

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE

1978-1979

## Note to the faculty:

Beginning with the October 11, 1978 meeting of the Faculty Senate a summary of business transacted has been included with each set of minutes. In view of this, it was decided to alter the format of the Annual Report which, in the past, has consisted of an outline of business conducted during the year, in much the same form as the summary statements now included with each set of minutes. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication and to provide a more comprehensible accounting of the activities of the Faculty Senate, this Annual Report will consist of a series of narratives in which the progress of each of the major issues to come before the Senate during the year is summarized. Those who wish to locate a specific item of business in the minutes are referred to the Summaries of Business Transacted which are found on the first page of each set of minutes for the year except for the September 13, 1978 meeting. A Summary of Business Transacted for that meeting follows this statement. It is hoped that this format will meet with the approval of the faculty.

Faculty Senate Meeting #7, September 13, 1978

## SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED

The Faculty Senate:

1. Agreed to rules of procedure for Senate meetings proposed by President Margaret Wilson.
2. Heard a report from Jacq Collins regarding Coordinating Board policy on faculty workload.
3. Heard a report indicating that the Board of Regents had not placed the question of invocations policy on its agenda for the August meeting and moved to: 1) direct the ad hoc Invocations Committee to re-study the matter in the light of new information which had become available and report to the Faculty Senate at its next regular meeting, and 2) to invoke Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, which provides for the University President to appear before the Senate at its request to explain failure to follow a Senate recommendation.
4. Moved to appoint an ad hoc committee to study and prepare responses to two bills calling for replacement of tenure with faculty employment contracts.
5. Passed a resolution appointing an ad hoc committee to investigate possible infringements of academic freedom in the cancellation of production of the play Equus.
6. Moved to advise the Admissions and Records Office of the faculty's desire to be informed twice during the semester of the drop-add status of students enrolled in their classes, once at mid-semester and again one week following the last drop date.
7. Moved that Admissions and Records be requested to send student drop-add information directly to faculty members with a copy to department chairpersons and also to inform that office of the general dissatisfaction of faculty with the existing system for informing them of drop-add status of their students.
8. Heard and acted favorably on committee nominations submitted from the Committee on Committees.

Summary of Business Transacted continued.....

9. Heard a report on the 1977-78 activities of the Tenure and Privilege Committee and moved to have the President of the Faculty Senate write a letter to the Vice President for Academic Affairs expressing the Senate's concern over that Committee's problems regarding its charge and its inability to obtain information relating to the cases before it.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Faculty Senate met in nine regularly scheduled sessions during the year and called one special meeting on April 4 to conclude business from the agenda of the previous (March 14) regularly scheduled meeting. There was one meeting of the general faculty called by the Senate at the request of President Mackey and held on April 18, 1979. Dr. Mackey introduced recipients of teaching awards and Horn Professorships and discussed the general state of the University.

AD HOC COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The following ad hoc committees were active during the 1978-79 year:

- A. Academic Excellence Fund - The committee filed an interim report on 10/11/78. Its final report of 12/13/78 recommended disestablishment of the Academic Excellence Fund but endorsed the purposes for which the Fund was created and suggested that the Faculty Senate contact the Ex-Students Association, Dads Association, and any other University affiliated fund raising bodies to elicit support. The Senate moved to take formal action on these recommendations on 12/13/78.
- B. Academic Freedom - This committee was created by Senate action (2/14/79) in accord with recommendation #1 of the Equus Committee. Its charge is: "To study academic freedom and its application on this campus. Special attention should be directed to developing a better understanding of the various activities that fall within the protection of the concept." No reports have been received to date.
- C. Equus - A committee established by Senate resolution (9/13/78) to investigate possible infringements of academic freedom in the cancellation of production of two plays Equus and Curse of the Starving Class. An interim report was received on 1/10/79. The final report (2/14/79) found that there had been an infringement of academic freedom in the events which led to eventual cancellation of the plays and recommended steps which should be taken to avoid repetition of such incidents. The Senate acted on the recommendations by creating an ad hoc committee to study academic freedom at TTU and forwarding pertinent portions of the Committee report to President Mackey as findings of the Faculty Senate (2/14/79). President Mackey has not responded formally to the Senate on this matter. He did discuss it in the general faculty meeting (4/18/79) in response to a question from the floor, indicating that, in his opinion, there was no violation of academic freedom in the Equus incident. President Mackey also stated that a formal, written response would be forthcoming soon.
- D. Faculty Employment Contracts - This committee was brought into being to prepare a response to two bills (the Gaston Bills) proposed for introduction to the Texas House of Representatives in the 1979 session. The bills in question would have replaced

