Benefits Committee in relation to Faculty problems and perquisites and of the prospect of a new, improved Disability program produced no Commission action.
6. The George Burke Johnston Award: Dr. Wilson has gathered sufficient information from members of Omicron Delta Kappa with regard to their plans for instituting an award honoring Burke Johnston to recommend approval of the award. He suggested that the Commission officially take cognizance of the referral of the ODK proposal from the University Council and recognize in full "the right of such an honorary society to give awards as it chooses," provided the proposed award is not in conflict with the goals and purposes of the University. He then moved that the Commission go on record as "having examined the purposes of the proposed award, having found them consistent with University policy, and therefore recommending approval of the establishment of the award." The motion was seconded. Some reservations were expressed about the proposed selection process for recipients, and several members of the Commission observed that the qualities of Burke Johnston, combined in one man, were extremely rare. With these admonitions toward caution and wisdom, the Commission agreed without dissent to recommend to the University Council that the award be duly recognized.
7. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 1976, at 3:20 P.M. The report of the subcommittee on the revision of the Faculty Handbook will be the primary business at that time.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



William E. Mackie, Secretary