

MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING #108

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 13, 1989 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with President Julia Whitsitt presiding. Senators present were Andrews, Barr, Beckner, Brink, Burnett, Couch, Craig, Curry, Dometrius, Nelson, Ervin, Finn, Fish, Harp, Hall, Hartwell, Hayes, Hennessey, Hildebrand, Hill, Howe, Hurst, Kimmel, Lee, McClendon, Nathan, O'Callaghan, Owens, Pearson, Peterson, Piatt, Richardson, Rinehart, J. Smith, R. Smith, Strauss, Thompson, Trost, Troyansky, Vann, Wagner, Westney, Williams, and Wilson. Senators absent because of university business were Mann, Mehta and Peters. Senator Long was absent.

I. Introduction of Guests and Senators

President Whitsitt called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m and recognized the following guests: Robert Lawless, President; Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Don E. Cosby, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; Jerry Ramsey, Associate Vice President for Operations; Virginia Sowell, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joe Goodin, Dean, Arts and Sciences; Margaret Simon, News and Publications; Jim Barlow, Lubbock Avalanche Journal; Cortchie Welch, and Allen Rose, University Daily; and Kendra McKenzie and Nick Federspiel, Student Senate.

Professor John Bliese served as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 3, 1989 meeting

Senator Wilson moved that the minutes of the May 3, 1989 meeting be approved. With a second the minutes were approved.

III. Remarks by Robert Lawless, University President

President Lawless stated that he accepted the presidency of Texas Tech Univeristy because he thought that he could make a difference and that after five or ten years he could look back and take satisfaction in the progress of the university. Lawless commented that there is an evolutionary re-structuring of higher education going on in the state. The coordinating board appears to think that there are two universities of quality in Texas, the University of Texas and Texas A & M. There are fears that we are moving toward a differential funding mechanism. If this should come about we would want to be in that level receiving the higher funding. It is more than just pride that makes us focus on becoming a university of the first class.

This is the first year of a three-year plan to increase the admission standards. Lawless commented that we had a record enrollment for Texas Tech University. This says that the faculty are doing a better job. He stated that we need to (1) increase the size of the graduate program and (2) attempt to raise money. From the Permanent University Fund the University of Texas received 139 million dollars and Texas A

& M received 172 million. With this money these universities can attract national merit scholars and offer research support to faculty members.

Lawless emphasized that the Faculty Senate can be a nondescript group or be a force in moving the university forward. Texas Tech University should strive to be the best in offering student services. He suggested that we should have a uniform subset of faculty evaluation. Lawless stated that education is our business and the students are our customers. The faculty needs to be involved in the assessment process. Departments should plan ways to move from one level to the next. Lawless challenged the Faculty Senate to take issues that are important. Otherwise, he stated, we'll do it without you.

IV. Remarks by Donald Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost

Haragan began his remarks by stating that he valued the advice of the Faculty Senate. He expressed the desire that the administration's good relationships with the Faculty Senate continue.

Haragan revealed that late in the spring semester, 1989, two students requested that student evaluations of faculty be made available. The Attorney-General of Texas ruled that these faculty evaluations are discoverable. He announced that the deans of the respective college would be responsible for releasing this information. This evaluation information is used for different purposes in the various colleges.

Haragan announced the appointment of a task force to study the issue of faculty evaluation by students. Members are to be Bess Haley, Dean of Home Economics, chairperson; Jimmy Smith, Engineering; Arlin Peterson, Education; Alwyn Barr, History; Robert Stewart, Speech Communications; Henry Wright, Range and Wildlife Management; and Ramesh Rao, Business Administration-Finance. The task force will consider how we might use evaluations to benefit. Haragan then answered several questions from Senate members.

Haragan stated that the research report from Senator Ketner's committee has been referred to the Research Council and will be studied at the Provost Council's retreat in October.

Haragan revealed the latest enrollment statistics: 25,037 students enrolled. Of these students approximately 220 registrations are unpaid. Approximately 200 off-campus enrollments are not included in these figures. Freshman enrollment is down approximately 600 students. Transfer enrollment has leveled out. The retention of students has improved. Graduate student enrollment has increased by 300.

Haragan reminded the Faculty Senate that students should have their first examination grade by October 5, the deadline for declaring pass/fail or dropping the course. He asked the Faculty Senate to support this request. Whitsitt stated that this request would be sent to a committee for study.

