

Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting #25

September 10, 1980

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 10 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Roland E. Smith, president, presiding. Senators present were Anderson, Bacon, Blaisdell, Cepica, Cochran, Collins, Dale, Denham, Dixon, Filgo, Gipson, Higdon, Hill, Horridge, Jebson, Keho, Kellogg, Kimmel, Lee, McGuire, McPherson, Masten, Mogan, Nelson, Newcomb, Owens, Rude, Sanders, Schoen, Stewart, Tan, Troub, Volz, Williams, Wilson and Wood. Clements, McDonald, M. Smith and Shine were absent because of university business. Harris, Malloy and Morris were absent.

The guests were Len Ainsworth, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ruthanne Brockway, Avalanche Journal; Pete McNabb, University Daily and David E. Potter, Executive Committee, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. William Conroy and J. William Davis, members of the ad hoc Committee to Investigate Compliance of Texas Tech University with Southwest Athletic Conference Rules, attended.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

The Faculty Senate:

1. Heard the report of the ad hoc Committee to Investigate Compliance of Texas Tech University with Southwest Athletic Conference Rules
2. Approved a resolution calling for the restoration of the Athletic Council to its former, proper role of reviewing and recommending on all important issues relevant to the policies and administration of the intercollegiate athletic program and for three-year appointment terms for faculty members of the Athletic Council.
3. Approved a resolution calling for the investigation into the inadequacies of large lecture halls on campus and for the recommendation of remedial action.
4. Heard a report concerning University Committee appointments
5. Approved a slate of nominees presented by the Committee on Committees for various committees and councils.
6. Heard a report on the meeting of Faculty Senate, AAUP, and TACT officers with President Cavazos.
7. Approved a motion that the Budget Study Committee be charged with the investigation of the financial situation of the Library.
8. Approved a motion reaffirming "our commitment to faculty participation in the processes of defining and responding to the conditions of financial exigency."
9. Approved a motion calling for the Tenure and Privilege Committee to report on the status of its recommendations concerning temporary faculty positions.

Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 and asked that Senators introduce themselves. Smith introduced the guests and welcomed them to the meeting. He also announced that a parliamentarian has not yet been appointed and that the Senate currently is seven short of its full membership because of development leaves, leaves of absence, and resignations.

I. MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 1980 MEETING

Bacon moved the Senate approve the minutes of the May 7, 1980 meeting as distributed. The motion carried.

II. REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE COMPLIANCE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY WITH SOUTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE RULES - Conroy

Conroy explained that the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed relevant documents and correspondence and made numerous calls to former members of the Athletic Council. He then read the committee's report. Texas Tech University has not been in compliance with the provisions of Article III of the Southwest Athletic Conference Constitution, even in the most liberal sense, since 1977. Since that time the frequency of council meetings has decreased and the meetings which have occurred have been mainly informational sessions consisting of briefings by the men's and women's athletic directors, plus tours of the facilities. The Athletic Council seems to have been removed from the main avenue of communication between the Athletic Department and the University administration. The committee recommended that the new President of Texas Tech University, Dr. Cavazos, be urged to restore the Athletic Council to its former, proper role of reviewing and recommending to him on all important issues relevant to the policies and the administration of the inter-collegiate athletic program. It further recommended that the length of faculty appointments to the council be returned to three years with staggered terms to provide continuity.

Wilson raised a question concerning the conflict between the three-year term and the one-year term stipulated by the Board of Regents. She explained that President Cavazos would introduce restoration of the three-year term at the Friday, September 12, meeting of the Board of Regents.

III. RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL - Jebson

Jebson moved that the Senate adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate established, in its meeting of March 22, 1980, a committee charged with determining whether Texas Tech has been in compliance with the rules of the Southwest Athletic Conference, and

WHEREAS that committee has completed its task and has reported that Texas Tech University has not been in compliance with the provisions of Article III of the Southwest Athletic Conference Constitution since 1977,

Resolution regarding the Athletic Council continued.....

BE IT RESOLVED that the President of Texas Tech University is hereby urged to restore the Athletic Council to its former, proper role of reviewing and recommending to him on all important issues relevant to the policies and administration of the intercollegiate athletic program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the length of appointment of faculty to the Athletic Council be restored to three years' duration, with terms staggered in order to provide continuity.

The motion to adopt the resolution passed without opposition.

IV. RESOLUTION CONCERNING LARGE LECTURE HALLS - Smith

Smith spoke to his resolution concerning large lecture halls, explaining that it was written in response to complaints concerning the facilities. Cochran, Newcomb, Jebson, and Rude raised various questions concerning unnumbered seats, lack of control over heating and air conditioning, and lack of equipment. Ainsworth, noting that there are thirteen rooms holding 200 or more people, said the problem was related to media equipment and the building renovation reviews.

