

**FACULTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 3, 2002
162 HOPKINS HALL**

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairperson Gene Mumy welcomed members to the first meeting.

2. Changes to STRS Benefits

Mr. Larry Lewellen and Ms. Susan Marsico from Human Resources outlined the dramatic changes to the retiree healthcare policy by the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) to stabilize their retirement fund. He told Faculty Council of actions that had already been taken to protest the changes and to communicate with STRS. There was a discussion on the possible repercussions of STRSs actions, and possible courses of action that OSU Faculty could take.

Faculty Council agreed to send a letter to STRS asking them to decelerate changes and to reconsider other options.

3. COMPH Proposal to eliminate the cap on Clinical Faculty

Susan Koletar, Chair of the COMPH Faculty Council, addressed the Council on the proposal from COMPH. She said that the proposal addresses the current needs, anticipated needs and the professional development of the faculty of the college. She said that there were three options: maintain the current cap, increase the cap or eliminate the cap. The problem with the first two alternatives is that they do not address the future anticipated needs of the college. Dr. Koletar said that increasing the number of Clinical Faculty would increase the faculty/student ration and the ranking of Ohio State's Medical School.

Faculty Council raised several concerns such as the quality of education, teaching in the basic sciences, the elimination of tenured faculty from medical school departments, the funding of the new heart hospital and the precedence this proposal would set for other colleges in the university.

Faculty Council voted in favor of postponing the proposal for vote at the November senate meeting. They also voted to form a committee to draft a counter-proposal to the College of Medicine and Public Health

4. GEC Report

Marilyn Blackwell and Russ Pitzer distributed a summary of the GEC reports. They declined to give a briefing of the report but instead welcomed questions and discussion from the floor.

Concerns that were raised were: a discrepancy between the number of courses and the amount of required credit hours, implications for course offerings with regards to budget restructuring, that changes were minor, concerns about how the report would be enacted with the possible move to semesters, that higher level courses should be encouraged as GEC, and the drop date for classes.

Members of Faculty Council were asked to send any additional comments or suggestions to Marilyn Blackwell.