

Minutes
Faculty Senate
Meeting #34
September 9, 1981

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 9, 1981, at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Ben Newcomb, President, presiding. Senators present were Anderson, Bartell, Berlin, Biggers, Blaisdell, Burkhardt, Cepica, Chonko, Clements, Cochran, Conover, Cummings, Denham, Filgo, Freeman, Gipson, Graves, Harris, Hickerson, Hill, Horridge, Keho, Kimmel, Kunhardt, Masten, Maynard, Moreland, Nelson, Owens, Pearson, Rude, Schoen, Smith, Sowell, Stewart, Tan, Urban, Volz, Williams, Wilson, and Zyla. Senators Gilbert and Malloy were absent because of university business. Senator Bacon was absent because of illness and Senator Mogan was also absent.

Guests included John R. Darling, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mark Henderson, President, Student Association; Charles Hill, Internal Vice President, Student Association; Ernest Sullivan, Parliamentarian; Preston Lewis, University News and Publications; and representatives of the news media.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED:

At its September 9, 1981 meeting, the Senate:

1. approved the Committee on Committees' slate of names to fill vacancies on various university committees;
2. approved the Undergraduate Programs Committee's revision of the pass/fail policy;
3. heard a report from the ad hoc Committee on Tenure Procedures;
4. committed the study of allocation of faculty salary raise monies to the Senate Budget Study Committee;
5. committed the study of academic security and discipline to Campus Security and Emergency Committee and to a standing committee of the Faculty Senate;
6. requested that the Faculty Senate President invite the Director, Personnel and the Chairperson of the Faculty Benefits Committee to the October Senate meeting to discuss rate changes in health insurance and possible alternatives to the current plan;
7. discussed plans for a Fall Commencement;
8. approved tentative date of September 23, 1981 for a called meeting of the Faculty Senate;
9. approved a motion requesting that the President of the Faculty Senate meet with the Vice President for Finance and Administration to pursue the possibility of the formation of an Energy Use and Conservation Committee.

Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and introduced officers of the Faculty Senate, the Senate Parliamentarian, the Faculty Senate Office Secretary, guests, and each Senator introduced himself/herself.

I. MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 1981 MEETING

Anderson moved approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed.

II. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Masten

In the absence of the Chairperson, Malloy, Masten submitted a slate of names for the Senate's approval to fill vacancies on the Convocations Committee, Minority Affairs Committee, University Discipline Committee, University Discipline Appeals Committee, and the Code of Student Affairs Committee. The Senate approved the slate of names as submitted.

University Discipline Committee

Larry Masten, Engineering
Herman Plott, Engineering (alternate)

Minority Affairs Committee

Albert J. Sanger, Engineering

Convocations Committee

Cleborn Maddux, Education
Dale Davis, English (alternate)

University Discipline Appeals Committee

Donald Hermers, Engineering

Code of Student Affairs Committee

Leonard H. Weiner, Engineering

III. REPORT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - Clements

Clements, speaking for the Undergraduate programs Committee, introduced and moved the adoption of the following:

The Undergraduate Committee recommends that the current pass/fail policy be supplemented by the following further restrictions. These should be added to the Catalog in the section on Academic Regulations, subsection on Pass/Fail Option.

Students may not take either English 131 or English 132 pass/fail.
Students may take no more than three hours of required American history pass/fail.

Students may take no more than three hours of required political science pass/fail.

Students shall consult with their academic advisors before declaring pass/fail, and obtain signed approval from advisors on the declaration form.

Harris moved the pass/fail policy be amended as follows:

The pass/fail program or option may not be applied to courses specifically required or required for distribution in the student's degree program.

This amendment would replace the first three lines in the pass/fail policy introduced by Clements and would have the effect of nullifying the statement in the catalog that no more than 9 hours be used to satisfy general degree requirements.

After considerable debate, Harris' amendment passed by a vote of 21 to 18.

The pass/fail policy passed as amended.

