

Minutes #189

May 6, 1998

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 6, 1998 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Edward V. George, president, presiding. Senators present were Baker, Boal, Boylan, Bremer, Casadonte, Corbett, Crawford, Dornier, Elbow, El-Hindi, Floyd, Fox, Herring, Hufford, Josephson, Liman, Loudon, McComb, Meaney, Meek, Miller, Olivarez, Ponticell, Reed, River, Robert, Schaller, Stinespring, Stout, L. Thompson, Van Cleave and White. Senators Lan, Reckner and Tsai were absent because of University business. Senators Couch, and Khan were absent with prior notification. Senators Burkett, Coombs, Giaccardo, Gomez, Oler, Peek, Perez, Sarkar, Stombler and D. Thompson were absent.

I. President George called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and introduced the following guests: James E. Brink, Vice Provost; Elizabeth Hall, Assistant Provost; and Senators-elect Fred Hartmeister, Linda C. Hoover, William G. Hartwell, Sukant R. Misra, Ben Newcomb, and Tess Trost.

II. Approval of Minutes #188, April 8, 1998. Minutes were approved without corrections.

III. Committee and Liaison Reports. Senator Olivarez provided to the Senate a report on the activities of the Academic Council for the 1997-98 academic year. Senator Ponticell reported on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Honors College. Academic Programs Committee provided a report regarding faculty computing issues. All three of these reports can be found on the Senate webpage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~Senate>).

IV. Unfinished Business.

Resolution regarding privatization policies. Faculty Senate Study Committee A provided the following resolution: Whereas when no clear problem has been identified regarding University services, there is no need to alter current ways of providing services by privatizing those services, and Whereas, the privatization of the Texas Tech Bookstore has already led to reductions in services to students and faculty, to a disgruntled bookstore staff, loss of pay and employee benefits and increasing management misfeasance with a high rate of turnover in locally hired personnel, with the clear implication of continuing decline in service and eventual increases in costs to the University in future contracts, therefore, Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate expresses it's opposition to efforts to privatize University services provided by University employees, and that we call on the administration to closely scrutinize efforts to "contract out" services in order to ensure a high level of service and to protect the jobs and benefits of those dedicated employees who are now under threat of privatization. We recommend that in the future, any efforts to privatize University services be done only in consultation

with the Faculty Senate and any appropriate University committees and employees. The resolution passed unanimously.

V. New Business

Committee on Committees recommendations. Senator Elbow, as chair of the Committee on Committees, provided the 1998-99 Faculty Senate Committee assignments. These assignments can also be found on the Senate webpage. The Senate unanimously approved the committee assignments. Resolution honoring retiring personnel. President George asked the Senate to suspend the rules to allow the presentation of a resolution not previously provided to Senators. Hearing no opposition the rules were suspended. Senator Olivarez read the following resolution: Be it resolved on this 6th day of May, 1998, that the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University recognizes the contributions of Mrs. Grace Frazier and expresses its most sincere gratitude for her more than 20 years of outstanding service to the Faculty Senate office and members. Post-tenure review. President George relinquished the gavel to Vice-President Olivarez, who directed this portion of the meeting. The Ad-Hoc Committee on Post-Tenure Review (Charlotte Dunham, Gary Elbow-Chair, Edward George, Timothy Floyd and Gerald Skoog) proposed the following resolution: Whereas the Texas Legislature has passed a law mandating post tenure review for state university faculties, and Whereas the Texas Tech University administration, with the advice of the University Counsel's Office, has decided that the law should be implemented through a policy which is separate from the existing O.P. 32.32 on faculty evaluation, and Whereas the Faculty Senate appointed on April 8 and Ad Hoc Committee on Post Tenure Review to draft appropriate documents in collaboration with the Texas Tech University administration, and Whereas the Committee, having met four times, including consultation with the President's Office and input from the Office of Legal Counsel, has completed its charge, Now be it resolved: (1) That the Faculty Senate approve the accompanying draft of Post Tenure Review Policy, to be styled O.P. 32.31: and (2) That the Faculty Senate approve the accompanying draft Faculty Evaluation Policy, to supersede the existing O.P. 32.32. Senator Casadonte expressed concern about leaving in the phrase "other good cause" under section 4. Actions. Senator Elbow responded that this is wording right out of the law and that is why it was left in. Senator Boal asked what would be consider "other good cause"? Senator Elbow responded that this would be determined by administrators. Senator Casadonte asked why we had to come up with a policy we if can merely refer to the law? Vice-Provost Brink responded that we need our own policy and procedures because the law states that each University will develop their own policies. Vote on the resolution passed unanimously.

