

MINUTES #141, FACULTY SENATE
March 10, 1993

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 10, 1993, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Benjamin H. Newcomb presiding. Senators present were Aranha, Bliese, Bradley, Burnett, Cismaru, Couch, Curzer, Daghistany, Dragga, Dunn, Dunne, Dvoracek, Elbow, Fedler, Freeman, Goebel, Green, Haigler, Hensley, Higdon, Hopkins, Jonish, Kiecker, D. Mason, Meek, Miller, Mitra, Morrow, Payne, Perl, Roy, Stoune, Strawderman, Trost, Troub, Urban, Wagner, Weber, Zanglein and Zartman. Senators Benson, Coulter, Henry, Huffman and Shroyer were absent because of University business. Senator J. Mason was absent with notification.

President Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:20 and welcomed the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Vice President; Jerry Ramsey, Associate Vice President for Operations; Robert Sweazy, Vice Provost for Research; Steve Kauffman, News and Publications; Denise Jackson, Office of Development; David Proctor, Library; Gerald Skoog, Chair, Faculty Status and Welfare Committee; Gail C. Wolfe, Traffic and Parking; Dewey L. Shroyer, Grounds Maintenance; Jay A. Parchman, Police Services; Daniel Nathan, Philosophy; Julie Hemby, Lubbock Avalanche Journal; and Sandra Pulley, University Daily.

Professor Clarke E. Cochran, Political Science, served as Parliamentarian.

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 February 1993 meeting were approved.

II. ELECTION OF SENATE OFFICERS

The following were elected to Faculty Senate office for 1993/94:

President--Sue Couch
Vice-President--Oliver Hensley
Secretary--Jayne Zanglein

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for election to the Faculty Senate and appointment to University Committees have been received. No nominees for the Senate were received from the college of agriculture, which has two vacancies. Nominees for the Grievance Panel are needed from Agriculture, Architecture, Education, and Engineering. Nominees for the Tenure Hearing Panel are needed from Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, and Architecture.

IV. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Provost's Council--Benjamin H. Newcomb (report distributed to Senators and on file in Senate office)
Since the Provost's Council discussed the anticipated 4% budget cut, Senator Newcomb asked Provost Haragan to elaborate both on the budget situation and on TTU's preparation to meet funding cuts. Haragan stated

that the 4% figure reflected what was then being discussed in the state senate. All funding to cover the state-mandated 3% raise has been eliminated, leaving universities to find the funds or to reduce staffing. However, performance measures have been removed from the funding bill. Instead a new proposal calls for the creation of a separate pool (of approximately \$20 million) that institutions would compete for on a performance basis and that would add to their general appropriation. State funding for ORP has been restored to current levels. Limits on funded doctoral hours are still being considered. Under plans being discussed, funding limits would be introduced on a graduated scale, with limit of 130 hours imposed in the first year of the next biennium, 120 the next year, 110 in the third year, and 100 hours in the fourth year. Haragan hoped that the legislature could be convinced that the 100-110 hour limits were too low.

Haragan is recommending that a high-level committee, which would include regents and elected faculty, be established to decide how to meet the funding crisis. Serious cuts will have to be made, and the president wants to make programmatic cuts not across the board cuts. The biggest concern is not to make short-term cuts that would harm the institution in the long-run. However, Haragan noted, there are some "low productivity" areas.

Finally Haragan noted that TTU had made some progress in raising relative faculty salaries. The University has not met its goal of achieving the state average, but it has narrowed the gap. In 1990/91 TTU average salaries trailed the state average by \$1328; currently TTU averages trail by \$630.

Academic Council--Candace Haigler (report distributed to Senators and on file in Senate office)

The Council is considering the Academic Bankruptcy Policy. Some members questioned the need for this policy given the other lenient policies that have been adopted.

Graduate Council--M. Catherine Miller (report distributed to Senators and on file in Senate office)

Library Director Dale Cluff gave a presentation on the problem created by the increasing costs of journals. Cluff pointed out that the TTU library spends a greater proportion of its budget on materials acquisitions than is typical of research libraries. However, more cuts in subscriptions will be forthcoming.

Development Council--Paul Goebel

Members attended a presentation by David Nelson of Houston Endowment Inc. Grants are available from this foundation, but the foundation requires participants to go through the Development Council. Information is available in the Faculty Senate Office.

V. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES OF FACULTY SENATE

Committee on Committees--Patrick Dunne (report distributed to senators and on file in Senate office)

The list of nominees to fill University Councils and Committees was accepted. Given concerns about the membership on the Athletic Council, nominees for this council were asked to submit statements and were selected by ballot at the meeting. The following persons were selected

as nominees for Athletic Council: Jane Burns, Ken Ketner and Mary Jane Hurst (alternate).

