

MINUTES #145, FACULTY SENATE
October 13, 1993

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, October 13, 1993, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Sue Couch, president, presiding. Senators present were Barr, Bliese, Burnett, Cardenas-Garcia, Ceniza, Cravens, Curzer, Davis, Dragga, Dunn, Dvoracek, Gregory, Haigler, Heintz, Hensley, Higdon, Hopkins, Huffman, Jonish, Khan, Kiecker, Marlett, D. Mason, J. Mason, McGlone, Miller, R. Morrow, T. Morrow, Oberhelman, Payne, Pearson, Perl, Sanchez, Schoenecke, Shroyer, Troub, Wagner, Weber, Westfall, Zanglein and Zartman. Senators Bradley and Strawderman were absent because of university business. Senator Roy was absent with prior notification. Senators Aranha, Dunham, Sorenson and Urban were absent.

President Couch called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Vice President; Bob Bockrath, Athletic Director; Robert M. Sweazy, Vice Provost for Research; Francie Lowe, Office of Development; Steve Kauffman, News and Publications; Mary Ann Higdon, Library; Jennifer Gilbert, University Daily; and Dorothy Gentry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

In response to a letter of clarification submitted by Provost Haragan, the first three sentences of the "Merger of Colleges" paragraph on page 2 of the September 8, 1993 minutes were replaced with: "Provost Haragan observed that a redistribution of the College of Arts and Sciences, which employs more than half of the University's full-time faculty, may lead to a more effective administrative structure." The minutes, as amended, were approved.

II. REMARKS FROM PROVOST HARAGAN

Deletion of Physical Education Requirement

The Provost's Council recently considered the General Education Committee's proposal to delete Physical Education from the general education requirements. President Couch noted that the General Education Committee had recommended deleting Physical Education and that Provost Haragan, during the summer, had asked the Faculty Senate to revisit the issue. The Academic Programs Committee currently is studying the issue. The Committee will seek input from the faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Senator Weber expressed appreciation that departmental input would be sought, but expressed his dismay that the General Education Committee would have made a recommendation before seeking the input of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department.

Multiculturalism -- Provost Haragan will respond soon to the committee's report on multiculturalism.

Grade Inflation Policy -- Provost Haragan reported that he is still pursuing the grade inflation policy and will report to the Senate at a

later date. Because of the impact of the academic bankruptcy policy, he would like to defer review until next semester or next year.

Dean Searches -- The search for a dean of engineering is proceeding and a search committee is being established for the dean of education.

Faculty Productivity -- President Lawless plans to examine faculty productivity with the goal of becoming more efficient, to the extent possible. He hopes to raise faculty salaries to above average.

Currently, Tech faculty salaries are below the State averages. Provost Haragan will appoint a committee to 1) look into faculty workloads and teaching policies, 2) examine strategies to increase teaching loads where possible, 3) research how the faculty can operate more efficiently, and 4) consider restructuring of the colleges. At least half of the committee members will be from the Faculty Senate.

Librarians/Archivists -- Provost Haragan noted that he will request faculty input on whether the librarians and archivists should have faculty status.

University College -- The SACS review committee recommended the establishment of a "university college" which would be responsible for advising and counseling freshmen who are undecided as to majors.

Faculty input on this issue will be sought. The university college is not expected to be a home base for upperclassmen who do not have the requisite GPA for a certain college.

III. REMARKS FROM BOB BOCKRATH, DIRECTOR OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Bob Bockrath, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, expressed his desire to establish a relationship with the Faculty Senate on athletics. He has four immediate goals:

(1) Academics - Director Bockrath recognized that Texas Tech has a problem with academics in the athletic department. He hopes to expand the athletics academic study center and stress the importance of academics.

(2) Women - Bockrath noted that the TTU Athletic Department is underrepresented by women, especially in administrative positions. He plans to hire more women and, over the next few years, will develop more opportunities for women athletic competitions.

(3) Funding - Director Bockrath plans to increase the funding base of intercollegiate athletics. He noted the current budget of 8-9 million is self supporting. He hopes to develop outside funding. The funding will be used to achieve the first two goals outlined above.

(4) Mainstreaming of Athletes - Bockrath would like to mainstream the student athletes into the student body and the community.

Bockrath expressed his desire to work with the Faculty Senate on these issues.

IV. REPORTS FROM COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Board of Regents Meeting--Sue Couch (report distributed to Senators and on file in the Senate Office) The SACS site visit is scheduled for April 1994. A new degree program, Bachelor of Science with major in Agribusiness was approved. Degree programs from the departments of

Economics and Geography were merged and the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture, and Entomology was changed to the Department of Plant and Soil Science.

Provost's Council--(9/13/93) Jayne Zanglein (report on file in the Senate office) Admission guidelines will be developed and faculty input will be sought. Each dean has been asked to develop a list of about ten peer institutions for the college. TTU programs will be monitored relative to the peer institutions. The adaptation of Serviceplus for faculty is continuing. Faculty involvement will be sought. President Lawless has allocated \$100,000.00 to hire a director of Quality Services.