Wilson moved the Senate adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS faculty members in several departments are required to hold large classes in lecture halls in many locations on campus, and

WHEREAS numerous faculty members have complained about the inadequacy of some of those lecture halls with regard to acoustical problems, blackboard space, the use of electric audio-visual equipment, physical comfort and external noises,

BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate administrative officer of the university be encouraged to conduct an investigation into the inadequacies of the large lecture halls on campus, and recommend that remedial action be taken. Such investigation should include, but not be limited to, careful inspection and interviews with faculty members who have used those lecture halls in the past.

The motion to adopt the resolution passed with no opposition.

V. REPORT ON PROBLEMS CONCERNING UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - Smith

Recent lists of University Council and Committee appointments excluded a number of names and the Senate President has had inquiries as to why these committees have names missing. Smith explained that nominees were not made in time to appear in the University Council and Committee appointments but will appear in an update which will be issued shortly. Two other problems, however, exist. The four committees which require special expertise (Biosafety, Protection of Human Subjects, Radiation and Laser Safety, and Warm Blood Animals) require the Chairperson of the Committee on Committees and the Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research to determine the eligibility of faculty members to serve on these committees. A delay developed last spring, and administrative officials, becoming anxious to make appointments, declared these four committees "special committees" rather than standing committees since their purpose is for information. Thus faculty members appointed to these committees need not be nominated by the Faculty Senate. In addition, faculty members nominated by the Committee on Committees and approved by the Senate to serve on the Academic Publications Policy Committee were not appointed to this committee because of a delay in communication of information to proper administrative officials. The appointments to the Academic Publications Policy Committee were made without Senate approval.

Smith has spoken with administrative officials making these appointments, protesting their actions, and has written letters to this effect to Jones and Cavazos. The action creates a problem for the Senate in that it undermines the Senate's constitution and one of its functions.

Considerable discussion followed, concerning the nature of and function of the four standing committees. Dixon said he was unaware of the decision to make these standing committees "special committees" and that the Senate should not relinquish the right to make appointments. Newcomb asked if appointments need to be monitored. Ainsworth pointed out the value of having a non-faculty lay person on the Biosafety Committee.

Dixon moved the Senate recommend to the proper administrative officials that the responsibility for nominations of persons to serve on the four committees under discussion be returned to the Committee on Committees for its nominations of persons to serve on these committees.

Schoen offered an amendment to change the word "recommend" to "demand".

Several Senators called for more diplomatic wording of the motion.

Kimmel proposed, as a friendly amendment, that the Faculty Senate "remind" the administration of the Senate's responsibilities. Wilson suggested substituting "remind the administration of the Senate's responsibilities which have been violated in the following manner (with the violations to be spelled out)." Schoen withdrew his amendment at this time.

Troub suggested that Article V. section 4 of the Senate Constitution adopted by the Board of Regents be added to the motion. Section 4 reads: "The President of the University may establish and define composition of ad hoc or standing committees or councils of Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University School of Medicine, and the Museum of Texas Tech University, or joint committee or councils of the above, and may

Report on problems concerning university committee appointments continued.....

determine if members are to be elected or appointed. Texas Tech University faculty members appointed to these standing (but not ad hoc) committees or councils shall be selected from a list of nominees for each committee or council provided by the Faculty Senate. The President of the University may specify the number of nominations to be supplied by the Faculty Senate for each such committee or council position.

The position of chairperson of the Athletic Council of the University shall not be open to nomination by the Faculty Senate."

Volz asked if the President of the University has the power to change the nature of committees. Smith and Wilson indicated that he has the power but that there seemed to have been little reason for the changes under discussion.

The Senate approved the suggested amendments and also approved the motion which now read: "The Faculty Senate reminds the administration that the responsibility for nomination to the four committees (named above) resides with the Faculty Senate and has been violated in the following manner (name the ways) and we request that the committees be restored to their former status."

Rude moved to send the motion to the agenda committee for rewriting and presentation to the Senate in final form next month. The motion carried 19 in favor, 13 opposed.

