

Minutes #175

MINUTES #175 - FACULTY SENATE

January 15, 1997

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 15, 1997 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with John Howe, President presiding. Senators present were Bremer, Casadonte, Corbett, Couch, Coulter, DeBell, Dornier, Dowell, Dunne, Elbow, Fedler, Floyd, Fortney, Fox, George, P. Goebel, Held, Hensley, Herring, Hufford, Khan, Lan, Liman, Mann, Meek, Miller, Morrow, Myers, Opp, Reed, River, Robert, Sarkar, Schaller, Stinespring, Stout, L. Thompson, Tock and Welton. Senators Dunham, Nguyen, Olivarez, V. Thompson and Urban were absent because of University business. Senator Rainger was absent with prior notice. Senators Coombs, U. Goebel, Jackson, Reckner and Whisnant were absent.

I. President Howe called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Myrna Whitehead, News and Publications; Kristin Ketchem, Student Association; Danny Robbins, Sports Reporter, Houston Chronicle; Matt Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; and Kristi Rieken, University Daily.

II. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 1996 MEETING WERE APPROVED WITH THE

FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION: Senator Dunne indicated his concern about the academics and athletics was strictly limited to the football program, not to any of the other athletic programs.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coach Dykes' Address to the Faculty Senate - Because Coach Dykes had a conflict with the Hula Bowl game, he will reschedule his proposed January 15, 1997 visit with the Faculty Senate.

Big 12 Faculty Fellowship Program - President Howe briefly described the

Big 12 Fellowship program that was announced the week of January 13, 1997 by the Provost's Office. The program was initiated by actions of the Provosts and Faculty Senate Presidents of the Big 12 Conference. Faculty can apply for grants to visit and work with faculty at other Big 12 institutions. Grants for \$2500 cover travel expenses, room and board and are intended to be for a 2-week time period. This is one of many proposed programs to make the Big 12 Conference an academic as well as an athletic conference.

Proposed future programs include graduate student and undergraduate student exchanges among the Big 12 Schools.

Electronic Senate - President Howe reported that the Faculty Senate home page is now accessible through the Texas Tech University home page. Also the TTU Senate home page is linked to the home pages of all the faculty senates in the Big 12 and to TTU-related Texas Legislative summaries.

Invitation for Senators to Tour the New Southwest/Special Collections Library - The Senate received an invitation from Dr. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries, and Preston Lewis, Interim Director of the Southwest/Special Collections Library, to tour the public and non-public areas of the facilities Wednesday, January 29 at 3:30 p.m. Interested senators should meet in the East Rotunda of the Southwest/Special Collections Library.

Faculty Pay Raises - Associate Provost Virginia Sowell summarized the current faculty pay raise situation. The administration is in the process of equalizing faculty salaries with Texas A & M and the University of Texas. The pay raise effective January 15, 1997 will be based on merit and those eligible will be all tenured and tenure-track assistant, associate and full professors. Deans and upper administrative faculty are not eligible for these raises. The merit raise pool is 4.5% based on the funds received by each college for faculty salaries. Merit raises will be award by department chairs based on assessment of each faculty member's 1996 Annual Report. Equity raises may also be awarded from these funds. The raises may show up in the April checks. A special check may then be issued for merit pay back to January 15.

IV. COMMITTEE, COUNCIL AND LIAISON REPORTS

Faculty Senate Study Committee A - Senator Coulter presented the written report of the committee recommending procedures for the selection of new chancellor/president/administrative appointees. Coulter indicated this report was not intended to criticize the past process but was intended to fill gaps in the operations manual that exist as a result of the new administrative structure at Texas Tech University. The full text of the amended report is available on the Senate Web page (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate/seladm.htm>). Senator Couch moved and Senator Hensley seconded that Item # 10 of the "Suggestion Summary Endorsed by Faculty Senate Committee A" should read: Administrative officers of the chancellor and the presidents will be selected by each accordingly, following the evaluation, and advice of the department or university unit with which the official is most closely associated, including any academic

department in which the administrator is expected to teach and subject to the approval of each higher administrative authority. (Portion in bold is the addition.) Senator Coulter offered the following friendly amendment which was accepted by Couch and Hensley. Leave Item #10 as originally written, but add an additional sentence at the end of the item that reads: If appointees are to teach in an academic unit they must be approved by the faculty of the unit. The Senate voted to accept the revision of Item # 10 with one dissenting vote so that it reads: 10. Administrative officers of the chancellor and the presidents will be selected by each accordingly, following the evaluation and advice of the department or university unit with which the official is most closely associated and subject to the approval of each higher administrative authority. If appointees are to teach in an academic unit, they must be approved by the faculty of the unit. The Senate also agreed to the following minor revisions: Item #3 -