IV. REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF TENURE PROCEDURES - Smith

Smith reported that the committee met three times during the summer (May 28, June 17, June 19),. Members are: Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, C. Len Ainsworth; Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, J. Knox Jones; Professors Wendell Aycock, Jacquelin Collins, Ben Newcomb and Roland Smith.

Items considered included:

1. What constitutes notification to the faculty member.
2. How a faculty member files an allegation of violation.
3. How the allegation is first considered in terms of the tenure policy, section 4-h (8).
4. Consideration of due process safeguards for the individual and the institution.
5. Whether recommendations (if any) of this ad hoc committee should be made to the Tenure Policy Review Committee for long-term inclusion or whether these should be applicable only for the interim period, this is, until the policy is readopted or changed.

The committee agreed upon the procedures to be followed until a revised tenure policy is adopted. Generally, it agreed on those which have been practiced in the past, with some modifications concerning the procedure for making a complaint. The committee is to meet soon to approve or modify the final draft of its proposal.

V. COMMITMENT OF STUDY OF ALLOCATION OF FACULTY SALARY RAISE MONIES TO SENATE BUDGET STUDY COMMITTEE

Newcomb asked that the Senate refer this matter to the Budget Study Committee. The Senators gave approval. Smith suggested that Gary Elbow be consulted on this matter because he has researched the issue and perhaps has information that would be of use to the committee.

VI. COMMITMENT OF THE STUDY OF ACADEMIC SECURITY AND DISCIPLINE TO A SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE

Newcomb asked that this issue be committed to a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate for further study. Stewart moved to amend the request by referring the matter of bomb threats designed to disrupt classes and testing and burglary of offices to obtain tests and change grades to the Campus Security and Emergency Committee. Harris moved to amend Stewart's amendment by referring the matter of bomb threats designed to disrupt classes and burglary of offices to the Campus Security and Emergency Committee and to a Senate Study Committee simultaneously. Harris' motion to amend the original amendment passed by a vote of 20-17. The amended motion, to submit the matter of bomb threats and burglary of offices to two committees, the Campus Security and Emergency Committee and to a Standing Study Committee of the Senate for their simultaneous study passed. The Senate Study Committee will also secure information on the disposition of cases in which students are accused of cheating or plagiarism.

VII. REQUEST THAT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FACULTY BENEFITS COMMITTEE AND THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL BE INVITED TO MEET WITH THE SENATE IN OCTOBER

Kimmel moved that the Senate invite the Chairperson of the Benefits Committee and the Director of Personnel to the October meeting to discuss rate changes in health insurance and possible alternatives to the current plan and to request a comparison of benefits of the medical school and the university. The Senators also asked for a comparison of TTU benefits and health insurance rates with those of other universities -- perhaps the University of Texas. The motion carried.

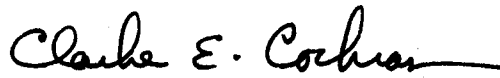
VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Wilson asked Vice President for Academic Affairs Darling about the rumor circulating over campus that there would be a December graduation this year. Darling replied that there would be a December graduation, on a date not yet determined, known as "Fall Commencement." The rumor that seniors would be exempt from final exams is indeed a rumor according to Darling. This matter would be brought before the Senate for its consideration. There was discussion about the financial feasibility of the Fall Commencement. Darling said that the matter would be referred to the Convocations Committee for their input before it is submitted to the Board of Regents on October 3rd for their consideration. Darling stated that in the future, if at all possible, matters of this nature would be presented to the Faculty Senate for its consideration and input before being presented to the Board of Regents. He noted that in this particular matter timing prevents the issue from being considered by the Senate before being presented to the Board of Regents.

Stewart moved that the President of the Faculty Senate call a special meeting of the Senate on September 23, 1981, (or on whatever date the President of the Senate finds is best) to consider the matter of the Fall Commencement. The motion carried.

Stewart moved that the President of the Faculty Senate meet with the Vice President for Finance and Administration to consider the formation of an Energy Use and Conservation Committee. Stewart's motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.


Clarke E. Cochran, Secretary
Faculty Senate
9/16/81