

MINUTES - FACULTY SENATE MEETING #65

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, December 12, 1984, at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Evelyn Davis, President, presiding. Senators present were Adamcik, Anderson, Ayoub, Blair, Burnett, Carlile, Collins, Coulter, Cravens, Curry, K. Davis, Dvoracek, Eissinger, Ford, Gettel, Gipson, Goss, Gott, Havens, Higdon, Keho, Khan, Lee, McKown, Mayer-Oakes, Mehta, Newcomb, Oberhelman, Owens, Richardson, Rude, Sasser, Shine, Sparkman, Steele, Stockton, Strauss, Sullivan, Teske, Thornhill, Vallabhan, Welton, Whitsitt, Williams, Wilson and Wright. Senators Bloomer, Dixon, Freeman and Wicker were absent.

Vernon McGuire, Associate Professor, Speech Communications, served as Parliamentarian.

Guests included John R. Darling, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research; Preston Lewis, University News and Publications; Paul Cline, Avalanche Journal; Chip May, University Daily; Jim Green and Guy Morton, Channel 11; Eric Summers, Channel 13; Valerie Ullman and Pat Broyles; Channel 28.

Davis recognized Senator Robert Carlile, recently elected to represent the College of Engineering.

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 1984 MEETING

Wilson moved approval of the minutes as distributed. Hearing no opposition to the motion, Evelyn Davis, President, declared the minutes approved.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee D - Mary Owens, Chair, read the following statement:

Faculty Senate Standing Study Committee "D"

"recommends against the Faculty Senate participating in the development of procedures for implementation of the tenure policy, specifically the five-year review since the tenure policy is a policy of the administration and opposed by a large majority of the faculty; (1) participation with the administration would be an inconsistent action, and (2) participation to a significant extent could compromise the legal rights of the individual faculty member."

Newcomb inquired as to what kind of legal counsel was sought on point #2. Eissinger responded by saying no legal opinions were sought -- just an opinion from a member of the law faculty -- no fee charged. Eissinger further stated that "it would be foolish for us to say that there could not be a problem. There may not be a problem. We would be remiss to counsel faculty to participate in the development of procedures for implementation of the new tenure policy. Faculty may want to participate but reserve all due rights."

Faculty Senate Standing Study Committee "D" report continued.....

Sullivan raised the question as to whether the Faculty Handbook was used as the basis for their statement. He said that in the Faculty Handbook it clearly states that Faculty should assist in formulation of policy, and that Administration should implement policy. The answer to Sullivan's question from Owens was "no".

Mayer-Oakes stated that Owens' statement represented the views of the committee. He said faculty should act in their own interest, however. The question is, "Should the Senate be involved in telling faculty whether to be involved in developing procedures for implementation of the new tenure policy when we might be compromising the legal rights of an individual faculty member?"

President Davis asked for a vote by a show of hands. The results were:

Favor - 37
Oppose - 1
Abstain - 5

The motion carried.

B. Executive Committee Report - Davis

1. Thirteen Faculty Governance Organizations have passed resolutions of support for the Texas Tech Faculty vote against the new tenure policy. Copies of these resolutions were sent to President Cavazos and to the Board of Regents.
2. On January 14, 1985 at 3:00 p.m. the Faculty Senate Officers will meet with President Lauro F. Cavazos.
3. An ad hoc committee has been appointed by the TTU Board of Regents to hear concerns, discuss issues, and exchange ideas regarding campus matters of particular interest to the faculty, students and administration. The committee is composed of Regents Larry Johnson, Jerry Ford, Rex Fuller and President Lauro F. Cavazos. Johnson will serve as chairman of the committee.

The objective of the committee is to work with representatives of the Faculty Senate, the Horn Professors, Academic Deans, and other groups for the development of better communications and an atmosphere of more cooperation within the University Community.

4. Owens gave an update on faculty response to the Special Edition of Insight.

As a member of the Advisory Group for Insight, Owens asked Bea Zeeck if the Faculty Senate could make a response to the statement by the Board of Regents on October 18, 1984. Bea said that she would take this request under consideration. In a verbal communique the Faculty Senate said that they would give Bea a response to publish before the Christmas Holidays. On December 7, 1984, Bea Zeeck wrote a letter to Mary Owens saying that to publish anything now would be history, not news.

