

Minutes #173 - Faculty Senate  
November 13, 1996

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 13, 1996 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with John Howe, President, presiding. Senators present were Bremer, Coombs, Couch, Coulter, DeBell, Dornier, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Durland, Fedler, Fortney, Fox, George, P. Goebel, U. Goebel, Held, Hensley, Herring, Hufford, Khan, Lan, Liman, Mann, Meek, Miller, Morrow, Myers, Olivarez, Opp, Reckner, River, Robert, Sarkar, Schaller, Stinespring, Stout, L. Thompson, V. Thompson, Tock, Urban, Welton, and Whisnant. Senator Corbett is on leave from the University. Senators Casadonte, Elbow, Jackson, Nguyen and Rainger were absent because of University business. Senator Floyd was absent with prior notification.

I. President Howe called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and recognized the following guests: John Burns, Interim Provost; Sharen Hart, Office of Development; Ron Pigott, Chair, Engineering Technology; Janet Doggett, News & Publications; Matthew Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; April Castro and Ginger Pope, University Daily; and a half dozen students from the Department of Engineering Technology.

II. Minutes of the October 9, 1996 meeting were approved with the one correction. The Senate resolution in support of Dr. Alfonso Scandrett passed with two dissenting votes, not one.

III. Remarks from Invited Guests

Texas Tech University Interim Provost, Dr. John Burns addressed the Senate. Dr. Burns expressed his belief in shared governance and stated that he will frequently seek the Senate's advice and consent on Texas Tech issues. He intends to use the Senate as a resource in decision-making processes. He views the Office of the Provost as a facilitating position. His ultimate goal is to envision ways to help colleges and departments succeed. He is working to establish a university-wide teaching academy. Some suggested tasks for the academy would be to promote teaching excellence in the way that the Horn Professors promote research and to improve the university-wide teaching evaluation forms. Dr. Burns will be attending a Big XII Provosts' meeting in Dallas in December. The intent of this group is to make the Big XII an academic

conference as well as an athletic conference.

Challenges for Texas Tech for the future include: recruiting good faculty and students, increasing scholarship funds, improving the classroom

environment, and increasing Texas Tech's involvement in distance education. Dr. Burns closed by emphasizing that he has an open-door policy. A question and answer session ensued.

Senator Held inquired why the faculty and students of the Engineering Technology Department were not consulted prior to closing the department. Dr. Burns indicated that he believed department chairmen in the College had been consulted and that he had suggested to Dean Aunon to now hold an open forum with faculty and student participation. He has asked the Dean to secure additional input on his decision to merge the department with other departments in the College.

Senator Couch asked Dr. Burns to revisit the faculty workload issue by asking about administrative salaries that are paid from teaching funds based on "paper credit" for teaching courses. Dr. Burns indicated that often 1/3 to 1/2 of administrative salaries are paid from teaching funds and that this issue should be examined as it might be an inappropriate use of teaching funds. (Dr. Burns upon inquiry after the meeting, informed the Senate Office on November 15 that paying a portion of administrative salaries out of teaching funds is an accepted practice according to the Texas Legislature since administrators are charged with the direction and supervision of instruction.)

Senator Hensley asked, in regard to shared governance, if Dr. Burns was aware of the report compiled by the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Performance relating to the issue of faculty work load. Dr. Burns suggested that it may be possible to combine the efforts of the Faculty Senate Committee and the suggestions offered in a report he had authored about reassessment of work load policy.

Senator Dunne asked about the status of the search for an Athletic Director. Dr. Burns responded that the AD Search Committee had sent forward to Chancellor Montford a list of five candidates for consideration.

The issue of post-tenure review was raised. Dr. Burns indicated that Texas

Tech does have a satisfactory tenure policy. Apparent problems that the Legislature and the public have with the tenure issues are due to misinformation and incorrect perceptions. Dr. Burns indicated that improvement might be possible in the view of the Legislature in our annual review process for tenured faculty in the provisions that exist to define the steps that are to be taken if a tenured faculty member has unsatisfactory annual evaluations.

Senator Dunham asked about the possibility of creating a Texas Tech System

like that of Texas A & M. Dr. Burns indicated that he was not directly involved in discussions related to Texas Tech's possible acquisition of other institutions, but that such an approach could have advantages.

Senator Olivarez pointed out that such a system would enhance graduate student recruitment.

Scott Smith, Engineering Technology student, expressed the students'

concerns that the Engineering Technology program would be disbanded if Engineering Technology were merged with other departments in Engineering. He stated that the Dean of Engineering has been elusive and uncooperative; that neither faculty nor student input was solicited; and that the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, and that the Faculty Senate had not been informed of the Dean's intentions.

#### IV. Announcements

Forum on Tenure - The Agenda Committee, under Vice President Elbow's leadership, has been attempting to organize a community forum on Tenure. Senator Elbow's suggestions were presented by President Howe, as Senator Elbow was unable to attend the Senate meeting. Highlights of this initiative are outlined below:

- 1) The Senate Web-Page (<http://www.ttu.edu/~Senate>) contains a Tenure Forum, a collection of articles concerning the issue of "post-tenure review" and of tenure fights throughout the country;
- 2) Vice President Elbow and President Howe met with the Tenure Advisory Committee, which agreed to co-sponsor a public forum on tenure. Unfortunately, Teel Bivins (who represents District 31 based in Amarillo, and who will chair the Senate Education Committee) was not able to attend except for December 12 or 13. After inquiries, Elbow concluded that these were not acceptable dates for a public forum. Bivins offered to send a representative next semester, but he will not commit to attend a forum when the legislature is in session.
- 3) Therefore, Vice President Elbow wanted to poll the Senate on options about how to proceed, which are discussed under new business.

