

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
MINUTES #194 - FACULTY SENATE
JANUARY 13, 1999**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 13, 1999 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Tim Floyd, president, presiding. Senators present were Herring, Misra, Thorvilson, Shin, Borst, Dornier, Dunham, Held, Newcomb, G. Perez, Reckner, Reed, Rylander, Stinespring, Stompler, Whitlark, Bremer, White, Hartmeister, Burkett, Sarkar, Khan, Spallholz, Boylan, Couch, Farley, Meaney, Olivarez, Pigott, Becker, Trost. Senators Stein, Tuman, Boal and Ponticell were absent because of University business. Senators Hoover and Crawford were out with prior notice. Senators Loudon, Baker, Drager, Hartwell, Lodhi, McComb, A. Perez, Robert, Gomez, Liman, Oler, Thompson, Cochran, Lan and Peek were absent from the meeting.

I. Call To Order was announced by President Timothy W. Floyd at 3:15 p.m.

II. Recognition of Guests – Jim Brink, Vice Provost; Liz Hall, Assistant Provost; James Heavner from TTU School of Medicine.

III. Approval of Minutes #193.

The minutes of the meeting of December 9, 1998, were approved with the following correction. Senator Rylander was absent due to a faculty development leave.

IV. Presentations --

Vice Provost James E. Brink discussed the core curriculum as it has been recently established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board along with adjustments being proposed for Texas Tech University. Following a brief account of the historical background, Dr. Brink presented two charts detailing the 42-hour requirements now mandated by the Coordinating Board. The new curriculum passed in July 1998. In October 1998, amendments were made. Texas Tech University's General Education Degree Requirements committee wishes to add another five hours, for a total of 47. On 12 February, the Board of Regents will be asked to vote on the proposed 47-hour core curriculum.

Dr. Brink presented the Core Curriculum with two charts, Chart I detailing a basic 36 hours and Chart II indicating from where the additional 6 hours must come. Texas Tech's proposal of 47 hours, which establishes the General Education Degree Requirements, was outlined on the third handout. The Coordinating Board, at their October meeting, granted the right of individual schools to increase the 42-hour requirements to 48 without going back to the Board as long as the governing body of the school approves the increase. Beyond 48 hours, the request must go back to the Coordinating Board.

Dr. Brink also discussed the issue of the grade of D in a General Education core course being refused as a transfer grade and so must be refused as a grade in such courses taken by "native" students. Students transferring to Texas Tech without having completed the core must conform to our 47-hour requirement. However, if those who transfer have completed a 42-hour core as required at their home school, that curriculum will have to be accepted by Texas Tech and considered as complete.

The multicultural requirement is currently three hours. Any course which remains in that category must now fit into the new core curriculum following the guidelines of the Coordinating Board. Since the Board does not specify a "multicultural course," such a course would have to be included within the defining characteristics under another area or subject matter.

Considerable discussion followed Dr. Brink's presentation. Of paramount importance is how additional hours, specifically in the visual and performing arts, will impact those students in engineering for whom the existing 42 hours is already viewed as constraining. The increase of five hours was viewed unfavorably by several senators. The additional three hours in the visual and performing arts, possible by the elimination of the technology and applied science course requirement, was not received well. It was suggested that a course in visual and performing arts be made optional in favor of the technology and applied science requirement.

Dr. Brink pointed out that the members of the General Education committee cover all aspects of the campus. He recommended that concerned senators contact their representatives.

There remains still a "field of study" curriculum being considered by the Coordinating Board. This would mandate what courses taken at a junior college would transfer for a given major.

Upper Division courses must fit the Texas Common Course Numbering System which applied to lower level courses. For instance, if we offer a 3000-level course which is given a lower level number by the Coordinating Board, we must be ready to defend it as a junior level course, not as a sophomore level course.

After hearing the discussion, Dr. Brink indicated that he would take back two particular points: 1) the option of a technology and applied science/visual & performing arts requirement; 2) keeping the multicultural requirement.

V. Old Business -- Any further discussion of the Master Plan Parking issue has been deferred until February. President Floyd reminded the Senate that Vice Chancellor Douglas Mann has stated that he wants consultation from us before going to the Board of Regents but Mr. Mann felt that he was not yet ready to come before the Faculty Senate today.

Senator Herring, chairman of the Committee on Committees, announced that the Nominating Committee will be selected at the February meeting. Those proposed for the committee are senators Meaney, Olivárez, and Stinespring. The elections for new senate officers will be held at the meeting in March.

VI. Announcements -- Senator Stinespring, chairman of the Committee on Faculty Status and Welfare, announced that he is beginning to receive e-mail responses on the matter of graduate faculty status from other schools. He expects to have something to circulate soon. He also reported on the meeting held Tuesday, January 12, 1999, on the status of the College of Fine Arts. The faculty of the three concerned departments, Art, Music, and Theatre and Dance, met with Assistant Provost Hall. In essence, the concept is still going forward. Discrimination of benefits such as health for "significant others" is still being assessed.

President Floyd reminded the various committees that they are expected to make their reports along with their resolutions where appropriate before the end of the term. The Monday of the week prior to the regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meetings is when the Agenda committee meets and the various committee chairs need to let the Agenda committee know by that time if they wish to be scheduled to present their findings.

Senator Couch made the motion that in behalf of the Senate, President Floyd send a letter of congratulations to Keith Bearden and the Goin' Band From Raider Land for recently receiving the Sudler Inter-collegic Marching Band Trophy. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Adjournment -- With no other business before the Senate, President Floyd adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy B. Reed
Secretary, 1998-1999