



Texas Tech University

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The Faculty Senate

December 9, 1977

Dear Fellow Senators:

As you must know by now, on December 2, 1977, by action of the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate was created and has replaced the Faculty Council at Texas Tech University. This was, indeed, great news for all of us who were concerned about faculty participation in governance at our maturing university.

Thus, one phase of improved faculty participation in university governance has been realized and a second phase is being initiated. The second phase involves the solid establishment of an efficient, responsible and representative Senate, which has the support of its constituency and the respect of the administration.

Specifically, as a first order of business it is urgent that elections be held and bylaws be written and these items are on the agenda for your action. Two items, agenda items III and IV, require timely action and, in order to aid you in your thoughts on the matters, I am bringing them to your attention now.

Item III: This item concerns the officers and committees of the Senate. The Constitution states that "the initial composition of the Faculty Senate shall consist of the elected members of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council." Does this mean that the Executive Committee, complete with its internal structuring of officers and committees (especially the Committee on Committees and Election Committee) becomes the initial Senate. Although they are conceptually related, perhaps the carryover of officers and the carryover of committees should be treated separately. In the absence of bylaws, I believe the whole question is subject to the interpretation of the Senate.

Item IV: This item concerns the election of additional Senators to "bring the membership into conformity, to the extent possible, with its constitutional size and composition." The primary difficulties here are the interpretation of present constituency and the length of the initial term.

The difficulty with the present constituency is this: The Executive Committee had fourteen of its twenty one members elected at-large. The Faculty Senate is to have nine at-large Senators. Three at-large Senators must have expiring terms each year. Only one Senator per college was a college representative of the Executive Committee. Therefore, it seems reasonable to have some of us change our representation status and to assume the status of college or school representatives. I do not believe there is any constitutional prohibition to this change of representation status and that this could be done by Senate action. The alternative is to have an initial number of fourteen at-large Senators with no at-large elections for at least two years.

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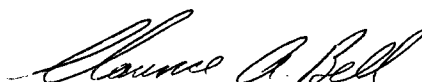
For your convenience, I have enclosed a suggested representation plan with this letter. The plan is not unique, but is the best I could devise in the limited time available, and it could be helpful to you in developing another plan. In the enclosed plan, the main columns headed "78", "79" and "80" are term expiration dates. The "X" marks indicate where I have placed Senators for representation purposes. For example, Professor Pearson is an at-large representative who would become an Arts & Sciences Senator with his term expiring in 1980. The row labeled "Total" shows, subject to this plan, our present representation prior to the first election. The next row, labeled "Elected Immediately" shows the number of Senators to be elected in the first election. The determination of the specific expiration dates for each of these newly elected Senators would be by lot, in accordance with the Constitution. The next row, labeled "No. of Senators" shows the distribution after the first election. The reasons for the specific distribution of our present Senators into the categories shown, are evident from the next two rows. If, by chance, our relative distribution by college was the same as that required by the Constitution, we would have to have, for example, 8.9 Arts & Sciences Senators because $8.9 \times (21/52) \doteq 22$, which is the proper number of Arts & Sciences Senators. This information is in the row labeled, "Initially, should be." I believe you can see that with the suggested distribution, we would come very close to distributing initial representation in a constitutionally agreeable way.

Another possible problem concerns length of term for some of the newly elected Senators. Consider a Senator elected in the first election, probably attending his/her first Senate meeting in March, and, by lot, having his/her term expire in May. That is a very short term. Should all newly elected Senators have their terms extended a year? Suggestion: Have their terms expire in May but, since they were elected for less than one year, remind them that they are eligible to stand for election again in April, without an intervening one-year interim. (Elections in April will be necessary, in any event, since those of us whose terms expire in 1978 would need to be replaced.)

The other transitional items on the agenda (items V and VI) would, in my judgment, be best handled by committee action.

I hope this discussion will be helpful to you, and look forward to seeing you at the historic first meeting of the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University.

Sincerely,



Clarence A. Bell
Acting President

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Encl.