

MINUTES #161, FACULTY SENATE
May 3, 1995

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

President Barr called the meeting to order at 3:20 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; Jan Kemp and Tess Trost, Library; Alice Kolb, Office of Development; and Ray E. Desrosiers, Bookstore Advisory Committee.

Professor Gary Elbow, Geography, served as Parliamentarian.

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the April 12, 1995, meeting were approved with the following changes to the first two sentences in item VII: Senator Held spoke concerning the amendments to the Faculty Charter concerning senate representation for librarians that will come to a vote at the May 2 general faculty meeting. There was prolonged discussion concerning the route these amendments have followed."

II. REMARKS BY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST HARAGAN

Provost Haragan commented on the decision to privatize the bookstore. The decision was made on a business basis only and probably should have been considered by the Faculty Senate.

He made additional comments on the matter of tenure, stating that there is a nation-wide discussion of the concept of tenure and alternatives to tenure. He feels that the Senate should be aware of this national debate and take appropriate actions if such is deemed necessary.

Senator Fedler, in a reaction to Provost Haragan's remarks, distributed a written response to his comments concerning tenure made at an earlier Faculty Senate meeting. This response was signed by Senator Hensley who was unable to attend this meeting. A copy of the response is available in the Faculty Senate office.

Dr. Ray Desrosiers spoke on behalf of the Bookstore Advisory Committee. It was the committee's feeling that it was not given the opportunity to participate in the decision to privatize the bookstore. He said the statement that the consultants "believed privatization would be in Tech's interest" was in error. Provost Haragan agreed that the statement was not true.

III. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

General Education Committee - Senator Marlett reported on the committee's recent meeting with Associate Vice President Sowell. He mentioned that the science and technology course category will be studied in the fall.

IV. REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee A - Senator Couch reported that the committee had not completed its work and suggested that the charge continue next fall.

Performance Committee - This matter was covered in item II., Paragraph 2. Further action was postponed to the New Business agenda.

Ad Hoc Committee to Study Hall or Wall of Honor

Senator Marlett made three recommendations: (1) that the concept of the hall/wall be approved, (2) that there be a standing committee to develop guidelines in each college or school for its use, and (3) that the final design for the hall/wall should correspond to one of the models architecture students had made; these models may be viewed in Architecture 810. A motion to accept the report passed on a voice vote.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee - Senator Burnett noted that they did consider the matter of the Optional Retirement Programs and suggested that the report receive additional study.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Senator Weber offered two items for the Senate's consideration:

1) That the Faculty Senate look at the development of a campus-wide system to evaluate faculty in the areas of teaching research and service that is reliable, objective and valid so proper evaluation of faculty and comparisons can be made for the purpose of merit, tenure, promotion and awards.

2) That the Faculty Senate in conjunction with someone knowledgeable in law school investigate the procedures of all departments and colleges of TTU so that procedures comply with Faculty Senate Guidelines, Texas State Law and the Constitution of the United States of America. That all departments be in full compliance with the open records Law of the State of Texas regarding personnel matters, that all departments be in compliance with the due process laws of the United States.

There was a motion to adopt these two recommendations. In discussion it was stated that item 1 had been studied frequently with the conclusion that a single campus-wide evaluation system was not feasible. The question was called. The vote on the original motion failed.

Senator Fedler moved to adopt recommendation 1b, 2b, and 3c of the Hensley report introduced earlier in the meeting. The motion was tabled.

Provost Haragan stated that two items in the Hensley report were in error. These items were: "He said that he saw himself as the faculty's representative and he implied that he knows best about faculty interests..." and "the Provost claim[s] the authority to act as the faculty representative in matters related to faculty affairs."

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President Barr announced that the vote on the amendments to the Faculty Senate constitution giving librarians senate representation was approved 97 in favor to 48 against.
 2. He noted concern centered in some Fine Arts departments and schools that the recent discussion of librarians' status over-emphasized the Ph.D. as the terminal degree, because in many of these disciplines the terminal degree is not the doctorate but rather a master's degree.
 3. President Barr encouraged faculty attendance at commencement.
 4. Senator Held spoke to clarify his communication regarding librarians and affirmed that no disrespect was intended.
 5. President Barr thanked senators for their service as well as the officers of the Senate, Grace Frazier, and the parliamentarian.
- President-elect Coulter mentioned issues to be considered next year: faculty status, academic freedom, faculty welfare, and the atmosphere of change apparent in the academy. He urged all senators to join their national organizations and to participate in the issues of higher education.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harley D. Oberhelman
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Secretary 1994-95