Bea Zeeck asked for a committee from the Faculty Senate to meet with her on future news matters from the Faculty Senate. Sullivan said this is one of the duties that should be assigned to the newly formed ad hoc Campus and Community Relations Committee. Davis agreed and stated that this committee will be assigned to meet with Bea Zeeck.

Owens' update on faculty response to the Special Edition of Insight continued.....

Shine raised the question as to whether the Senate voted at the November meeting to have a synopsis of a rebuttal to the Board's statement published in Insight. Davis said "yes", but Bea Zeeck said that such a rebuttal now would be history. Shine asked, "What is the function of Insight?" Davis said that according to words on the cover of Insight, it is supposed to be a means of communication between faculty, students and the administration.

C. Election Results - Tenure Advisory Committee

Faculty members elected to serve on the TENURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE are:

James Brink, College of Arts & Sciences
Judith Fischer, College of Home Economics
Wayne Ford, College of Arts & Sciences
William Portnoy, College of Engineering
Elizabeth Sasser, College of Engineering

III. FACULTY SENATE ad hoc COMMITTEE REPORTS

Davis announced that two new ad hoc committees have been formed with membership as follows:

FACULTY SENATE ad hoc CAMPUS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jacquelin Collins, Chair
*Robert Baker
*Gary Elbow
*Judith Fischer
William Sparkman
Jerry Stockton
Ashton Thornhill

FACULTY SENATE ad hoc UNIVERSITY STATUS & PROGRESS COMMITTEE

Murray Havens
*Louise Luchsinger
*Neale Pearson
Donald Rude
Elizabeth Sasser
Ernest Sullivan
Henry Wright

*not a member of the Faculty Senate

Collins, chair, gave a brief report for the ad hoc Campus and Community Relations Committee. They have had one meeting. At this meeting Collins mentioned that it was a consensus of the committee for their primary goal to be one in which they present the faculty viewpoints and concerns in a more accurate light to the community at large. The committee will be working to distribute better information across campus as well as better public information off campus.

IV. TABLED MOTION - MAYER-OAKES

The motion by Mayer-Oakes that was tabled at the November meeting (see item VII, page 7 of the November minutes) concerning the need for the Faculty Senate Tenure and Privilege Committee to evaluate procedures established by the TTU administration for implementation of the tenure policy approved September 28, 1984, by the TTU Board of Regents was removed from the tabled status.

Adamcik asked if we get involved, will we prejudice individual rights? Eissinger said "no". On the Owens' motion (see item II, A of these minutes) we were talking about implementation. Here we are talking about evaluation procedures which are going to be developed and implemented by the administration. Newcomb affirmed Eissinger's statement.

The motion passed without absention.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Jacquelin Collins asked why the calendar for final examinations had been changed on such short notice without consulting the faculty? Why has the administration taken such a matter into their hands without consideration to all ramifications? Why do communiques on such matters not come in clear language so that we do not have to ask our deans what the letter means? Strauss added that he had discussed this matter with Kay Dowdy and she said that next year classes will be terminated one day earlier and the final exam schedule will be moved up one day.

Davis said that Collins' question will be referred to a committee.

Rude mentioned that many students are complaining about no real dead week and no real dead day.

- B. Newcomb raised the question about timing of grade reports. He asked the Senate to consider the action taken by the University that late grades be handled as corrections to grade reports by the administration, as is being done this year. In his opinion this would be a good policy for future years.

Davis said that Newcomb's concerns will be assigned to a committee for study.

Shine said that he hoped Darling listened to these discussions under new business. Darling said, "We will do our best."

- C. Higdon mentioned that one of the objectives of the new tenure policy was to build a mechanism to hire good young faculty. This goal is not coming to fruition. Higdon stated further:

- 1) Last year the English Department advertised one position and received 81 applications. This year they advertised five positions and received 80 applications.
- 2) Another university (outside of Texas) advertised a faculty position and received 440 applications. Our University advertised a similar position and received 28 applications.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Henry A. Wright
Henry A. Wright, Secretary
Faculty Senate
12/13/84