

Minutes #183

MINUTES #183-FACULTY SENATE

November 5, 1997

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 5, 1997 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Edward V. George, President, presiding. Senators present were Baker, Boylan, Bremer, Casadonte, Couch, Crawford, Dornier, Elbow, El-Hindi, Floyd, Fox, Giaccardo, Gomez, Herring, Hufford, Josephson, Khan, Lan, Liman, Loudon, McComb, Meaney, Meek, Miller, Olivarez, Perez, Ponticell, Reed, River, Sarkar, Schaller, Stinespring, Stombler, Stout, D. Thompson, and White. Senators Boal, Burkett, and Myers were absent because of University business. Senator Tsai was absent with prior notification. Senators Corbett, Coombs, Jackson, Morrow, Nguyen, Oler, Reckner, Robert, L. Thompson and Van Cleave were absent.

President George called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the new Senators present and the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, President; John Burns, Provost; Virginia Sowell, Vice Provost; Jim Brink, Interim Vice President, Enrollment Management; Jim Burkhalter, Director, Housing and Dining; Gary Bell, Director, Honors Program; Cathy H. Allen, Special Assistant for Cultural Diversity; Rebecca Owens, Director, PASS; Susie Crow, Coordinator, XL Program; Janie Ramirez, Human Resources Coordinator; Catherine W. Fuller and Jay Zalewski from the bookstore; Mary Owens, Professor, HPER; Keith Bearden, Professor, Music; Cliff Summar, Graduate Student; Jason Bernstein, University Daily; Matt Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; and other members of the media.

I. Invited Presentation: Cathy Allen, Special Assistant for Cultural Diversity:

Ms. Allen reported that her office has been charged with working with University departments to improve recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups. Ms. Allen stated that her department is working for all underrepresented groups, not merely minority groups. They are working collaboratively with several other departments. There is a need to improve the infrastructure at Tech to improve services for all students. There is also a need to improve relations with LISD and encourage LISD students to choose Texas Tech. Ms. Allen addressed the letter from Victor Hernandez and other minority leaders regarding concern about changing admission standards. Comments from community leaders, specifically leaders representing minority groups, have expressed concern that raising the required SAT scores is sending a signal that Texas Tech University does not want minority students. Ms. Allen responded that those who assume specific arbitrary numbers will reduce minority enrollment are buying into the argument that minorities cannot succeed. Ms. Allen stated that she does not buy into this argument and there are some legitimate concerns. Senator Elbow expressed concern that standardized tests will screen out students that tend to do less well on these standardized exams and thus minorities will be affected at a much higher rate than non-minority students. Ms. Allen responded that her office would like to see Texas Tech University not

focus on specific numbers, but look at the student as a whole and what (s)he can bring to the University. She suggested we focus on the individual and not rely exclusively on numbers. Senator Stinespring expressed disappointment that anyone from the Diversity office would take such a mild approach to the issue of using standardized test scores for admission standards. Senator Stinespring stated that he would like to see the Office for Diversity take a proactive stance against any forces attempting to set such standards and he was pleased to hear Ms. Allen's view on taking a more holistic approach. Ms. Allen responded that her approach is not to become inflammatory, but to educate and preach a more holistic approach to admission standards.

II. Memorial: Dr. Mary Owens presented a memorial to Louise Luchsinger Anderson who recently passed away. Keith Bearden presented a memorial to Dean Killion who recently passed away.

III. Approval of Minutes for Meeting #182. Minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Invited Presentations: Jim Burkhalter, Director, Housing Services: Mr. Burkhalter addressed the Senate to update on matters concerning the bookstore. Mr. Burkhalter stated that the bookstore has experienced several difficulties this fall centered on book availability. Mr. Burkhalter asked Jay Zalewski to address the Senate; Mr. Zalewski is the regional director of Wallace's Company, operator of the bookstore. Mr. Zalewski expressed his concern about the problems that have occurred at the bookstore and stated that Wallace's company is very concerned about rectifying the problems. A new bookstore director has been hired for the Tech campus. There has been a restructuring of the textbook department, adding a new assistant textbook manager position, a customer service supervisor, and a campus relations manager. Other changes are in the works to make Wallace's a top bookstore. The bookstore will work with the Bookstore Advisory Committee to resolve any problems or issues of concern to faculty or students. Some issues addressed by Senators concerned how long books stay at the bookstore since some books are not used until later in the semester after books had been sent back to the publishers and the return policy for books. Mr. Burkhalter stated that faculty having concerns about the bookstore can send him a note

(j.burkhalter@ttu.edu) or stop by his office (108 Doak Hall) to visit with him about the issue. President George asked whether the Bookstore Advisory Committee would welcome a liaison from the Faculty Senate and Mr. Burkhalter replied in the affirmative.

President Haragan addressed the Senate about his response to the Board of Regents recommendations on admission standards. President Haragan suggested that the Board take action on some of the issues and defer others. President Haragan expressed support on the thrust to continue the quality improvement of the student body at Texas Tech University. President Haragan stated that the University should continue with the current goals of recruitment and increased scholarships. We need to continue on the path of recruiting the best students to Texas Tech University. This goal can be achieved by increasing the numbers of the students at the top levels without reducing the students at

the bottom. By attracting the top students to Texas Tech we will increase the averages and the overall quality of students at Texas Tech.

Dr. James Brink, Vice-President for Enrollment Management addressed the Senate about the structure of the new office for Enrollment Management. The office oversees several programs including new student relations, student orientation, admission and records, financial aid, transition advisement, the Pass center, the Freshman Seminar. This new office allows for a greater focus in several areas and should help with the new mission to improve recruitment and retention. All faculty should expect to play a greater role in the recruitment and retention of students at Texas Tech.

