

MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING 87

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 11, 1987 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Gerald Skoog, president, presiding. Senators present were Aycock, Blair, Brink, Carlile, Cartwright, Cravens, Curry, Davis, Ethridge, Gades, Gettel, Gipson, Hartwell, Higdon, Hudson, Keho, Koepp, Koh, McLaughlin, McKown, Mann, Mathis, Muma, Newcomb, Oberhelman, Owens, Payne, Pearson, Platten, Reid, Samson, Sasser, Savage, Schoenecke, Scott, Smith, Steele, Stockton, Stoune, Tereshkovich, Whitehead, Whitsitt, Williams, J. Wilson, M. Wilson and Wood. Senator Barnard is on leave from the University. Senator Ford was absent because of illness. Senators Gustafson, Postell and Wicker were absent.

The meeting of the Texas Tech Faculty Senate was called to order by President Skoog on Wednesday, March 11, 1987, at 3:37 p.m.

Skoog welcomed and recognized visitors. Those in attendance include: Don Haragan, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research; Cindy Pandolfo, University Daily; Preston Lewis, News and Publications; Gene Medley, Admissions and Retentions; and the news media.

I. Approval of minutes of the meeting of February 11, 1987

Minutes of the February 11, 1987 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as distributed.

II. Report by William Hartwell, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, on the Academic Council

A. Hartwell reported the following activities of the Academic Council in its meeting of February 17, 1987

1. Fred McClung and John Henson of KTXT discussed the role of the television station at Tech. McClung pointed out that the mission of KTXT is to serve the public convenience and necessity on a regular basis, to support TTU and to provide positive communication between TTU and the community. He discussed services to various departments at TTU and emphasized the role and the instructional program of the various colleges. Mezack distributed copies of information on the costs and function of KTXT. A discussion ensued on the need for academic resources for direct instructional support. Several deans emphasized that the problem was not in the academic role of the station, but rather the source of funds which might be needed for more direct instructional aid. Ainsworth pointed out that every aspect of academic support for various entities will be considered, and that the KTXT unit report was the first in a series.
2. Faculty Recognition. Faculty who are promoted to full professor may not have other opportunities for recognition except for the few who receive teaching awards or Horn professorship. I have been asked to serve on a committee of five to make recommendations in this regard.
3. Faculty salaries were discussed. Ainsworth pointed out that the President is seeking an increase in faculty salaries for the next biennium. There is continued consideration of a return to the printed budget level before the end of the semester. At yesterday's Academic Council meeting Dr. Haragan said, "The issue is not dead." (newspapers, "pay on the come", benefit or suffer.)

4. The Academic Affairs Retreat was being considered for the first or second week of May, but at the last meeting of the Academic Council it was moved to early fall. Suggestions were made to present position papers dealing with conditional admissions, quality of students, research, and long term planning.

5. Tech Appreciation Day was discussed at both meetings. The consensus was that everything turned out well except for the attendance here at Tech during the evening hours.

6. Student fees for computing were discussed by Tom Newman. He mentioned the need for income to help with computers and a possibility of a proposal being brought to the Board of Regents based on a model used by the University of Houston. That model contains a charge of \$30.00 to any student enrolled in a course using computers, and the income then would be credited on a user basis to the college providing the service. Yesterday's meeting found the following three ways of generating income mentioned: a) a fee for users only, b) an across the board fee for all students, and c) a smaller across the board fee with individual colleges charging more for their own use. These were only suggestions by Newman.

7. Ainsworth stated that the Board of Regents has developed a plan to provide matching funds for faculty contributions to the Enterprise Campaign endowment.

B. Hartwell reported the following activities of the Academic Council in its meeting of March 10, 1987

1. Announcements: a) Dr. Haragan stated that the House Appropriations Committee hearing had been scheduled for Tech for this Monday evening. We will come near the end of the order of appropriations listing and could be considered as late as Tuesday morning. He said, "The committee will try to cover higher education in a single day!"

b) Haragan mentioned that both the Student and Faculty Senates had said "yes" to the Pass/Fail situation in which a student would receive the letter grade of "A" in a course taken Pass/Fail if that was the grade attained. The Administrative Council does not agree, however. It will be discussed further.

c) Student Gay Rights groups will meet on the campus during commencement weekend. About 2,000 are possible.

d) Applicants for the office of Vice President of Development have been narrowed to 12, and the final process is now in effect in the School Architecture.

