

Minutes #184

MINUTES #184 - FACULTY SENATE

December 10, 1997

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, December 10, 1997 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with President Edward V. George

presiding. Senators present were Baker, Boylan, Bremer, Burkett, Casadonte, Crawford, Dornier, Elbow, El-Hindi, Floyd, Fox, Giaccardo, Gomez, Herring, Hufford, Josephson, Khan, Liman, Louden, McComb, Meaney,

Meek, Miller, Myers, Oler, Olivarez, Perez, Ponticell, Reckner, Reed, River, Robert, Schaller, Stinespring, Stompler, D. Thompson,

L. Thompson, and Tsai. Senators Boal, Couch, Nguyen, Sarkar, and Stout were absent because of University business. Senator White was absent with prior notification. Senators Corbett, Coombs, Lan, Morrow and

Van Cleave were absent.

I. President George called the meeting to order and introduced the following guests: Rkoberth Henry, Associate Director, School of Music; Virginia Sowell, Vice Provost; Gary Bell, Director of Honors Program; Matt Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; Ginger Pope, University Daily; and members of the media.

Professor Brian McGee, Communication Studies, served as Parliamentarian.

II. Memorial: Dr. Robert E. Henry presented a memorial to James Sudduth, Professor and Director of Bands at Texas Tech, who recently passed away.

III. Approval of Minutes for Meeting #183. Minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Unfinished Business: Committee C report. Since the recommendations from Study Committee C address some but not all of the Board of Regents recommendations regarding recruiting, admission, and retention, the Senate discussed each section of the Board of Regents recommendations (BOR November 7, 1997 report can be found on the Senate webpage: <http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>). The following is a summary of the Senate's response to each section.

Section 1 regarding adopting goals for the University. Senators expressed concern about how the Board of Regents proposes to achieve these specific goals.

Section 2 regarding the review process, which will be based on criteria assessing students in a holistic manner. Senators commented on the need to state specific criteria for such

assessment. Additionally, Senators conveyed the message that Section 1 and 2 are inconsistent. Section 1 stresses SAT scores and Section 2 mentions a holistic approach. The Regents need to clarify exactly what they are attempting to achieve.

Section 3 regarding provisional admission: Senator Schaller presented information from Study Committee C making specific recommendations regarding provisional admission of students. Recommendation 1.1: "The University expend all efforts to study why students leave Texas Tech and then, without sacrificing quality, focus upon improving the graduation rate of students who are admitted to Texas Tech rather than on 'raising the bar' for admission". Recommendation passed unanimously. Recommendation 1.2: "All freshman with a Fall semester GPA below 2.0 be required to take a XL style course in the Spring semester." Recommendation passed unanimously. Recommendation 1.3: "All provisional admissions be required to take XL 0201 during their first semester at Texas Tech." Recommendation passed unanimously. Recommendation 1.4: "Provisionally admitted students be required to earn a GPA of at least 2.5 in six hours of required basic courses taken at Texas Tech, or a GPA of at least 2.0 in twelve hours of required basic courses taken at Texas Tech, or at least a 2.5 GPA in 12 hours of required basic courses taken at another institution." Recommendation passed unanimously. Recommendation 3: "Recommend that IS1100 not be made mandatory for all new freshman from high school. Any student who wishes to take the Freshman Seminar should be guaranteed admission to IS1100." Recommendation passed. Recommendation 4: "Recommend that all transfer students be required to take an orientation/study skills course during their first semester at Texas Tech." There was discussion about differences between XL courses and IS1100 (the Freshman Seminar). Also Senators commented that not all students should be required to take such a course if they are transferring with high GPA's. After considerable discussion Senator Thompson made a motion to table the discussion on Recommendation 4. Motion passed.

Section 4 regarding admission process for transfer students. Senator Miller commented on Senator Schaller's report that transfer students drop out at a higher rate and suggested that the Board of Regents study this matter so that appropriate recommendations can be made.

Section 5a regarding scholarships. Study Committee C Recommendation 2: "Merit scholarships not be awarded solely on the basis of SAT score". Recommendation passed. Senators commented that the national trend is to move away from the use of the SAT score because this is not a good predictor of success and is biased against minority students. Senator Schaller presented data that suggested that class standing is a better indicator of success than SAT score. Senators suggested that the University should look at the whole student when awarding scholarships.

Section 5b regarding the Honors Program. Senator Stombler, as chair of the Faculty Status and Welfare committee, recommended supporting the idea of an Honors College with reservation and concerns about the details of such a college. Senator Stombler suggested that the Faculty Senate continue to be involved in the development of the details of such a College. Senator Miller expressed concern about the possibility of

having separate faculty with different criteria for tenure and promotion in such a College. Senator Elbow informed the Senate that this Section of the Board of Regents Recommendations concerns more than merely establishing a college. Senator Elbow made a motion to table the recommendation to allow further examination of the details of such a college. Motion to table passed.