Haragan announced that the Provost Council retreat is scheduled for October 29-31. The Council will study the re-structuring of education in Texas, establish development priorities, consider strategies for development of the graduate program, and study strategies for research.

V. Jerry Ramsey Report on Operations Council

Ramsey stated that this council is composed of the Associate Deans and Associate Vice-Presidents. During the 1988-1989 academic year they addressed the issues of electronic repair services, several roofing items and handicapped access on campus. An architect made a survey of the campus for access deficiency needs. This council also considered the spending of the HEAF funds as affected by recent rulings of the Attorney General.

VI. Len Ainsworth Report on Academic Council

Ainsworth stated that the Academic Council covered day-to-day activities, including the processes of advising, registration, and drop/add. This council is also concerned with suspension. A program has been instituted to improve the pass rate of those returning from first suspension. He further stated that Business Administration is on-line with a computerized degree audit. We also have on computer guidelines for crediting courses transferred from junior colleges. This list is difficult to keep up-to-date.

VII. Julia Whitsitt Report on Provost's Council

Whitsitt, the Faculty Senate representative to this council, supplemented the statements made by Haragan. Whitsitt stated that a report on writing across the curriculum will be referred to the Faculty Senate Academic Programs committee. Whitsitt asked for comments from Senator Hayes, the representative to the Graduate Council.

VIII. Reports from Standing Committees

Senator Thompson reported for Chairperson Mehta of the Committee on Committees. Thompson moved the acceptance of a slate of nominees to Senate committees as printed and distributed. Motion carried. (See attachment for a roster of Faculty Senate committees).

Senator Brink, reporting for the Faculty Planning Committee, stated that the faculty should take a more active role in long-term planning. The members are as follows: Nina Ronshausen, Education; Judith Fischer, Home Economics; Mike Stoune, Arts & Sciences; Kent Rylander, Arts & Sciences; and Brink, Arts & Sciences. Brink stated that this group had no chairperson, no minutes, and no reports. The committee will cover any aspect of planning for the university, from landscaping to fund raising. The main purpose is to initiate plans. Senators were invited to contribute ideas.

IX. Proposed Changes in Meeting Dates

Senator Dometrius moved that the alternate meeting dates, December 6, 1989, January 17, 1990 and May 2, 1990 be adopted. With a second, the motion passed. Whitsitt asked for a show of hands on the possibility of changing the meeting time from 3:30 to 3:00 p.m. The results were inconclusive. The Agenda Committee, consisting of the Faculty Senate officers, will meet on October 2 and November 5. Whitsitt stated that she will be available in the Senate office from 10:00 to 11:30 each Thursday morning. Senators are invited to come by to discuss concerns.

X. New Business

Senator Hall moved that the Faculty Senate accept the resolution as mailed regarding the appointment of an ad hoc committee to study the state of teaching at Texas Tech University. Motion carried.

Whitsitt read a letter from E. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries, requesting a consideration of the role of professional staff in university governance. This matter was referred to Senate Study Committee A for consideration and recommendations.

Ainsworth presented a written plan for new faculty members for endorsement by the Faculty Senate. Senator McClendon moved that this plan be submitted to an appropriate committee for study. With a second the motion passed. The plan was referred to Faculty Status & Welfare Committee.

Senator Pearson submitted a written resolution to study the registration process and commented that many classes cannot function well until faculty members receive class rolls. Pearson moved that the Faculty Senate study the registration process. He further noted that telephone calls to the registrar's Office are difficult to complete. With a second the motion passed. Pearson's resolution was referred to Faculty Senate Study Committee B.

Senator Fish, chairperson, Faculty Senate Budget Study Committee, requested feedback from the administration regarding the Medical/Hospitalization plan. Vice President Don Cosby is the appropriate administrator to respond to this request. President Whitsitt agreed to arrange an information-sharing session at a future meeting.

XI. Announcements

President Whitsitt announced that the Faculty Senate wanted the class schedule of each member immediately. Members were requested to hand the completed form to Grace Frazier before leaving.

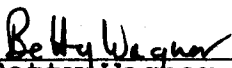
President Whitsitt called attention to an organizational chart for the university administration being distributed.

Whitsitt emphasized the need for ballots, casting votes to fill Senate vacancies in Education and Engineering, to be returned to the Election Committee.

Whitsitt reminded the Faculty Senate of the advantages of investing in U. S. Savings Bonds.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Betty Wagner
Secretary 1989-90

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