Vice-Provost Brink publicly thanked Gary Elbow for his long and hard work in preparing this document and the contribution it will make to the University. Vice-President Olivarez returned the gavel to President George who resumed control of the meeting. Recommendation for the creation of a Faculty Senate Former Presidents Advisory Council. Vice-President Olivarez presided over this portion of the meeting. The Agenda committee proposed the following recommendation to the Senate, "We recommend that the Faculty Senate establish a Faculty Senate Former Presidents Advisory Committee, to

be made up of those Former Senate Presidents who wish to participate, and that the Senate or its officers consult with this Advisory Committee as often and in whatever way it deems suitable. Former Presidents will be invited as guests to attend all Senate meetings." Senator Boal suggested that it is assumed that the President of the Faculty Senate would always take the advice and counsel of anyone in position to share wisdom, and asked why there is a need to have this as an official committee. President George responded that having a more formal committee will assure that the services will be used. Senator Elbow stated that this committee will serve a valuable source for "institutional memory" which will help facilitate the process, not form policy. As a former Senate President, Senator Elbow mentioned that once a president leaves office there is a tendency to loose the connection with the Senate and the formation of this committee may reduce that loss. Vote on the resolution passed unanimously. President George resumed control of the meeting.

University wide evaluation forms. Senator Stinespring addressed the Senate about a problem related to the use student evaluation forms. For the University wide evaluation forms faculty are instructed to use these in lecture classes only and not to use these forms in laboratory classes. In the Art department many of the art classes are listed as laboratory classes and are taught by faculty. By not using the University wide evaluation forms many Art faculty are not being adequately evaluated in teaching. Senator Elbow stated that the new law requires that faculty must be evaluated in some fashion, thus departments not conducting some type of formal evaluation of faculty may not be in compliance with state law. Senator Casadonte mentioned that in Chemistry, labs are evaluated using a departmental form. He also mentioned that the Senate has passed a resolution regarding the need to examine student evaluations and suggested that this issue should be addressed within that forum.

VI. Announcements.

President George announced that the Student Health Center reported that there are blank certification forms for client visits from the health center floating around, being used to forge notifications of visits. Notes from the Student Health Center should not be accepted as excused absences from class. The Student Health Center requested further conversation with the Faculty regarding the control of Health Center paperwork. President George has called this request to the attention of the incoming Faculty Senate President.

VII. Remarks by outgoing and incoming Presidents. President George expressed his gratitude to President Haragan, Chancellor Montford, Provost Burns and their offices for keeping open lines of communication and their considering the advice of the Senate. There is ample reason to be optimistic in the future of the University. He thanked the Senators, especially those whose terms are ending this month and those who chaired the various committees of the Senate. President George expressed thanks to the agenda committee, Lanie Dornier-Secretary and Arturo Olivarez-Vice-President and to Brian McGee for serving as parliamentarian and Grace Frazier, Secretary of the Faculty Senate Office. He acknowledged the service of the outgoing Senators and thanked the new

Senators for their willingness to serve. President George assured those coming in that the task they are taking on is one that is worth doing, one whose importance far outweighs the level of recognition one will receive. Incoming President Floyd expressed his concern in taking over and being the first Senate President to serve without Grace Frazier, who will be retiring in August. He also expressed concern about the large number of people leaving the Senate, but observed that there are several good ones coming in and he is looking forward to working with new and old senators next year. He encouraged Senators to send to him any issues they would like examined next year. Senator Floyd thanked the outgoing agenda committee.

VIII. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanie Dornier

Secretary 1997-98