2. NCAA - Sweazy: 28 allegations, 13 thrown out. No major violations.

3. Board of Regents Chair Mayes has made it clear he welcomes faculty to Board meetings. Thursday, March 26th, in 2B152 of the Health Sciences Center immediately following lunch. All executive sessions are held at one time, so no one will be asked to leave after taking a seat.

III. Comments by and discussion with Don Haragan, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research

- A. The House Appropriations Committee will begin hearings on Sunday March 16, 1987.
- B. Consideration of the issue of faculty salaries continues. Board of Regents members want to wait for legislative action on the budget before setting policy at Texas Tech.
- C. The Administrative Council did not approve the proposed pass/fail policy. A report of the objections to the policy will be forthcoming.
- D. The honors and awards convocation will be held in the University Theater. A reception will follow in the Library Croslin Room.
- E. Commencement is set. A faculty member will be the principal speaker at each of the convocations.

IV. Report of the Nominating Committee

The following person were nominated for Faculty Senate Officers: President- Georgette Gettel and Carlton Whitehead; Vice President-Thomas McLaughlin and Elizabeth Sasser; Secretary-Michael Stoune and Robert Wood.

Reid moved to accept the slate. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

V. Reconsideration of the recommendations of the Admissions and Retentions Committee

Wilson moved to remove the motion from the table. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Medley provided clarification of the supplement provided in connection with admissions issues.

After some discussion, Brink moved to refer the recommendations to the Academic Affairs Committee with specific instructions that the committee is to seek input from the authors of the document. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. Brink recommended that Medley's comments be extracted for benefit of the committee.

VI. Report of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee regarding the operating policy on performance evaluations of faculty.

Scott recognized the committee for its work then proceeded to provide some background and clarification as to the evolution of the current report. Scott moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded.

Wilson moved to amend the motion by inserting the words "at least" following "... office for ..." in the last sentence of section 3.c. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Higdon moved to amend the motion by deleting "significant" in section 3.a, second line of the recommendations and by deleting "major" in the instructions of the report form. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Blair moved to amend the motion by adding "(to profession, community, and university)" following "service" in the instructions of the report form. The motion was seconded and passed.

Samson moved to amend the motion by removing the qualifying sentence following the section "Research/Creative Activity:" in the report form. The motion was seconded and passed. The motion as amended passed without opposition.

VII. Reports of other Senate Committees

A. Report of the Committee on Committees - Keho expressed particular appreciation for the work of Pearson in obtaining nominees. Keho emphasized that those committees listed in the report are those for which there were insufficient nominees to fill all slots.

B. Skoog reported the receipt of a letter from Senator Montford promising to carefully monitor legislative action concerning the Select Committee's recommendations.

VIII. New Business

A. Newcomb moved to pass the following resolution:

The Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University thanks the individuals and sponsors who conceptualized, organized, and financed the Texas Tech Appreciation Dinner on February 26, 1987.

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

B. Pearson moved to pass the following resolution:

WHEREAS, legislation before the Texas Legislature at the present time does not prevent faculty salary money appropriated by the State Legislature from being transferred to other accounts; and

WHEREAS, lower than national average salary levels are among the contributing factors making it difficult to attract and retain good faculty at Texas Tech University -- for example the University had a net loss of 56 faculty members at the end of May 1986 over May 1985; and

WHEREAS, the ability of administrators at Texas public institutions to transfer money from salary accounts to other accounts offers an opportunity for activities that would hide the real status of amounts used for salaries; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tech University has followed a tradition of transferring money from various accounts to help supplement the money appropriated by the legislature for salaries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University urges Dr. Lauro Cavazos and Mr. Mike Sanders, the Tech Public Affairs Director in Austin, Texas, to adopt a position that protects faculty salaries from being diverted for other purposes; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to State Representatives and Senators from West Texas, especially those who are graduates of Texas Tech University.

The motion was seconded.

Speaking to the motion, Pearson requested that the following exchange which occurred in the February 11, 1987 meeting of the Faculty Senate with reference to the inclusion of a clause in House Bill No. 123 which permits using money from a salary line item for some other purpose be included in the March minutes:

Pearson: What is Tech's position on this (Board members et cetera)?

Haragan: There is a desirability for flexibility. Generally there is support in the University to move things among lines. I don't think that it is ever going to happen that we are going to be moving money out of salaries to any other line. Never ever really had an opportunity for this; we've always expended more for salaries. We subsidize salary money with other monies.


Additional discussion followed emphasizing the rescission of this clause as restoration of a long standing protection, not the addition of a new one.

McLaughlin moved to amend the motion by changing "raided" to "diverted". The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The motion, as amended, passed.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Evans W. Curry, Secretary