"...an

Advisory Subcommittee and an Advisory Subcommittee as defined..." should read "...an Advisory Subcommittee and a Search Subcommittee as defined..."; on page 4 under Administrative Appointees section Item #1 and 2 "Board of Directors" should read "Board of Regents."

The report as amended and revised was unanimously accepted by the Faculty

Senate and is on file in the Senate Office and on the Senate web page.

President Howe will convey the report and recommendations to Chancellor Montford who will transmit them to the Board of Regents for consideration. Report of the Nominating Committee - Senator DeBell encouraged senators with at least a year of Senate service remaining to nominate themselves for the Senate offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary. Only tenured faculty can serve as President or Vice-President. If you wish to nominate an individual, be sure he or she is willing to serve. Nominations can be given to Senators DeBell, Couch or Held via campus mail, e-mail or phone. Nominations can also be sent to the Faculty Senate Office or be given to Faculty Senate Secretary Frazier. At the February 12, 1997 Senate meeting the committee will present the slate of nominees. At that time nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was conducted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Availability of PPP Computer Accounts for Retired Personnel - Senator Coulter offered and Senator Dunne seconded the following consensus resolution: The Senate recommends to Associate Vice-President for Computing and Information Technology, Thomas Newman, that PPP accounts for Texas Tech

University retirees be approved. Retired faculty are often still involved in research and need access to computer services on campus. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Senate.

University Master Plan - Currently an architectural firm is working on a

Master Plan for the University; but so far no open meetings have been held, and thus no faculty input has been obtained on the plan. As a result, Senator Howe offered the following resolution seconded by Senator DeBell: The Faculty Senate believes faculty should have input on the Master Plan, therefore, an open session or sessions on the University Master Plan should be held so such input can be obtained. Senator Held offered a friendly amendment that these sessions should be held during the regular school year at a time when faculty are on campus. The amendment was accepted. The resolution was passed unanimously by the Senate.

Dual-Credit Courses Taught in High School - After discussion in the Senate,

President Howe referred the issue of dual-credit courses taught in high school for college credit to the Academic Affairs Committee for examination. The committee is to formulate recommendations on the issue to bring back to the Senate.

University Courses Offered Outside of Colleges - Senator Elbow reported that a proposal was brought to the Academic Council by Dean Shonrock to allow for a freshman leadership course to be taught out of the Dean of Students Office by staff in the Dean of Students Office for college credit. The course is not yet approved by the Academic Council. The proposal raises many unresolved issues about such courses: How are courses taught outside of an academic unit approved? Who oversees such courses? Should staff without faculty appointments be allowed to teach courses for college credit? President Howe referred the issue to the Academic Affairs Committee for study. The Committee will report back to the Senate.

Comments on TTU Football Program and the Houston Chronicle- Houston Chronicle reporter Mr. Danny Robbins, who has over the past year written many articles about the Texas Tech Football Program and the Baylor Basketball program in relation to possible NCAA violations at both institutions, was given the floor by President Howe to respond to questions. Senator Dunne stated that he has no knowledge that Texas Tech has violated NCAA rules and asked Robbins if there are problems that the Texas Tech Senate should be aware of. Robbins indicated that he was reporting information uncovered during an investigation of the Baylor football program which implicated Texas Tech and several other institutions. Senator Held asked, "If Texas Tech has violated NCAA rules why has it not been prosecuted?" Robbins responded that the NCAA investigation on Texas Tech has not been completed.

President Howe reminded the Senate that Senate Study Committee B
chaired by
Senator George was investigating this issue.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Senate was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie D. Thompson