Provost's Council--(10/11/93) Sue Couch (report distributed and on file in Faculty Senate office) The Provost's Council approved Dean Hendrick's suggestion that each university should establish guidelines for the 130hour cap on doctoral hours without further Coordinating Board rules.

Deans were asked to submit a report on how funds generated by the increase in graduate tuition are being used and how decisions on the use of funds are made. President Couch expressed her interest in having more faculty involvement in budget decisions, as previously recommended by the Senate.

Academic Council--Oliver Hensley (report on file in Faculty Senate office) The Academic Council is analyzing when courses are offered. There is an interest in spreading courses more uniformly throughout the day. The need for a double major in a single college was discussed. The Council discussed whether "I" grades should automatically be converted to "F" grades unless the faculty member states that there is a particular mitigating circumstance.

Graduate Council--M. Catherine Miller (report distributed and on file in the Faculty Senate office) The Graduate Council discussed the elimination of the GRUD classification as of Fall 1995. Recruitment funds are available from the Graduate School.

Research Council--Fred P. Wagner, Jr. (report distributed and on file in Senate office) A committee from the office of Research Services is beginning a review of all research centers and institutes. Library director Dale Cluff and Susanne Duffy proposed a policy for publishing scholarly papers in an effort to reduce library costs for research publications. The proposal will be examined further.

V. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Committee on Committees--James Jonish, chair, reported that the committee recommended that Ken Ketner be nominated for appointment to the University Discipline Committee. Professor Ketner was duly nominated and a motion to accept his nomination passed unanimously. The nomination will be forwarded to the appropriate administrative officer. Academic Programs Committee--Howard Curzer. The Academic Programs Committee recommended that "faculty and teaching assistants cannot tutor for remuneration, a student for whom they currently have (a) the responsibility of assigning credit or (b) other official responsibility in a class." A motion was made and seconded to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

In January 1993, the Faculty Senate approved a policy which would allow provisionally admitted students to take 9 hours of college level work, 6 of which could be remedial, or 6 hours if one course was remedial. One course must meet the 3 hour general education requirement for the student's academic program.

At Provost Haragan's request, the Committee has reconsidered its proposal. The Committee recommended that provisional students must complete 6 hours of college-level work with a "C" average, with 3 hours from the general education requirements. No remedial courses would be required, but as many as 9 hours of remedial courses could be taken. This allows students to prove that they can do college level work. A motion was made and seconded, to accept the recommendations of the Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Senate Resolution on Athletics In response to a letter from President Couch, concerning intercollegiate athletics, President Lawless agreed to Faculty Senate recommendations to eliminate "perks" given to Athletic Council members and others involved in the oversight of athletics; place greater emphasis on recruitment of student athletes who qualify for regular admission; more closely monitor admission policies and graduation rates in "big ticket" sports, with reports from the Athletic Council to the Faculty Senate; and grant Athletic Council access to complete information about the Athletic Department budget, Athletic Council monitoring of financial operations of the Athletic Department, and provision for Athletic Council budget recommendations to the Board of Regents. President Lawless rejected the Faculty Senate recommendation to reorganize the Athletic Council with a majority of elected faculty representatives.

Parking Fees In response to a letter to Provost Haragan regarding parking fees, President Couch received a letter from Jerry Ramsey explaining that no parking fee increase is being considered for next year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Plus/Minus Grading Proposal Senator Higdon proposed that the Faculty Senate study the desirability of instituting a "plus/minus" system at both the graduate and undergraduate levels for the recording of student grades and the computing of grade point averages. Senator Westfall asked if the Senate could also consider a "pass/fail" system. Senator Curzer asked if a plus/minus system would increase grade inflation. Senator Higdon responded that studies have shown a plus/minus system to decrease grade inflation. The proposal was referred to the Academic Programs Committee.

Invitation to President Lawless Vice President Hensley proposed that the Faculty Senate invite President Lawless to a Senate meeting to clarify the goals he has established for the University and to explain how these goals are related to strategic planning. In particular, Hensley noted concern over the goal relating to faculty productivity, as the logical outcome will be a push to increase faculty teaching loads. Vice President Hensley noted that faculty work loads are

commonly misunderstood to include only time spent teaching. A motion was made and seconded, to invite President Lawless to address the Faculty Senate and to discuss his goals for the university. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senators were reminded that nominations are being solicited for the Piper Professor.

A conference on Ethics in Higher Education will be held on November 1112 at Southwest Texas State University.

President Couch will attend the fall meeting of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations (CoFGO) later this month.

The Faculty Senate president will maintain office hours in her office in Holden Hall on Wednesdays from 2-4 p.m. except on Senate meeting dates. Faculty Development Leave applications are due on January 21, 1994. Senator Caryl Heintz volunteered to represent the Senate on the Intellectual Property Rights Committee. Senator Leon Higdon volunteered to represent the Senate on the Gloria Lyerla Library Memorial Fund.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Senate, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Zanglein
Secretary 1993-94