

MINUTES #179 - FACULTY SENATE

April 9, 1997

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, April 9, 1997 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Vice President Gary Elbow presiding. Senators present were Bremer, Casadonte, Couch, DeBell, Dornier, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, George, P. Goebel, Held, Hensley, Herring, Jackson, Khan, Lan, Liman, Meek, Miller, Morrow, Myers, Olivarez, Opp, Reed, River, Robert, Sarkar, Schaller, Stinespring, Stout, L. Thompson, V. Thompson, Tock, Urban and Whisnant. Senators Fedler and Mann were absent because of University business. Senators Fox, Howe, and Nguyen were absent because of illness. Senators Corbett, Coombs, Coulter, Floyd, U. Goebel, Hufford, Rainger, Reckner and Welton were absent.

I. Vice President Elbow called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the following guests: John Burns, Provost; Sharen Hart, Office of Development; Gerald Myers, Director of Athletics; Matt Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; Ginger Pope, University Daily and Television Channel 11.

Professor Benjamin H. Newcomb, History, served as Parliamentarian.

II. Minutes from the April 2, 1997 were approved with the following addition. Chancellor Montford indicated that the Women's Gym was slated for demolition, faculty offices and other academic facilities will be relocated until a replacement facility is constructed. The new facility will likely be located near the men's gym.

III. REMARKS FROM INVITED GUESTS

Coach Gerald Myers, Athletic Director commented on academic affairs within the Athletic Department (AD) in view of recent athlete certification and academic problems. The AD intends to work closely with the Athletic Council to make improvements in academic matters. The Council will be meeting on a regular, once per month basis. Recent recommendations by the Council have been acted on by the AD. Clint Ramsey, Interim Director of Academic Services, has implemented a class attendance monitoring program, and restructured study hall. Coaches will be more active in academic matters. Academic positives can be found. Out of 17 sports programs 15 teams have an average GPA of 2.5 or better, and 79% of student athletes have a 2.0 GPA or better. In the Big 12 Texas Tech University has the fifth highest graduation rate. Recent problems are being viewed as an opportunity to strengthen academic services. The AD goals are to be in the top half of the Big 12 in all sports in both athletic and academic endeavors.

Certification and eligibility processes have been reorganized with several checks and balances in place. Training of staff on NCAA and Big 12 rules will be improved. The AC recommended that: 1) All recruits should attend summer orientation and 2) freshmen athletes should enroll in freshman seminar. The AD will adopt these recommendations. A question and answer session ensued.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senate symposium on K-12 education will be on April 17, 1997 in Human Sciences room 169 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Reports from the April 1, 1997 Academic Council and the April 3, 1997 Graduate Council meetings were available at the meeting and can be found on the Senate Web page.

The Senate might call a special meeting to discuss the Chancellor's Strategic Plan if sufficient time is not available at the April 30, 1997 Senate meeting.

V. COMMITTEE, COUNCIL AND LIAISON REPORTS

Academic Programs Committee - Senator Paul Goebel, Chair, indicated that a resolution regarding course approval processes has been written but that all committee members have not had an opportunity to give input: thus formal presentation of the resolution will be postponed until the next Senate meeting. The intent of the proposal is that all courses taught for college credit at Texas Tech University must go through an approval process within a college or, if interdisciplinary or taught outside a college structure, the course should be approved by either the Academic Council, a committee designated by the academic council, or by a new process approved by the Academic Council. The issue will be revisited at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee Recommendations for Changes in OP 32.32 - Senator Dunham presented a written report at the meeting including the original OP 32.32, the recommended changes and the justification for each change. Each change was presented as a separate motion. Bold, underlined portions indicate the changed portions or additions to OP 32.32.

Recommendation #1 - Recommended wording of item 5a (paragraph 1) is: Any faculty member, whose evaluation reflects a pattern of unsatisfactory performance, as agreed upon by the dean and chairperson/coordinator, will be informed in writing of deficiencies in teaching, creative activity or research, or service. The motion was unanimously amended to substitute the word "**incompetent**" in place of "**unsatisfactory**." The committee agreed to change the OP 32.32 to use consistent wording throughout the resolutions replacing "unsatisfactory" with the word "incompetent." The recommendation as amended passed.