V. Unfinished Business: Committee C report, Senator Schaller reviewed recommendations from Committee C regarding the Regents Committee on Admissions Standards that had been presented at the last Senate meeting. There was much discussion about individual recommendations. Specifically, Vice-President Brink expressed his conviction that the Freshman Seminar course should be a mandatory course. Vice-President Brink commented that concern over finding faculty to teach the course is not a problem and that one of the strong points of the Freshman Seminar is that it is taught by diverse faculty from many different areas of the campus. The course could be offered in the summer terms to accommodate provisional students. Senator Elbow made a motion and Senator Couch seconded that we ask the Board of Regents to defer action on the whole package of recommendations until further research can be done. Senator Miller suggested that we look at how these recommendations will affect the issue of diversity and the impact of requiring Freshman Seminar with available data before acting on the recommendations. Senator Thompson suggested that the Board of Regents might not accept our motion to defer action. Senator Stombler stated that although one mission of the University is research, we are still asked to make recommendations without the time necessary to perform adequate research on the issues. Several Senators suggested that some motions were not controversial and should be passed forward. Senator Elbow's motion passed. Senator Schaller made a motion, Senator Thompson seconded, that the Senate accept Recommendations 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 from Committee C. This motion passed. The recommendations that were accepted are as follows: 6. The Faculty Senate supports the Regents' recommendation for a greater number of scholarships. 8. The Faculty Senate supports the recommendation that applicants for admission by transfer who would be transferring fewer than 24 hours of college course work must meet the same standards for admission as "new freshman from high school" in addition to having at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA in their college courses. 10. The Faculty Senate is opposed to the use of the "18th factor" from the list of criteria supplied in Texas HB588 ("any other consideration the institution considers necessary to accomplish the institution's stated mission") 11. The Faculty Senate rejects the goal of achieving a 50% rejection rate in the next five years. 12. Assured admission should continue to be granted only to students who were in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. 13. The Faculty Senate is opposed to setting an enrollment cap of 3520 for "new freshman from high school."

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws: The agenda committee proposed to amend the end of Section 6 of the Senate Bylaws to read: " The President, Vice President, and Secretary shall themselves constitute an Agenda Committee, which shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for each meeting and for distributing it to each senator on or before the Friday preceding the meeting, and which shall name Senate liaisons to university committees as they deem appropriate, subject to senate vote. The senate liaison to the Graduate Council shall be a member of the Graduate Faculty."

In accordance with Section 10 of the bylaws this proposed amendment has been filed with the President and will be attached to the agenda for the December 10, 1997 meetings.

VI. Committee and Council Reports

Master Plan, Committee B report: Senator Floyd summarized the report from Committee B which asks that the Senate approve the Master Plan as a "work in progress." The most controversial aspect of the plan, namely the use of the land west of Indiana where the proposed residential properties and golf course would be located, has been resolved and people being affected seem satisfied with the new plan. A second controversial aspect of the Master plan concerned parking and the move away from surface parking and toward parking decks. The Senate committee has been assured that the parking concerns will continue to be addressed and no decisions had been made regarding changing parking structures. The report was accepted unanimously. The full report can be found on the senate webpage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>)

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Senator Stomblor reported that the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee came up with a set of pros and cons regarding the proposed Honors College. The list of pros and cons can be found on the senate webpage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>) and remarks can be sent to Senator Stomblor (Mindy@ttu.edu). Senator Stomblor also reported that this committee recommends that no changes be made to the current policy regarding whether a spouse should be allowed to vote on their spouse's tenure (i.e. spouses should be allowed to vote on their spouse's tenure when allowed to do so by the individual department). Senator Floyd expressed his strong opinion that faculty should not be able to vote on their spouses tenure. President George asked the Committee resubmit the recommendation at the next meeting.

Budget Study Committee: Senator Miller suggested that Senators spend some time reading the report from the Budget Study Committee concerning the monitoring of the bookstore and bookstore revenues. Discussion of the report will be delayed until the December meeting. The report is available on the Senate webpage. Senator Miller mentioned that last spring the Senate voted that monies from the bookstore should go to academics and not athletics. She requested that we ask President Haragan to address this issue and provide a response to this request.

VII. Announcements

Space for Faculty Senate Office: Plans are proceeding to convert the Conference Room into Graduate School office space. A table for eight is being sought to install in Grace's office (HH 03G) for Senate committee meetings. A letter is on file from President Haragan, dated 10/8, assuring us that "suitable space in the Administration Building for the Faculty Senate will be a high priority for me."

Texas Council of Faculty Senates annual meeting, 10/17-18, Austin. President George attended. See his report on the Senate Webpage.

Schedule for submitting grades at the end of the semester. A faculty member inquired about deadline changes. President Haragan clarifies the procedure to be used at the end of the semester as follows: "Mike Smith in the Admissions and Records Office will be here on Saturday (Dec. 20) until 12 noon to receive grades; these will be processed over the weekend so that students can get their grades during the holidays. Students whose professors don't have grades in will receive a blank or an X grade and then can have the grade change form submitted after January 2, 1998.

Would you please share with the faculty senate my support for ample time for professors to have the opportunity to grade their papers in a thoughtful manner? In this case the compromise provides for most students to get their grades and for faculty to have time to grade papers as needed."

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Lanie Dornier

Secretary 1997-98