The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, December 6, 1995, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Murray W. Coulter, president presiding. Senators present were Barr, Cardenas-Garcia, Coombs, DeBell, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Durland, Fedler, Fox, George, P. Goebel, U. Goebel, Hartwell, Heintz, Held, Herring, Howe, Hufford, Jackson, A. Khan, Mann, Meek, Miller, R. Morrow, T. Morrow, Nathan, Opp, Pearson, Sarkar, Schaller, Steinhart, L. Thompson, V. Thompson, Tock, Westfall and Whisnant. Senators Casadonte, Elbow, Endsley, Fortney, and S. Khan were absent because of University business. Senator Schoenecke was absent with prior notification. Senators Corbet, McGlone, Rickets, River, Stout and Welton were absent.

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; John Burns, Vice Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Troy Johnson, Director of Graduate Admissions; Melody Weiler, representing the Faculty Forum; Richard E. Peterson, Atmospheric Science; Steve Kauffman, News and Publications; Darin London, a graduate student; and Curt Bourne, Student Association.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 1995

Minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #164 were approved with one correction. The correction is in the last paragraph of page 2, third line from the bottom which should read 1997-98 and not 1996-97.

II. REPORTS FROM MELODY WEILER, CHAIR FACULTY FORUM and TROY JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Dr. Weiler gave a detailed summary of the development of the committee, its charge, and its actions since its development. She stated that the first meeting was called by Provost Haragan in April 1995 with 14 committee members and the committee name was "Planning, Assessment, and Total Quality Task Force." This committee was to help identify areas for improvement that will lead TTU into the 21st century with a specific charge to:

"A. Identify and articulate academic issues that are precipitated internationally, nationally, and locally by the changing political, economic, and technological realities; facilitate faculty discussion of these issues; anticipate the effects of these realities on the general academic climate in higher education; and initiate strategies to resolve issues in our local culture."

After several meetings and a survey sent out across the campus (of which only 27 faculty responded), teaching was identified as a priority. In the Fall '95, Faculty Senate President Murray Coulter was added as a member of the
committee. Weiler specifically stated that the committee was NOT under the direction of the Administration and that faculty input is desired. She also stated that any recommendations the committee produces will be made to the appropriate bodies or individuals with the authority or power to take action, but with no ideas as to who those persons or groups might represent.

The second guest speaker, Troy Johnson, Director of Graduate Admissions, provided an update on the changes to the admission types, effective Fall 1995, and background to why the changes were developed. Non-degree students may be admitted to one of 3 categories: 1) Graduate Temporary (GTMP) where the student is allowed one semester to complete the application to a degree program, 2) Certification (CERT or GHEC) where the student desires to obtain certification through the College of Education or Human Sciences, but not a MS or PhD degree, and 3) Post Graduate (PGRD) where students graduating with a BS can take only undergraduate courses (and the students cannot qualify for graduate assistantships). Discussion centered around enforcement of the rules and a possible change to the GTMP to allow final application to extend to 1 year or before 12 hours are completed to allow additional time for part-time student trying to decide on graduate school.

III. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Academic Council - Senator Barr provided a report stating that the main issues discussed were changing the entrance requirements for students from the top 10% of the class to include a minimum ACT/SAT score and to clarify the foreign language requirements as written in the catalog.

Graduate Council - Senator Durland provided a written report which is on file in the Faculty Senate office. The main issue was concerning Dean Langford's request to reinstate internal reviews of graduate programs and his desire for feedback from faculty, etc.

Research Council - Senator Fedler had no report since this council was meeting at the same time as this Faculty Senate meeting.

IV. REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee - Senator Dunham provided a written resolution concerning the surplus health insurance funds. That resolution is on file at the Faculty Senate office and recommends 1) that the Senate ask the administration to obtain a second legal opinion concerning the status of the funds, 2) that the money be returned to those paying into the funds, on ethical grounds, and 3) that the administration respond by the next Faculty Senate meeting (17 January 1996) as to their decision on obtaining a second legal opinion. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Study Committee - Senator Held provided a detailed chronicle of the class rescheduling issue, an annotation to the chronicle, and an additional handout with the resolutions. All are
on file in the Faculty Senate office. The first resolution was a request for a response from President Lawless asking:

1) How did the Administration fail to communicate and to utilize the normal consultative processes in this instance?
2) What specific steps can be taken to prevent future actions of this kind and to facilitate a more effective working relationship between the Administration and the Faculty Senate and Student Senate?

The resolutions passed unanimously with 1 abstention.

The second resolution was a request that President Lawless
1) demonstrate a need for an across-the-board plan,
2) present evidence that the plan will maintain or increase enrollments during a formula funding year, and
3) seek advice, suggestions, and support from a. the chairs who must implement the policy, and b. the elected representatives of the faculty and students who will be directly affected by the policy.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Senate Study Committee C - Senator Mann stated that since his committee acted with the Budget Study Committee, they had nothing more to add at this time.

Faculty Performance Committee - Senator Miller said that the committee plans to send a letter to all the Deans asking that they consider the guidelines that were passed by the Faculty Senate last year and use these guidelines to develop their guidelines for distribution to all faculty. The next item for the committee to consider is a possible change or addition to correct the O.P. on faculty workload.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Senate.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Senator Steinhart presented a resolution on the anti-discrimination guidelines for the University. Since the resolution was presented on behalf of a non-Faculty Senate group, it was referred to Senate Study Committee C for their review and recommendations.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Clifford Fedler
Secretary 1995-96

THE JANUARY 1996 MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE WILL BE ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY WHICH IS ON THE 17TH.