

**MINUTES #170 - FACULTY SENATE  
1 MAY '96**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 1, 1996 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Murray Coulter, president, presiding. Senators present were Barr, Cardenas-Garcia, Corbett, Coombs, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Durland, Elbow, Fox, George, Hartwell, Heintz, Herring, Howe, Hufford, A. Khan, S. Khan, Mann, Meek, Miller, R. Morrow, T. Morrow, Pearson, River, Sarkar, Schaller, Steinhart, Stout, L. Thompson, Tock, Welton, Westfall and Whisnant. Senator Fedler was absent with prior notification. Senators Fortney, P. Goebel, Held, Jackson, and V. Thompson were absent because of University business. Senator Schoenecke is on leave from the University. Senators Casadonte, DeBell, U. Goebel, McGlone, Nathan, Opp, and Ricketts were absent.

President Coulter called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Rod Schoen, Professor, School of Law; Alfonso Scandrett; Associate Athletic Director, Sharen Hart, Office of Development; Ed Anderson, Teaching, Learning, Technology Center; Kerry Billingsley, Director of Quality Services; Charles Melton and Andrea Broyles, University Daily.

**I. Minutes of the April 10, 1996 meeting were approved as distributed.**

**II. REPORTS FROM INVITED GUESTS**

Dr. Edward Anderson - Associate Director TLTC - Dr. Anderson discussed the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Program. Approximately \$150 million/year for 5 years will be generated statewide from taxes collected on phone services. These funds will be used to build infrastructure and enhance telecommunications programs for educational purposes. The majority of the funds will be utilized in K through 12 grade programs, but about \$10 to 15 million/year will be devoted to higher education state-wide for distance learning infrastructure and programs. A University-wide committee will be formed to examine uses for funds received at Texas Tech University. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate have a liaison on this committee.

Ms. Kerry Billingsley - Director of Quality Services - Ms. Billingsley outlined the functions of her office and training programs that were available through Quality Services. Her office conducts training programs for the University and the Health Sciences Center and acts as a facilitator for campus-wide improvements. Current programs include: Service Plus training for faculty and staff, Service Plus Superstar program, conflict resolution, courses for Continuing Education Credit in Quality Management, resource library of audio and video tapes on quality and service issues, and the "I Care" newsletter. Her office will oversee the new Quality Service Award Program that will be replacing the "Superior" and "Outstanding" awards program. Her office will also be implementing a focus survey campus-wide to identify possible areas for improvement.

**III. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

*Grievance Procedural Review Committee* - Gary Elbow/Rod Schoen

Senator Elbow presented a proposal as a motion for revising the current University Grievance procedure with a more streamlined approach that reduces the number of administrative decisions from five to two and the number of advisory committees from four to one. The proposal also offers

an opportunity for informal mediation by a person acceptable to both parties. The Senate unanimously approved the concept presented. The Committee will later submit a final proposal to the Senate including details of timing and other procedural elements for Senate consideration. A summary of the proposal is on file in the Senate office.

*Teaching/Learning/Technology Center* - Senator Westfall's update is on file in the Faculty Senate office. Items include: Dr. Anderson was named Associate Director of the TLTLTC and will be with the Center full-time during the summer and on a half-time basis during the academic year. The Faculty Incentive Grant program selected 24 proposals to receive funding totaling \$103,517. The Faculty Multimedia Lab will soon be open. Results of the TLTC Survey are complete. Services, activities, and programs of greatest faculty interest were identified.

*Faculty Status & Welfare Committee* - Senator Dunham provided a motion to remove the second sentence of the third paragraph on page three of OP 32.01, Vol. I. (Promotion and Tenure Standards and Procedures) (If the candidate's field is one in which no colleague at Texas Tech University has expertise, it is essential that outside appraisal of the candidate's scholarly activities be sought.) The motion was unanimously accepted. At this time Virginia Sowell reported that all the Tenure and Promotion recommendations made by the Senate were adopted by the Administration.

#### **IV. REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

*Study Committee A* - Senator Dowell provided a report of the Committee's activities and recommendations which is on file in the Faculty Senate office. After examining alternate means of Senate seat apportionment the Committee found no compelling reason to change the current system. A motion offered by the Committee was unanimously passed to amend the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate to read:

Not later than its March meeting each year the Faculty Senate shall elect a President, Vice President and Secretary from its membership to serve for a term of one year beginning on the first day following the end of the spring semester. The new officers-elect shall then attend the immediately succeeding April and May meetings of the Agenda Committee in a non-voting capacity. Nominees must have at least one full year remaining of their Senate terms at the time of their nomination. (Underlined portions were the approved additions to the Bylaws.)

