

News

Tenure Report

by Cindy Craig
Collegian Staff Writer

"It seems like professors are no longer here for students, but students are here for the professors." This sentiment has been softly echoing from the mouths of some Behrend students in reference to faculty both tenured and on tenure track. Is teaching being neglected for research? After tenure is achieved does it become a "free ride"? Or are students too quick to find fault or place blame elsewhere rather than accept responsibility for their failures in the classroom?

First of all it must be understood that tenure is a universally accepted concept used to regulate the relationships between institutions of higher learning and the faculty of those institutions. To be competitive, an institution has no choice but to offer a tenure package. What the package consists of is decided by the specific needs and goals of that institution.

The general objective of tenure at any institution is to guarantee academic freedom and to safeguard the right of free expression and risk-taking inquiry. Tenure can be compared to a marriage between an institution and a faculty member.

Tenure is the state of being guaranteed a job for as long as a faculty member wishes to stay. Without tenure a university could arbitrarily dismiss faculty engaging in unpopular or potentially embarrassing research or writing. Without tenure research like Alfred Kinsey's on sexual behavior, theories like Charles Darwin's on evolution, and works of fiction like the recent "The Satanic Verses" would fall prey to the "keepers" of "traditional values".

Like it or not, it is with controversy and questioning of traditional values that we move forward. Dr. Jim Seroka, head of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, describes tenure as "protection for faculty members to be able to conduct research or teaching without political or ideological interference from the university or public."

While seeming one sided in favor of faculty, since faculty may break a tenure contract simply by giving notice and the university may break it only under extreme circumstances, tenure offers underlying benefits to universities. Universities determine the requirements of their tenure packages and thus design criteria to attract the people they want. Tenure is a way of rewarding and retaining the most capable people.

As a land grant institution, Behrend's duties are teaching,

research, scholarship and service. Typical weight attached to these at Behrend are forty percent on teaching, thirty percent on research, twenty percent on scholarship and ten percent on service. These are the criteria on which tenure is based and granted.

Teaching. The ability to convey subject matter to students and stimulate their interest. The faculty must demonstrate competence in teaching and capacity for growth and improvement. Dr. Robert Tauber, chairman of this year's tenure committee, says "People simply will not get tenure at Behrend College if they do not perform well with teaching."

Counseling, advising and service to students are also included in this category. Competence is judged on syllabi and tests for a particular course as well as on student and peer evaluations. Are student evaluations taken seriously?

According to Dr. Carl Kallgren, who currently holds a tenure eligible position, "(student) evaluations are taken extremely serious at Penn State." They are one of the main inputs to judging teaching criteria for the tenure process. According to Tauber, "people committed to this institution realize that we do value teaching. This is why you don't have graduate assistants teaching your classes. You have real live faculty for better or worse."

The second criteria is research or creative accomplishment. The faculty must demonstrate competence to carry out research and train students in research methods. This is demonstrated through publication, exhibition or performance. Research is not a requirement of all institutions for tenure.

"Overall it may mean we (Behrend) may occasionally lose a good teacher because they don't do research, or we may lose a good researcher because they don't teach well, but that is the price you pay," said Tauber. There are faculty at other institutions all over the nation that have never published an article who are tenured. At Behrend, Research faculty work to move their disciplines forward.

"The turn around time for publication can easily be two years," Kallgren pointed out. Grants are very often turned down and books can take several years to complete and still get refused.

The final criteria is service to the university, the public and the profession. Defined as participation in the university, college, departmental and unit affairs. Faculty must show competence in extending specialized knowledge to the university and to the public.

Arthur Schlesinger

Pulitzer Prize winning writer and historian Arthur Schlesinger will unveil the future of America's post-Reagan politics during a speech tomorrow at 8 pm in Erie Hall.

His lecture, entitled "The Shape of American Politics to Come," is the last of Behrend's 1988-89 speaker series and is free and open to the public.

Schlesinger, the author of 23 on subjects ranging from "Violence: America in the Sixties" to "The Dynamics of World Power," has won two Pulitzer Prizes -- one for history and one for biography. He has also earned a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Book Award and Italy's Fregene Prize for Literature.