Recommendation #2 - Item 3 should include an additional item (f) which should read: **All units should have a procedure established whereby a committee of peers will be available to arbitrate disagreement between an individual faculty member and the chairperson/coordinator regarding an annual review at the faculty member's request. If the arbitration is not successful, a copy of the committee's recommendations should become part of the annual evaluation.** The recommendation passed.

Recommendation #3 - 1. Item 3 should also include an additional item (g) which should read: **5g. Such a peer review committee should be chosen by preestablished procedures agreed upon by the majority of the voting members of the faculty member's academic unit.**

2. 5a (paragraph 2) should be re-written as: Each academic unit will develop preestablished procedures agreed upon by the voting members of the faculty member's academic unit for involving other faculty in the formulation of a written program of development when requested by the faculty member involved. Senator George proposed an amendment that "should" be changed to "shall." Senator Virginia Thompson seconded the motion. Motion to amend passed. Amended motion passed.

Recommendation #4 - Item 5a should be rewritten as:

5a. A written program of development, for a reasonable time but no more than two years, will be established in consultation with the chairperson and the faculty member. Motion passed.

Recommendation #5 - Item 5b should be reworded as:

5b. The faculty member and the chairperson/coordinator will continue to provide reports at the end of each semester summarizing progress toward development objectives.

For the individual on a development program, the dean and the chairperson/coordinator will provide an evaluation report at the end of each academic semester (which will be reviewed by a committee of peers if so requested by the faculty member) to the individual that will be signed by the dean, chairperson/coordinator, and faculty member. The motion passed.

Senator Hensley moved that an additional recommendation be added to OP 32.32: That all faculty annual performance evaluations comply with Faculty Senate Guidelines for Faculty Performance Assessment. The guidelines were endorsed by the Senate in 1995 and are on file in the Senate office and on the Web page. The motion was seconded. Senator Dornier motioned that the issue be referred to the Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion to refer to the committee passed unanimously. Some Senators have not had the opportunity to read the guidelines. The Faculty Senate Guidelines on Faculty Performance Assessment will be distributed to all senators before the next meeting.

Committee on Committees - Senator Pat Dunne, chairman, presented the committee's list of nominees for vacancies on University Councils and Committees for 1997-98. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the list of nominees.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Adding Plus Minus Grading to GPA Calculation - Senator Paul Goebel moved to remove from the table the two resolutions concerning plus/minus grading. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The first resolution, **BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University recommends that: The administration place into effect the use of the plus or minus grades, to appear on the students' transcripts and be incorporated in the calculation of students' grade point average, at the earliest possible time.** Senator Held moved to amend the motion by adding at the end of the resolution "**subject to the approval of the Student Senate.**" Senator Hensley seconded the motion. The vote on the amendment was 14 in favor, 14 opposed. The presiding officer broke the tie, voting in the affirmative. Amendment passed. The amended motion passed with 16 affirmative votes, 12 opposed.

The second motion, **BE IT RESOLVED THAT: A system be followed in determining the value of each plus or minus, such that a plus or minus is equal to .33 points, resulting in the following grade values: A+ 4.33, A 4.00, A- 3.67, B+ 3.33, B 3.00, B- 2.67, B- 2.67, C+ 2.33, C 2.00, C- 1.67, D+ 1.33, D 1.00, F 0.00.** Senator DeBell moved to amend the scale with a cap on the scale at 4.0, with no addition points being allowed for an A+. Senator Held seconded the motion. Amendment passed. The amended motion passed.

Request for Administration response to OP 32.32 Revisions - Senator Held
moved that: **The Faculty Senate request a response to the Senate's**
proposed changes in OP 32.32 before the Senate's next meeting of April
30, 1997. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The timely
response is requested so the issue can be discussed at the last meeting
of the Senate for the year and the information can be used to prepare
for a forum.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Senate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:15 p. m.