Ad Hoc Committee on Parking Fees--John Burnett, Sam Dragga and Benjamin H. Newcomb (report distributed to senators and on file in Senate office) This committee recommended against Provost Haragan's proposal to raise parking fees. It concluded that parking fees were "excise taxes" that were not applied solely to the costs of parking. Some of the expenditures that were charged to parking in the budget--including the fire marshall's salary and much of the cost of the university police--were not properly part of the cost of parking. The committee suggested that eliminating such charges from the parking budget showed that existing parking fees generate enough money to cover needed repairs. The committee also suggested that additional funds for road maintenance and other general services charged to the parking account should be raised from groups that did not pay parking fees but benefited from these services. Such groups include users of the night shuttle van, patrons of evening and weekend events, including athletics, and students in night classes, who use lots without paying either dorm or commuter parking fees.

A large number of administrators in parking related units were on hand to respond to the report. Vice-President Ramsey explained the rationale behind the proposal and its timing. Any increase in parking fees had to be approved by the Regents in March in order to get the information on fees to faculty and staff. Parking lots are considered part of a larger "traffic and parking system" which encompasses all transportation on campus. Its budget, which includes all the costs of parking lot maintenance and 50% of the cost of campus police, is funded by parking permits, citations, and towing fees. Ramsey explained that some of the budget items criticized by the Ad Hoc committee were the result of accounting efforts to maximize dollars available from state funds for employee benefits. Discussion went back and forth over the amounts in various accounts and the costs of various services, with Haragan arguing that the proposed increases were actually very conservative given the needs. The proposed increase is part of a four-year incremental plan. The administration felt that a 10% increase for 1993/94 was "reasonable" and only sought approval for this part of the plan.

The discussion elicited the admission that neither faculty nor students had been involved in the assessments of costs, needs, and fee increases and that faculty input should have been brought in earlier. None of the potential sources of revenue suggested by the Senate's Ad hoc committee had been considered by the administration.

It was moved that the Senate approve the 10% parking fee increase for 1993/94 and that a committee that includes faculty, staff, and students be constituted to look at future adjustments in parking fees. The motion passed with some dissent.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee--Gerald Skoog (report distributed to senators and on file in Senate office) This committee was charged to respond to Provost Haragan's concern with meeting current demands for more emphasis on undergraduate education, for the internationalization of the university, and for a reduction in costs. Haragan requested that the committee develop questions, not answers.

The Committee reported that the major issue that had to be settled was that of determining the mission of TTU. A new mission statement should be "specific and operational" and avoid vague statements such as "TTU should be the best we can be." Skoog expressed concern that TTU might slip into the second tier of universities because of lack of funds for both adequate graduate and undergraduate programs. The committee recommended that a task force be established to define the University's mission. The task force should include regents, administrators, students, and elected faculty and should have an elected faculty majority. Senator Elbow noted that this proposal seemed to be similar to Haragan's suggestion for a committee to deal with possible cutbacks. The report was accepted by the Senate.

Academic Programs Committee--Howard Curzer (report distributed to senators and on file in Senate office)

The committee was charged with considering whether or not TTU should have a multicultural requirement. It recommended three things: First that the General Education requirements should include a three-hour multicultural requirement; second, that the GE requirements are already quite heavy and should be reduced; and third that reduction should be accomplished by eliminating the Oral Communications, Technology, and P. E. requirements. The recommendations to add a three-hour multicultural requirement and to reduce the GE requirements were adopted by the Senate. The specific suggestions for eliminating requirements were rejected. Instead the Senate recommended that the General Education Committee be charged with examining how to reduce the requirements.

In delivering his report, Senator Curzer argued that a multicultural requirement would expand minds and reduce parochialism and racism; such a requirement was also recommended by the coordinating board. He argued that other GE requirements should be eliminated because they were not necessary to the intellectual development of all students and all programs. The committee also submitted comparisons of the requirements at twenty or more universities, few of which imposed the requirements that the committee proposed eliminating.

It was decided to discuss each of the recommendations separately and in sequence; however, the discussion repeatedly returned to the issue of whether a multicultural requirement was more important than a PE requirement. Senators Weber, Mason, and a few others argued that students should be required to take PE because personal health and fitness were important goals. Weber suggested that there might be little need for as many math or foreign language courses as TTU currently required. Senator Bliese suggested that the multicultural requirement might be fulfilled without increasing the number of required courses. Following the model used for writing intensive course, existing courses that included an adequate multicultural component could be flagged and students required to take one of these flagged courses. Others supported the need for a multicultural requirement, even if it increased the number of courses students were required to take. Senator Elbow commented that the faculty ought to be embarrassed at not having taken the lead on the issue of multiculturalism in the university. Eventually the Senate voted to support the addition of a multicultural component to the GE requirements. There were no dissenting votes.

