

# Faculty Senate

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## Faculty Status Committee

Annual Report 1997-98

To: Maggie Niess, Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC)

Fr: Bob Wess, Chair, Faculty Status Committee (FSC)

Re: Report for 1997-98

Other FSC members: Edie Blakley, Karen Higgins, Fredrick Prael, Carolyn Raab, Jim Rutledge, Lewis Semprini, Bill Smart, Bill Zollinger.

FSC ended 1997-98 with three "works in progress."

#1

On May 25, 1998, the EC (1) asked FSC to consider a matter involving FRA and no-rank Professional Faculty and (2) advised it to begin by consulting with Caroline Kerl.

The Fair Labor Standards Compliance review is asking whether these Professional Faculty should be considered eligible for overtime. FSC is asked to provide input on whether these faculty should be exempted. Non-exempt status could be problematic for the external funding that is often used for these positions and could affect the positions. The level of expertise and skill required to qualify for this exemption is generally attained through combinations of education and experience in the field but no particular academic degree is required.

FSC was not able to start work on this matter, which came to its attention late in the year as it was also beginning to work on #2 (see below).

#2

On May 20, 1998, the EC asked FSC to meet with Orcilia Forbes concerning the proposal for the next generation of development and asset management at OSU. Under this proposal some faculty may be moved to the OSU Foundation, thereby losing PERS benefits among other things. FSC met with Ms. Forbes on June 4 to discuss the matter and to clarify its charge. It's likely that a list of faculty affected by this proposal will come to FSC early fall term. FSC will need to consider whether these faculty should be eligible (1) for benefits and (2) for Faculty Senate membership. Subsequent to this meeting, FSC asked the EC for clarification on the first part of its charge, "benefits," since the Faculty Economic Welfare Committee would seem also to have jurisdiction in this area. Is FSC's job to consider not the substance of the benefits but eligibility for them by virtue of having faculty status?

#3

FSC continued consideration of the issue of faculty use of the MU discussed in its report for last year. On November 3, 1997, FSC received from the EC the following charge: "Develop as a recommendation to the Executive Committee, for consideration by the Faculty Senate, a procedure by which the Senate can recognize faculty groups to

facilitate their access to Memorial Union rooms without a rental fee."

There is currently a procedure by which student groups gain recognition for use of the MU. FSC met December 2 after acquiring a copy of this procedure to use as a model from which to work. At this meeting a subcommittee was formed to work out details of a procedure for faculty groups.

One question needed to be resolved, however, before proceeding further: could the Senate be granted the authority to recognize faculty groups to give them access to the MU? Tony Wilcox had a series of meetings with administrators to discuss this matter. On May 20, 1998, FSC received from the EC the following notice: "The EC decided against having the Faculty Senate act as the organization through which faculty would get access to the MU. The EC recommends that faculty continue to use their department or unit as the organization to gain access."

I replied, "'Continue'? For the record, one of the faculty groups involved tried to gain access in precisely this way. Political Science was the dept involved and it said okay. Even with this okay, this group was denied access. These groups once got access on their own. They tried to 'continue' to do that and were denied."

On May 26, 1998, Maggie Niess indicated she would take the matter back to the EC.

We hope that next year's committee will be able to bring all three of these matters to satisfactory conclusions.

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