Schlesinger served as a member of the Adlai Stevenson campaign staff in 1952 and 1956. He was a Special Assistant to President John F. Kennedy from 1961 to 1963. Schlesinger has

drawn from many of the experiences of his Kennedy days in several of his books, including "Robert Kennedy and His Times," "Kennedy or Nixon," "The Politics of Hope" and "The Bitter Heritage: Vietnam and American Democracy 1941-1966."

Schlesinger served with the Office for Strategic Services during the early 1940's. He joined the United States Army in 1945, then began an educational career as an associate professor of history at Harvard in 1946.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Schlesinger received his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1938. He has since received 15 honorary degrees from colleges and universities across the nation. He currently serves as the Albert Schweitzer Professor of the Humanities at the City University of New York, a position he has held since 1966.

New Fraternity

by Traci Fenton
Collegian Staff Writer

Sigma Tau Gamma is the latest addition to Penn State Behrend this spring as the campus' newest social fraternity. Presently there are 27 members wearing the blue, white and gray Greek letters around campus.

Last semester junior Christopher Dean was interested in starting a new fraternity. One of the founders of the present fraternity, freshmen Robert Grasinger, suggested Sigma Tau Gamma because of two close relatives who were Sigma Tau Gamma alumni from Edinboro.

After much work and a good deal of organization the colony was finally formed on January 21, 1989. A formal banquet was held at Carmen's Restaurant in Erie with three of the National Representatives present. Approval by Greek Council was then sought and their constitution was submitted to Student Government Association for a final vote. Sigma Tau Gamma was then fully recognized on campus Wednesday, March 29.

"Dave Shields (Assistant Dean of Student Services) and Inter-Greek Council were very supportive in their efforts to work with us and to help us better understand the fundamentals of a fraternity," new President Dean said. During the pledging period several members of Sigma Tau Gamma attended a Regional Conclave in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "Leadership and organizational skills were taught along with the basic concepts of how to run a fraternity" explained Social Director Steven Alauzen. The Conclave was attended by fifteen Sig Tau Chapters and over 150 active members.

Davis

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insight of characters in "White Rook."

"Right now, naturally, because things have gone so well with mystery, I think more along those lines, but I still have a lot of wacky ideas that I pursue," said Davis.

In addition to his novels, Davis has had several short stories and nonfiction books published. His short stories include one entitled "Fortress" which is being republished in Pearl Street Press, Inc., a magazine based in Denver. Davis has published books on authors Stanislaw Lem, Dick Francis, Edward Albee and Robertson Davies.

Davis is currently working on a third novel, this one about a Nazi war criminal. He will serve as resident writer at Mercyhurst College in Erie this summer and has been invited to deliver a reading sponsored by Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

Lewis Nordan to Read

Lewis Nordan, author of two short story collections: "Welcome to the Arrow-Catcher Fair" (1983) and "The All-Girl Football Team" (1986) will read from his work at 7:30 p.m., April 21, in the Memorial Room.

Nordan lectures in the creative writing program at the University of Pittsburgh. He was the recipient of the John Gould Fletcher award for fiction; his stories have appeared in such magazines as "Harper's", "Southern Review", "Greensboro Review", and "Redbook", and have been included in such anthologies as "New Stories from the South" and "The New Writers of the South."

Election Results

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| Student Programming Council Pres. - Brent Vernon Vice Pres. - Jennifer Matz | Inter-Club Council Pres. - David Mahoney Vice Pres. - Charles Gable |
| Joint Residence Council Pres. - Lynn Case Vice Pres. - Beth Rogers | Commuter Council Pres. - Ted Hacker Vice Pres. - Carolyn Gawlinski |
| Resident Senators Stephen B. Field Rommel Taylor Ala Stanford | Meggan Iverson Scott T. Serapiglia |
| Commuter Senators Victoria M. Freund Karen Bunting Lorenzo J. Paul | Dave Kravetz Paul Banner John Boyko |