



University of Houston

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

Faculty Senate
713/749-1147

September 15, 1976

President Philip G. Hoffman
Office of the President
University of Houston

Dear President Hoffman:

I am sending you a copy of the Faculty Senate Resolution on the Biennial Appropriations Request, with copies to the appropriate vice presidents, in the hope that we may still influence the appropriations request before it goes to the legislature.

As you will see, our principal concern is with the lack of consultation with the Senate, or other appropriate faculty body, at the beginning and throughout the process of drafting this request. The Senate now has a budget committee, chaired by Professor Martha Palmer, and we strongly urge that the administration consult this committee at all stages of its deliberations on future appropriation requests and internal allocations of funds within the annual budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John McNamara
Chair
Faculty Senate

JM:rd

cc: R. Singleton, VP, University of Houston System
B. Munitz, VP, Dean of Faculties
D. MacLean, VP, Financial & Management Services
J. Jesse, President, Students' Association
/ Faculty Senators

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON THE BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

September 15, 1976

The Faculty Senate has reviewed the first draft of the appropriations request, 1978-1979, of the University of Houston. Despite the fact that the review was begun only eight days prior to the deadline of September 15th, and not all information was available, the Committee would like to make the following points.

The faculty has an inherent interest in and the right to participate in the budgetary process of the University because the ultimate responsibility for academic excellence is vested in the faculty. Transmittal of knowledge, the search for new truths, and the dissemination of the results of intellectual activities to students and to society are dependent on available finances. The faculty, therefore, must concern itself with all aspects of University funding. The faculty does not perceive its role in the budgeting process as operational only on a day to day basis. Its duty and responsibility is to point out potential positive or negative impact on the educational process of decisions made by those who handle the day to day operation. Decisions which are made by administrators without formal and continuing input from the faculty are not in the best interests of academic excellence. Currently, policies tend to deny faculty the opportunity to carry out their essential advisory role.

The administration should make public its criteria for assigning priorities to special item requests. An analysis of the appropriation request at this time indicates a low priority for instructional projects including academic activities. The Senate questions the absence of requests for such projects as improvement of library operations and acquisitions. The Senate also notes the lack of substantial support for scholarship and other financial aid for students.

We ask that prior to finalizing the appropriations request, the central campus administration take an indepth look into the overall needs of the central campus community. We further, ask that the Faculty Senate be sent copies of any changes made in the total appropriations request prior to its transmittal to the state legislature.

The Senate recognizes the importance of faculty input at all levels of the budgeting process, including the internal allocation of these funds once the appropriation is finalized. It also recognizes to have an effective input it must receive its information at as early a date as possible.