Senator Dowell offered a motion regarding communication between the President of the University and the Faculty Senate and the creation of a University committee consisting of senators, administrators, and at large members from the community to examine broad issues on education. Senator Westfall offered a friendly amendment to assign the duties of this committee to an existing committee, the Teaching/Learning/Technology Committee. The friendly amendment was declined. Amendment then failed for lack of a second. Senator Howe offered a friendly amendment allowing the faculty senate officers to examine the structure of the committee and offer suggestions. This friendly amendment was accepted by Senator Dowell. The motion that passed unanimously read as follows:

**Be it resolved that,** The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University calls upon the President of Texas Tech University to communicate in

a timely manner with the Senate and/or the Senate's officers on all important University matters, and

The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University calls upon the President of Texas Tech University to address the Faculty Senate at its first meeting each semester and to attend and/or address other meetings of the Senate as appropriate either directly or by way of appropriate designees, and

The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University recognizes the need of involving administrators, senators and at-large community appointees (including students) in discussion of timely and important issues affecting education and asks that the senate officers formulate some structure by which this can be brought about and bring such suggestions back to the Senate floor through an appropriate committee for approval.

Senator Dowell presented a motion on the voting right of senate representatives on university committees and councils. Senator Howe offered a friendly amendment that was accepted by Senator Dowell to afford all ex-officio administrative members of Senate Committees voting privileges. Senator Miller moved to remove the issue of voting privileges for ex-officio administrative members of faculty senate committees from the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions and one "no" vote. The motion that passed unanimously read as follows:

**Be it resolved that,** The Faculty Senate of Texas Tech university calls upon the President of Texas Tech University or his designee to take action that will empower the Senate's representatives on all University Councils and Committees with the right to vote.

Senator Dowell presented a motion calling for the President of Texas Tech University to take action that would result in appropriate rewards for faculty members who serve on the Senate. Senator Howe moved to table the motion. The motion to table passed unanimously.

Senator Elbow commended Study Committee A for a well prepared report.

*Study Committee B* - Senator Pearson submitted a report on freshman class enrollment at Texas Tech University in the Summer of 1995 as compared to Texas A & M University and University of Texas at Austin. The intentions of the report were to answer questions regarding the impact that increased admission standards have had on provisional student enrollment. Data for previous years' enrollments were not yet available, however. Senator Pearson recommended that examination of this issue continue after acquisition of suitable data.

*Study Committee C* - Senator Mann verbally reported on an issue recently raised by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center physicians regarding student athletes being under the care of Methodist Hospital physicians rather than the physicians at the TTUHSC. UMC physicians wished to solicit the support of the Faculty Senate in encouraging the Athletic Department to utilize "in house" providers. It was the opinion of the committee members polled that the Faculty Senate was not the most appropriate body to participate in this issue. The Senate chose to agree with the members' opinion. However, the Committee did recommend that the

Senate investigate the wisdom of recommending that the University use its own resources and talent for services whenever feasible.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

President Coulter thanked Murray Havens for serving as Parliamentarian during the past year and informed the Senate that Secretary Fedler was absent because of the death of his brother.

President Coulter presented his "State of the Senate" address. Events or issues that have transpired over the past year included some of the following. Texas Tech University faculty salaries are no longer at the bottom of the Class I research institutions in Texas, and 3% merit raise funds were generated from an increase in the Student Use Fee. Tenure and promotion procedure revisions that were recommended by the Senate were accepted by the administration. Grievance procedures are well on the way to being streamlined. The concept of a University Hall/Wall of Fame has been accepted even though logistical issues remain to be resolved. The Senate has endorsed antiprejudice initiatives and promoted cultural diversity. The Senate has addressed the question of surplus insurance funds and offered several recommendations for the dispensation of the funds. The Faculty Senate has stayed abreast of current issues and programs on campus hearing speakers from the Learning/Teaching/Technology Center, the Honors program, Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund and the Quality Service program to name a few. Unresolved issues included class scheduling, an antidiscrimination resolution, and the timelines of communications between the University President and the Senate.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

President-elect Howe addressed the Senate encouraging Senators to be more "proactive" than "reactive" and presented a platform of issues for the Senate to consider in the upcoming year. As Texas Tech University makes the transition into the "Big 12", the Senate needs to examine its role in this transition and to familiarize itself with other schools in the "Big 12" especially in regards to University governance. A second major issue is a call for a comprehensive report on faculty service on university committees by establishing an ad hoc committee to examine the issue. Senator Howe presented a consensus motion that read:

**Therefore,** I move that the Senate express its consensus that its officers should nominate an ad hoc committee, broadly representative of the university, whose purpose would be to issue a formal report on the role of faculty committees in TTU governance and on how that role can be improved.

The Senate expressed its consensus that its officers should nominate this ad hoc committee.

Senator George moved to commend President Coulter on the excellent job he has done as President of the Faculty Senate this past year, a motion that was unanimously accepted.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Leslie D. Thompson  
(For Clifford B. Fedler, Secretary)