

MINUTES #168 - FACULTY SENATE
13 MARCH 1996

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 13, 1996 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Murray Coulter, president, presiding. Senators present were Barr, Coombs, DeBell, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Elbow, Fedler, Fortney, Fox, George, P. Goebel, Hartwell, Heintz, Held, Herring, Howe, Hufford, S. Khan, Mann, Meek, Miller, R. Morrow, T. Morrow, Nathan, Opp, Pearson, Ricketts, River, Sarkar, Schaller, Steinhart, Stout, V. Thompson, Tock, Westfall, and Whisnant. Senators Cardenas-Garcia, Durland, U. Goebel, and L. Thompson were absent because of University business. Senator Schoenecke is on leave. Senators Corbett and A. Khan were absent with prior notice. Senators Casadonte, Jackson, McGlone and Welton were absent.

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and introduced the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Interim President; Robert M. Sweazy, Vice Provost for Research; Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Steve Kauffman, University News & Publications; Alfonso Scandrett, Associate Athletic Director; Sharen Hart, Office of Development; and Charles Melton, University Daily.

I. Minutes of the 14 February 1996 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Reports from University Councils and Committees

PROVOST COUNCIL - President Coulter reported that no meeting was held due to the announcement of Provost Haragan being named the Interim President. However, he did report that faculty will be involved with the search for the new president. The names of 10 faculty, either current or immediate past faculty senate members was forwarded to Dr. Haragan which was then provided to the Board of Regents for final selection.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL - Senator Barr provided a report, which is on file in the Faculty Senate office, that outlined the main issues of the meeting. The council agreed that students readmitted to TTU after being suspended must successfully complete an XL course on learning how to learn, but no mention of the time frame for completing this course was provided.

GRADUATE COUNCIL - Senator Durland provided a report, which is on file in the Faculty Senate office, highlighting the final four candidates for the Dean of the Graduate School. The persons and their times on campus for interviews are: David Schmidly, March 24-26, Roger Bennett, March 27-29, Jerry Thomas, March 31-April 2, and John Vitek, April 10-12. Also, a report was provided on the expected changes from ETS on the revised GRE. An optional selection of two additional parts was mentioned. The new tests will begin in 1997 and will be offered every two months via computer.

RESEARCH COUNCIL - Secretary Fedler provided a report, which is on file in the Faculty Senate office. The major topic concerned the planned April interviews of candidates for the Director of TIES position. It was also announced that recommended "Responsibilities of All Nonfaculty Research Personnel" will be available soon on the ORS web page for anyone to download.

TELECONFERENCE PROGRAM - Senator Heintz provided a report on the videoconference held 2/29/96 titled "Coping with Changing Campus Culture", which is on file in the Faculty Senate office. The major focus of the conference was the radical changes being thrust upon our lives as a result of external changes over which we have little control. A more complete summary made and tapes of individual presentations are available at the Teaching and Learning Center.

III. REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - Vice President Westfall provided the slate of candidates for Faculty Senate Offices. Results of the vote are:

President - John Howe, Vice President - Gary Elbow and
Secretary - Leslie Thompson.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Senator Dunne submitted the nominees to fill vacancies on University Councils and Committees. The Senate accepted the slate of nominees, which will be forward to the Administration for the final selections.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - Senator Dunham presented a motion concerning the surplus self-insurance funds. President Coulter indicated that Interim President Haragan would like address the Senate concerning this matter before it is considered. The motion was deferred until next month. A second report outlined potential problems with the revised promotion and tenure standards and procedure. The following four motions were presented.

1. The issue of eliminating letters from outside reviewers. Most of the discussion on this issue centered around the need for a standard way of soliciting support letters across the university. The motion that letters from outside reviewers be required was sent back to the committee for changes.
2. This issue was concerning the removal of any outside review letters from the packet that is forwarded to the Provost Office. As with the first issue, this was referred back to the committee for further review.
3. This issue was proposed to reduce the evidence of teaching effectiveness forwarded to the Provost Office. The revised motion that was passed by the Senate was: The Committee recommends that the division head in consultation with the candidate provide this summary of teaching effectiveness to be included in the tenure and promotion packet that is forwarded to the Provost.
4. This issue was concerning a classification of service to the university. The final recommendation passed by the Senate was: The committee recommends that the detailed classification scheme for ranking service be eliminated from the policy.

FACULTY PERFORMANCE - Senator Miller report on a CoFGO meeting where the discussions centered around the status of tenure at institutions of higher education. The committee will be gathering information being used to change tenure policies at other universities and look at the history of tenure at TTU.

STUDY COMMITTEE C - Senator Mann reported that more data is required for the committee to study the issue of a uniform distribution of classes.

Further action was deferred until the 1996-97 academic year since many departments are currently working on the problem. The second issue on utilization of buildings on campus was deferred until next year because it is directly related to the class scheduling issue. The last issue was a resolution concerning racial and cultural intolerance on campus. The senate approved the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the Faculty Senate condemns in the strongest terms the use of threats of violence and abusive language or behavior directed at any individual or group, including racial, ethnic, national minorities, women, and individuals of diverse sexual orientations, and that
2. we call on the Administration, faculty and students to condemn publicly the actions of any individual or group that contributes to the prevailing hostile atmosphere, and that
3. we invite leaders of affected campus organizations to make formal presentations to the Faculty Senate, informing this body of the specific problems they and their members have experienced, and suggest remedies to be presented to the Administration for the strengthening and enforcement of the existing codes of conduct.

Interim President Haragan addressed the Senate on the two search committees established for the position of President. The first committee will be the Search Committee, which will do the first breakdown of candidates. This list will then be forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which will select the final four candidates to be sent forward to the Board of Regents. Each committee will be represented by students, faculty, BOR members, and if possible, ex-students.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at about 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Clifford B. Fedler
Secretary 1995-96