Section 5c regarding academic recruiting. Senator Josephson expressed concern about Item (7)(C) ("faculty members need to have more direct involvement in recruiting, and recruiting efforts should become part of the annual evaluation of faculty members"). Senator Giaccardo noted that Item (7)(B) includes faculty as well as regents, administrators, students and alumni in stating the "need to be brought into the recruiting process..." Faculty are singled out as needing to be evaluated for efforts in recruiting under item (7)(C). Senator Casadonte made a motion that item (7)(C) be struck from the recommendations. The motion passed. Senator Elbow made a motion recommending that item (5) (which states "Recruiters in the Office of New Student Relations need to be given the authority to make certain admission decisions") be deleted because it is unnecessary for any students meeting automatic admission requirements. The motion passed. Senator Stomblor questioned the feasibility of (5)(d)(5)(D), which states "Each new student should be assigned an upper-division student and a faculty mentor who is available to provide personalized counseling and guidance". President George will raise this issue with the Board of Regents.

Proposal to Modify Senate Bylaws: Senator Floyd made a motion to send a mail ballot to all Senators regarding the proposed change in the Senate Bylaws. The proposed change is to the end of Section 6 of the 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". The motion passed.

President George announced that the Budget Study Committee's Report on the bookstore and the report of Study Committee A will be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

V. Announcements

1. Senator Reed has requested the consideration of a policy of regular upgrades of Faculty computers, following procedure on other campuses. She also requests information on University policy for scheduling hardwiring of academic buildings. This issue has been assigned to the Academic Programs Committee, Sandra River, Convener
2. The President's Office, through Monty Davenport, Vice President for Operations, has appointed a "Traffic and Parking Systems Committee" to examine vehicle registration fee increases. The committee met November 3 "to discuss vehicle registration fee increases."

Dr. Davenport adds in his post meeting memo, "It is apparent that there are numerous significant issues regarding traffic and parking (including fees) that will have to be addressed in the next several months." [The obvious reference is to the impending need for increased parking fees consequent on the Master Plan.] " As a result, I believe we agreed to work as a committee to assist in identifying, communicating, and providing recommendations regarding the traffic and parking system." Gail Wolfe, Traffic & Parking Manager, observes that the existing "Parking Violation Appeals and Parking Policy Advisory Committee" (University Committee Directory, p. 51) that historically, despite its charge, has not been used as an advisory body on parking policy, but only to hear violation appeals. The new committee includes Dr. Davenport, President Haragan, VP Jim Brunjes, Provost Burns, VP Ewalt, Vice Chancellor Doug Mann, Vice Chancellor John Opperman, Student Association President Russell Thomasson and the Faculty Senate President. The committee made no decisions November 3. It will be called "in the near future as we have information available" (Dr. Davenport).

3. John Opperman, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, will visit the January Senate meeting to update Senators about the disposition of the Faculty-Staff Benefit Scholarship program.

4. Lanie Dornier, Edward George, and Arturo Olivarez in their role as faculty members, have taken part in the creation of a dialogue group involving University faculty and staff, Hispanic University students, and members of the Lubbock Hispanic community. The purpose of this small group is to explore ideas and strategies for making Texas Tech University more inclusive. A similar undertaking for the same purpose, coordinated by Alwyn Barr of the History Department, has resulted in two gatherings of African American students and community members with Tech faculty and staff.

5. Commencement: There will be an August commencement. The Provost's Office requested Faculty Senate input. The question is in the hands of a Senate committee, but Vice Provost Sowell advised me that plans had to proceed for the event. Faculty input will still be useful for future years.

6. It has come to light from several sources that the TTU administration has tied up a portion of the University's HEAF fund as collateral for selling bonds. The Agenda Committee addressed this question for the first time December 9. Input on this matter is welcome from Senators who have had experience with effects of this arrangement. President George will consult with University President Haragan concerning the matter.

7. In response to a Senator's inquiry, Faculty Senate Liaisons Arturo Olivarez (Academic Council) and Dominick Casadonte (General Education Committee) will raise questions in their committee venues concerning the criteria by which courses are designated as fulfilling multicultural requirements.

8. The University Faculty Workload Committee continues its work. It is now examining existing OP's regarding workload and comparing them with those of selected comparable universities. The committee is working in a spirit of desire to ensure that faculty perform

responsibly, and at the same time are credited for the full range of their contributions. President George is a member of the committee, chaired by Richard McGlynn and steered by Vice President James Brink. The next meeting will be in January 1998. Input is welcome.

9. Vice Provost Bill McCaughan wrote to President George December 5 announcing the development of a Distance Learning Administrative Unit, involving the creation of a Distance Learning Council. The Senate is asked to appoint an individual to the Council. The Faculty Senate Committee on Committees is handling this matter.

10. President Haragan invites the Faculty Senate to designate an individual to serve as a member of the steering committee for an upcoming NCAA certification process for Texas Tech University. The Agenda Committee is handling this matter.

11. President George will address the December 11 special meeting of the Board of Regents to provide a report on December 10 deliberations in the Senate regarding the Board's proposals for admission, recruitment, and retention.

12. President George and Secretary Dornier, along with Provost Burns and Vice President Brink, will attend the January meeting of the American Association of Higher Education in Orlando, FL.

13. The Agenda committee will develop a policy on memorials.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Lanie Dornier

Secretary 1997-98