Faculty/Staff Scholarship Fund Oversight Committee - Senator Dunham presented the Senate recommendations of October 9 to the Benefits and Retirement Committee on October 28. The B & B Committee endorsed the Senate's recommendations. Both TTU President Donald Haragan and TTUHSC President David Smith have now responded favorably. The one alteration they made was that Haragan faulted the lack of parallelism between the proposed five representatives from the TTU community and the proposed seven from the TTUHSC (which had extra representation because of its satellite campuses). Smith therefore agreed to absorb the satellite representatives into his quota of five.

The recommendations specify that the Senate should directly name one member

of the oversight committee. President Haragan has asked that we do so. The Agenda Committee will select a committee member before the December 4 meeting to be presented for Senate approval at that time.

Relocation of December 4 Senate Meeting - Idris R. Traylor, Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs, will be out of town during the Senate meetings on December 4 and January 15. Therefore, on December 4 the Senate will not meet at the International Cultural Center as previously

scheduled but will meet in the usual location, the Senate Room of the University Center.

Reception - Following the December 4 meeting, the Senate Officers invited senators to bring their spouses or significant others to a happy hour, a well-merited celebration of the holiday season that proclaims not only the immanence of God but also the end of the semester.

## V. Reports from Councils and Committees

Council of Faculty Governance Organizations - President Howe reported on the CoFGO meeting held October 18-19, 1996. Main issues to emerge from the meeting included: 1) More than half of the senates are working to make changes on tenure policies, and 2) many senates are creating Web-sites, which CoFGO intends to help link.

Committee B Report on Advertising at Graduation - Senator George reported that the advertising currently in the Lubbock Coliseum will remain for the up coming commencement ceremonies. The advertising agreements are arranged between the City of Lubbock and the advertisers. In view of this, Faculty Senate Study Committee B made the following recommendations to the Senate:

- 1) The presence of visual commercial messages in the venue of commencement ceremonies materially compromises the dignity of these ceremonies,
- 2) That accordingly we commend the policy reported by interim Provost John Burns, to the effect that "all advertising contracts for the new United Spirit Arena will contain clauses which will inhibit advertising during commencement exercises."
- 3) We invite Dr. Burns to clarify the term "inhibit." (Burns responded to the Senate on November 15 that Interim Athletic Director Myers "has given me his assurance that these contracts will contain clauses stating that advertising will either be removed or covered during commencements and faculty convocations"; that the central scoreboard might pose problems, but that these could be dealt with in various ways.)

The recommendation was unanimously accepted by the Senate.

Teaching, Learning and Technology Advisory Committee Meeting report was available at the door and is on file in the Faculty Senate Office.

## VI. Old Business

Grievance Policy Ad Hoc Committee - Senator Coulter reported on the specifics of a policy that was approved in principle in May 1996. The complete policy is on the Faculty Senate Web-site. The grievance process has been simplified to eliminate several steps. Senator Coulter indicated that the changes were initiated by faculty and could be considered "pro-faculty." Senator Coulter expressed his appreciation to the committee, especially to Professor Rodric Schoen at the Law School. The Senate unanimously accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

## VII. New Business

NCAA Compliance Regarding Athletics and Academics - President Howe referred

this issue to Senate Study Committee B chaired by Senator George. Additionally this committee will examine the effectiveness of the performance of the Athletic Council.

Possible Revision of the Senate Constitution in Response to the New Administrative Structure at Texas Tech University was assigned to Faculty Senate Study Committee C.

The issue of mail ballots for Senate Bylaw changes will be examined by the

Agenda Committee and returned to the Senate at the December 4 meeting.

Tour of the International Cultural Center - The Senate unanimously approved

the motion to accept an invitation to tour the International Cultural Center on Monday, November 25 at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for those senators who are interested. This will not be a regular meeting of the Senate.

Tenure Form Discussion - Senator Howe, for Senator Elbow, led a discussion

on what the Senate would like to do in regard to the post-tenure review issue.

Senator Elbow proposed the following four possibilities.

1. Do nothing.
2. Hold an open forum on tenure. A new committee could be assigned the task of organizing a forum. Issues could include a history of tenure and nation-wide policies on tenure.
3. Send the "tenure issue" to a standing committee such as Faculty Status and Welfare or the University Tenure Advisory Committee to examine tenure issues.
4. Do both 2 and 3.

Senator Held moved, and Senator U. Goebel seconded a motion to opt for item

#1 and do nothing. The motion failed with 14 in favor and 20 against.

Senator DeBell moved to do nothing until all Senators could, prior to the

next meeting, read OP 32.32 about post-tenure review and the relevant section of the Faculty Handbook; then the Senate should revisit the issue at the December 4 Senate meeting. Senator Hensley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Senate's Faculty Performance Study Committee is examining problems related to post-tenure review and will try to report at the December 4 meeting.

Merger of Engineering Technology with other Engineering Departments

Senator Held proposed the following resolution: "The Faculty Senate requests that the administration consult with the Faculty Senate before deciding to close any academic department on the TTU campus." The resolution was amended by friendly amendments to read: "The Faculty Senate requests that the administration consult with the faculty and students involved and with the Faculty Senate before closing or reorganizing any academic unit on the TTU campus." Due to the late hour of the day and the substantive nature of the issue, a vote on the resolution was not taken. The Agenda Committee of the Senate will send this issue to a committee to resolve substance and wording of the resolution for re-evaluation at the next meeting of the Senate.

#### VIII. Adjournment

The Senate was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie D. Thompson  
Secretary 1996-97