

MINUTES #159, FACULTY SENATE
March 8, 1995

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 8, 1995, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Alwyn Barr, president, presiding. Senators present were Burnett, Burns, Couch, Cravens, Curzer, Dunham, Durland, Endsley, Fedler, Floyd, Fortney, Goebel, Gregory, Hartwell, Heintz, Held, Higdon, Hopkins, Huffman, Khan, Marlett, D. Mason, J. Mason, Nathan, Oberhelman, Payne, Perl, Schoenecke, Sorenson, Steinhart, Thompson, Tock, Troub, Weber, Welton and Westfall. Senators Aranha, Cardenas-Garcia, Coulter, Jonish, Mann, and Morrow were absent because of University business. Senators Howe and Pearson are on leave this semester. Senators DeBell and Hensley were absent with prior notification. Senators Bliese and McGlone were absent.

President Barr called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Vice President; Alfonso Scandrett, Associate Athletic Director; Professor John Burns, Chair, Productivity Task Force; Alice Kolb and Sharen Hart from the Office of Development; Jan Kemp, Library; and Joan Conway, Student Assistant, Faculty Senate.

Professor Gary Elbow, Geography, served as Parliamentarian.

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the February 8, 1995, meeting were approved as distributed.

II. DISCUSSION OF PRODUCTIVITY TASK FORCE REPORT - Dr. Burns and President Barr

Vice President Huffman presided so that President Barr and Dr. John Burns could both lead the discussion on the task force's report. It found that there was great variation concerning faculty load and how departments and schools propose to do more with less. Each must take the lead in defining its direction. Texas Tech University is heavy on teaching load but light in its recognition of service and research credit.

III. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Provost Council - President Barr. A copy of this report was distributed at the door and is available in the Faculty Senate office.

Graduate Council - Sue Couch indicated that only routine items were discussed at the most recent Graduate Council meeting.

Research Council - Senator Endsley. A report was available at the door, and Senator Endsley stated that the conflict of interest policy is in the final stages of development and is to be in place by June 1, 1995. Workshops dealing with budget preparation will be made available to faculty if interest in such workshops is evident.

Benefits and Retirement Committee - Senator Jerry Mason read his report, a copy of which is in the Faculty Senate office. He spoke of the weaknesses in the Texas Tech University Optional Retirement Program (ORP), and suggested that many faculty are not given sufficient information to choose an adequate retirement program.

Committee for Structuring for Graduate Education - Senator Heintz said that Provost Haragan will respond to the committee's recommendations at a later date.

Affirmation Action Committee - Senator Dunham distributed an "in progress" report at the door.

IV. REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committee to Study Hall or Wall of Honor. Senator Marlett made an "in progress" report. Final recommendations will be sent to the Senate at a later time.

Committee A - Senator Couch made a preliminary report, a copy of which was at the door and is in the Faculty Senate office. A recommendation that department chairpersons should be ineligible for membership on the Faculty Senate was a part of the report. She suggested early action on this item. After a lengthy discussion a vote requiring two-thirds of those present to approve this motion was taken. The motion was defeated: 12 yes; 21 no.

Committee B - Senator Steinhart distributed a copy of the committee's report with the agenda for the meeting; a copy is also available at the Faculty Senate office. A motion to accept the report passed on a voice vote.

Nominations Committee - Senator Burnett offered the following (incomplete) slate of nominations for next year:

President: Clifford Fedler, Civil Engineering
Murray Coulter, Biological Sciences

Vice President: Peter Westfall, College of Business
Administration

Secretary: (no nomination)

V. OLD BUSINESS

Faculty Performance Committee - A motion by Senator Fedler to remove the report from the table passed by a voice vote. A motion to consider the report and accept it also passed on a voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Possible legislation of concern to faculty - Senator Steinhart listed several pieces of legislation before the state legislature that were of concern to faculty members. He asked that the administration keep the faculty informed about the possible Social Security takeback.

Senator Steinhart noted that there is a bill to require all faculty and staff increases to be on a merit basis, and at no time on an across-the-board basis. Vice Provost Ainsworth noted that this item has come up before and has never passed. A motion to go on record against this provision passed on a voice vote.

Senator Steinhart asked the Senate to go on record in favor of HR 628, a tuition waiver for graduate TAs. The senate vote was in the affirmative.

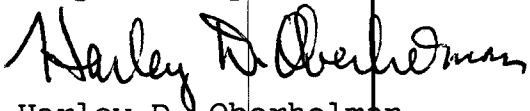
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Barr announced that academic status for Texas Tech librarians had previously been approved both by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents. Dr. Lawless has requested that an amendment to the Faculty Senate constitution granting full membership in the Senate to library representatives be considered by the voting faculty at the next general faculty meeting in May.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Harley D. Oberhelman
Secretary 1994-95