Faculty Employment Contracts continued.....

tenure with renewable employment contracts (9/13/78). A report critical of the Gaston Bills and defending the principle of tenure was adopted by the Faculty Senate (12/13/78). The Committee was asked to consider a pre-filed third version of the Gaston Bill (1/10/79). A supplementary report to the Faculty Senate (2/14/79) indicated no significant differences in the various versions of the Bill and reiterated earlier findings. The State House of Representatives has set aside consideration of this matter for the current biennium, but did appoint a committee to study the question of tenure at State colleges and universities.

- E. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) - A final report was submitted during summer 1978. It was noted in the announcements (9/13/78), but no Senate action was taken.
- F. Invocations - A committee created by Faculty Senate action on 1/18/78. A report received on 5/10/78 was endorsed by the Senate with a recommendation to President Mackey that the tradition of pre-game invocations at Tech home football games be ended. This matter was not on the agenda of the 8/4/78 meeting of the Board of Regents. The Faculty Senate acted on 9/13/78 to direct the Committee to re-study the issue of invocation constitutionality in view of new information received and asked President Mackey to appear before it to explain why the matter was not considered by the Board. The Committee gave its final report on 10/11/78, finding that the question of constitutionality is unclear but probably rests in whether pre-game invocations are a matter of "practice" or "policy". President Mackey addressed the Senate on 11/8/78, informing the senators that the Chairman of the Board of Regents chose not to place the matter on the Board agenda because he perceived a lack of interest in considering a change in established policy among the members. The Senate responded by moving to ask that President Mackey request an opinion on the constitutionality of pre-game invocations from the Attorney General. Mackey met again with the Senate on 1/17/79 to explain his reasons for not soliciting such an opinion.
- G. Selection of Faculty to Attend Out-of-Town Football Games - The final report for 1978 was received during the summer and noted in the announcements of the 9/13/78 Faculty Senate meeting.
- H. Replacement of Senators on Temporary Leave - This committee was established by Senate vote on 10/11/78. Its final report (12/13/78) recommended an amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws covering absences of senators from Senate meetings. This was passed and became effective on 1/1/79.
- I. Retirement - A committee formed by Senate action on 4/19/78. An interim report on pending changes in Social Security legislation was presented on 10/11/78. The final report of the committee on 1/17/79 endorsed the earlier Senate request for immediate implementation of age 70 retirement for faculty and recommended establishment of a formal policy on continuing employment of faculty beyond age 70. This report was adopted by Faculty Senate vote.

ad hoc Committees of the Faculty Senate continued.....

- J. Retirement Age Increase to 70 - A committee created by Senate action on 12/13/78 and charged with preparing a report supporting the Senate resolution (11/8/78) calling for immediate establishment of age 70 as the mandatory retirement age for faculty. An interim report was received on 1/17/79 and a final report presented to the Senate on 2/14/79. The age 70 retirement policy was adopted by the Board of Regents at the March 30 meeting.
- K. Tenure Review - The final report of this committee was noted in the minutes of 9/13/78. No action was taken on the matter.
- L. Van Use - A committee established by Senate resolution on 2/14/79 to investigate use of vans in the University motor pool. No reports have been received to date.

RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS (OTHER THAN THOSE BROUGHT BEFORE THE SENATE BY OR IN REFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES OF AD HOC COMMITTEES)