VI. REPORT ON MEETING WITH HARDWICK CONCERNING COORDINATING BOARD'S ACTIONS REGARDING COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND EFFECTIVENESS - Smith

Smith reported that the presidents of TACT, AAUP, and the Faculty Senate, along with other faculty members attended a meeting with Vice President Hardwick on July 30, for a briefing on some of the things the Coordinating Board has been doing in the area of program evaluation. The Office of Academic Affairs plans to examine all University programs with the idea of eliminating some and improving others. Collins asked if any faculty participation in planning the direction the University hopes to go in the next five to ten years is expected. The answer was no. Bacon asked if the Coordinating Board's "trade-off policy" meant that no course could be added without the deletion of another course. Ainsworth reminded the Senate that programs, not courses, were under consideration and that any consideration of a program involved faculty participation at the departmental level but not beyond. He said no new degree programs would be added without the dropping of existing programs. He stressed that new programs compete for existing resources. Stewart said there was a difference of opinion between the Staff of the Coordinating Board and its political members, and that the staff had had input for Hobby's committee concerning salaries. Collins asked if faculty participation was expected in implementing the research areas Cavazos outlined in his recent letter.

Cochran moved that the Senate president refer to one of the standing study committees the matter of finding a way for the Faculty Senate to participate in the University's process of reviewing programs, courses, divisions, and departments, the establishment of new research programs, and so forth. Cochran's motion carried without opposition.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Dixon, reporting for the Committee on Committees, presented a slate of nominees

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to be approved by the Senate and forwarded to the proper administrative officers to fill positions now vacant on various committees and councils. The slate of nominees was approved and will be forwarded to the appropriate administrative officials.

The Senate approved Murl Larkin, School of Law, to fill a vacancy on the Faculty Status & Welfare Committee, a standing committee of the Faculty Senate. The Senate elected Paul Hanna, Art Department, to serve on the Special Hearing Panel for Tenure and Privilege.

Smith reported on a meeting with the President September 8, 1980. Among the subjects discussed were finances in the broadest sense and, specifically, faculty salaries, merit raises versus across the board raises, the amount of money available, financial problems of the Library, and faculty morale which the President wants to discuss again later.

At this point, there was a lengthy discussion of the status of the Library finances and several suggestions of ways to improve the conditions were discussed. Collins voiced considerable concern about the "blanket order" being in jeopardy with no strong administrative action meeting the problem. Newcomb questioned the spending of \$300,000 on landscaping of the Science Quadrangle and the installation of sprinkler systems when the Library financing is in crisis. Nelson favored telling the President of the scope of the problems. He voiced doubt that the Library is presently a priority concern. To the suggestion that the faculty contribute to help the Library, Wilson responded that if one solved problems for the administration, it would come to expect it to continue to be solved in the same manner. Ainsworth said people were not unaware of the Library difficulties and explained that some of the problem came from the insufficiency of formula funding. Collins and Nelson pointed out that the Library cancelled large numbers of periodicals subscriptions a few years ago and that statements that the blanket order covered 95% of faculty requests was misleading. Rude mentioned the problems of catching up on out-of-print books and periodicals.

Lee moved that the Budget Study Committee be charged with the investigation of the financial situation of the Library. The motion passed with no opposition.

Collins asked if the University had abandoned all efforts to save energy this summer. Several senators indicated that their buildings had not been cooled during the summer. Keho indicated that construction during the summer had created some of the problems.

Stewart called attention to item 34 of the Faculty Senate correspondence. He objected to the use of the term "faculty reduction" in the event of financial exigency. He moved the adoption of the statement, "We reaffirm our commitment to faculty participation in the processes of defining and responding to the conditions of financial exigency." The motion carried with one abstention.

With reference to item A.1 of the agenda, "There was discussion of temporary faculty and whether additional policies need to be developed as regards personnel who come into non-tenure track positions. There was discussion, without action, of the need for limiting the number of temporary or non-tenure track positions and the possibilities of individuals filling those positions applying for regular positions as they become available," Rude moved that the Senate request from the Tenure and Privilege Committee a report on the

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status of its recommendations to the President, which the Senate heard at its last meeting, regarding the elimination of temporary faculty positions and that the Senate request that this report include any recommendations from the President on the Tenure and Privilege Committee's recommendations, any information about change in status of persons who were last year on temporary contracts, and some type of overall picture of where temporary appointments occur within the University and what percentage of those persons on temporary contracts are women.

The motion carried.

Nelson moved that the Faculty Senate register its concern over the crisis of the Texas Tech Library and inform the President of the need for the University to divert available funding into the purchase of books and other materials for the Library.

The motion carried.

There was a brief discussion of the harassment by campus police of bicycle riders on campus. Several senators discussed the matter briefly. Sanders agreed to contact a member of the Campus Security and Emergency Committee regarding the matter, and if he meets with no success, bring the matter back to the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

David Leon Higdon
David Leon Higdon, Secretary
Faculty Senate
9/24/80