Senators continued to have difficulty with the remaining recommendations. It was suggested that it was premature and inappropriate for the Senate to consider the question of the GE requirements since they had been in place only a few years. A motion was made to table discussion of the remaining recommendations. This motion failed. Senator Weber moved that the recommendation to lower GE requirements be sent back to the Academic Programs Committee and that the committee consider other options for implementing a multicultural requirement such as the flagging of courses. The motion to commit passed by a small margin. However, it soon appeared that the Senate had asked the Senate's Academic Programs Committee to perform the function of the University's General Education Committee. As a result, the motion to send the recommendation on lowering GE requirements back to committee was reconsidered. Additional discussion about the relative size of the GE requirements and the role of the General Education Committee followed. Curzer noted that he had met with the General Education Committee and that it declined to take any action on the issue of GE requirements until the Senate acted. Senator Weber moved to adjourn and take up the issue at a later meeting; the motion failed for lack of a second. The motion to commit the recommendation to reduce GE requirements was rejected on a second vote. The Senate accepted the recommendation that GE requirements be reduced. The Senate next considered the committee's call to eliminate the Oral Communications requirement. Senator Bliese spoke in favor of retaining the requirement. After a quorum count, the Senate rejected the elimination of the Oral Communications requirement. Senator Haigler moved that consideration of the Technology and PE requirements be tabled so the Senate could consider the funding of the library. The motion to table failed. Motions to eliminate the Technology and PE requirements each failed in close votes. Senator Goebel moved that the General Education Committee be charged with examining possible reductions in the GE requirements. This motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Library Cuts--Senator Haigler introduced a resolution on library cuts with the intent that it be considered by a Senate committee. The resolution demanded that no further cuts be made in paper journal subscriptions or book acquisitions without "complete agreement of the affected faculty" and that all journals already cut be reconsidered. It called for the designation of additional funds to the library, directed that the library find savings in other areas, and called for a review of library operations and budget. Senator Haigler argued that the status of the library was critical, more important than how much faculty were paid or how much they were charged for parking. The cuts were undermining both research and teaching and if continued would relegate TTU to the status of a regional teaching institution. Senator Elbow spoke against adoption of this resolution in its existing form. Noting that he favored the sentiments in the resolution and that he felt the library was in trouble, he moved that the resolution be referred instead to the University's Library Committee which should be asked to come back to the Senate with a better structured resolution. Haigler favored sending the resolution to a Senate committee. After some discussion of who sat on the University's Library Committee, the Senate voted to send the motion to the Library Committee for further consideration.

Resolution on Athletic Policy--The Senate considered a Resolution on Athletic Policy submitted by Senator Elbow for a group of his constituents. The resolution was amended at the suggestion of Senator Goebel, who commended it as addressing some of the concerns raised by Study Committee B in its earlier report on athletics. The following resolution as amended was passed by the Senate:

Whereas the university's reputation has been damaged by national reports showing it to have the nation's worst Division I-A graduation rate for its football players, and

Whereas internal reports indicate that the graduation rate for its minority athletes in football and men's basketball is unacceptably far worse, and

Whereas the Athletic Department and Athletic Council show little motivation to address potential problems of academic integrity and the exploitation of student athletes on this campus, and

Whereas substantial university appropriated funds and local revenues are currently being used to support intercollegiate athletics while essential academic needs are being undercut in our library and elsewhere across campus,

we hereby resolve:

1. That the Athletic Council be reconstituted so that its membership consists of a majority of elected faculty representatives and that its chair be drawn from among these elected representatives.
2. That, because they create conflicts of interest, paid trips to competitions and other special benefits for members of the Athletic Council and others involved in oversight of athletes be eliminated.
3. That the Athletic Council insure that recruitment of student athletes in every sport consist primarily of students who would otherwise qualify for regular (not provisional) admission to Texas Tech.
4. That the Athletic Council closely monitor admissions policies and graduation rates in the "big-ticket" sports for possible exploitation of student athletes and for threats to the academic integrity of the institution, and that the Athletic Department and Athletic Council make a formal presentation of its findings to the Faculty Senate.
5. That the Athletic Council closely monitor the financial operations of the Athletic Department, and that the Council be permitted to communicate budget recommendations to the Board of Regents. (In support of this, the Council should have made available to it not just the currently published budgets but complete ones showing such things as outside payments from sports apparel companies.)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Catherine Miller

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Secretary 1992-93