- A. A resolution requesting that faculty retirement policy be made consistent with that for classified and administrative personnel before the federally mandated 1982 deadline was passed on 11/8/78. The Board of Regents approved a policy following this resolution at its meeting of March 30, 1979.
- B. A motion to establish a procedure by which administrative officers of the University may fill vacancies on committees as they occur during the year passed on 11/8/78.
- C. A resolution supporting continuation of carillon performances at specified times and expressing appreciation to musicians who play was passed on 11/8/78.
- D. A motion to have the Senate President draft letters to appropriate elected officials regarding the appointment of Texas Tech University regents passed the Senate on 12/13/78.
- E. A resolution requesting that final examinations not be scheduled as close to Christmas Vacation as in the 1978-79 academic year passed on 12/13/78. In response to this resolution subsequent University calendars are being submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval. At Senate request, a change was made in the 1979-80 calendar to provide additional time for faculty to turn in final grades. A similar request for change in the 1980 summer and fall calendar has been submitted to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- F. The Faculty Senate endorsed resolutions from the Student Senate regarding information presented on student diplomas on 12/13/78. The recommendation to include the major program of graduates on diplomas was adopted as of December 1978. A second recommendation that the honors designation now using English form be changed to Latin is pending approval by the Academic Council.
- G. A resolution calling for the establishment of a manual pre-registration plan on a trial basis passed the Senate on 2/14/79. This matter has been sent from the President's Office to Vice President for Academic Affairs Hardwick and Vice President for Student Affairs Ewalt for study.

Resolutions and Motions (Other Than Those Brought Before the Senate by or in Reference to Activities of ad hoc Committees) continued.....

- H. The Senate moved to delete the section referring to student advisement from the charge of the Academic Affairs and Status Committee on 2/14/79.
- I. The Senate moved on 3/14/79 to have the Faculty Senate President convey to President Mackey the desire of the faculty of the University for some form of regularly published bulletin or newsletter to inform faculty and staff of significant University business. The request was acted upon by President Mackey and the Faculty Senate endorsed the concept of an editorial advisory board and nominated two faculty to serve on such a board on 5/9/79. The first issue of the TTU newsletter is tentatively planned for September.
- J. A resolution calling for establishment of a University media center passed on 4/4/79. Planning for a University media center is underway.
- K. A resolution stressing the important contribution of foreign students to the academic environment of the University passed on 4/4/79. This resolution was made in response to bills before the State Legislature to increase foreign student tuition (4/4/79).
- L. The Senate approved on 4/4/79 a motion to disband the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee at such time as the University Grievance Panel procedure is implemented.
- M. A resolution requesting that 50 percent of all funds appropriated by the Legislature for faculty salary increases be given out across-the-board passed on 5/9/79. An earlier resolution calling for 75 percent across-the-board salary increase allocation was defeated on 4/11/79.

REPORTS (OTHER THAN FROM AD HOC COMMITTEES)

- A. Coordinating Board Policy on Faculty Workload - Jacq Collins, a member of the State College Coordinating Board Advisory Committee on Faculty Workload, reported (9/13/78) on the status of that committee's recommendations to the Board. The Coordinating Board policy, significantly modified from the advisory committee recommendations, established a 9-hour minimum teaching load equivalent. Reporting is in three categories: 1) Instructional Activities, 2) Administrative Activities, and 3) Other Activities. Collins expressed concern that inclusion of research in the "Other Activities" category could lead to misunderstandings when workload reports reach the State Legislature.
- B. A report from the Tenure and Privilege Committee indicated that the Committee 1) lacked a satisfactory definition of "academic freedom", 2) and it had been instructed to ignore part of its charge, and 3) had experienced difficulty in obtaining information relating to cases before it (9/13/78). The Senate President was instructed to draft a letter to the Vice President for Academic Affairs informing him of the concern of the Faculty Senate over the latter two matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. The Faculty Senate considered a request from the Office of Admissions and Records to give an opinion on two items: 1) frequency of distribution of drop-add sheets, and 2) should this information be sent to departmental chairs or directly to individual instructors? The Senate moved to inform that office of its preference

Other Business continued.....

that drop-add information be circulated twice during the semester and that this information be sent directly to each faculty member with copies to departmental chairs (9/13/78). A report from Wilson (10/11/78) outlined the results of a follow-up meeting with personnel from Admission and Records. In response to a comment from that meeting, the Senate moved to recommend elimination of the 7th freshman pre-registration conference to the Admission and Registration Committee for action (10/11/78). Action on this recommendation was favorable. Late arriving freshman students will henceforth register in the coliseum (3/14/79).

- B. The Senate considered proposed grievance procedures for faculty and made informal recommendations to President Mackey for changes on 1/17/79. A second draft of the procedures was reviewed and four specific revisions were recommended on 3/14/79. Three of the four recommendations were incorporated into the final procedure and the final version with changes was accepted by the Faculty Senate on 5/9/79. The Grievance Panel Procedures will become effective as of 9/1/79.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary S. Elbow, Secretary  
Faculty Senate

6/1/79