

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
MINUTES #191 - FACULTY SENATE
OCTOBER 14, 1998**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, October 14, 1998, in the Senate Room of the University Center with Timothy W. Floyd, president, presiding. Senators present were Herring, Misra, Thorvilson, Loudon, Borst, Dornier, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Lodhi, Newcomb, McComb, A. Perez, G. Perez, Reckner, Reed, Robert, Stein, Stinespring, Stombler, Tuman, Whitlark, Boal, Bremer, White, Hartmeister, Burkett, Liman, Oler, Thompson, Hoover, Khan, Spallholtz, Cochran, Boylan, Couch, Crawford, Farley, Lan, Meaney, Olivarez, Peek, Pigott, Becker and Trost. Senator Ponticell was absent because of University business. Senators Shin, Baker, Rylander, Gomez were absent from the meeting.

I. Call To Order was announced by President Timothy W. Floyd at 3:20 p.m. He introduced Walter Borst from the Department of Physics as a newly elected senator. Professor Brian McGee continues to serve as parliamentarian.

II. Recognition of Guests – President Floyd recognized the following guest: Gene West, Vice President of Operations; John Burns, Provost; James Brink, Vice Provost; Elizabeth Hall, Assistant Provost; Art Glick, Assistant to VP of Operations; David Waggoner, Presidential Special Assistant; Gwen Sorell, Coordinator of Women's Studies, Professor Daniel Nathan, Philosophy; Professor Lee Reynolds; Engineering Technology; Jonathan Biles, University Daily.

III. Approval of Minutes #190.

The minutes from the meeting of September 9, 1998, were approved with the following emendation: Senator Stein, listed as absent, was indeed present.

IV. Unfinished Business.

Report of the Ad Hoc Honors College Committee. In the absence of vice-president Judith Ponticell who chaired the committee, President Floyd asked Senator Couch, also a member of the committee, to answer any questions. The Senate was presented with a 14-point document entitled "Resolutions Regarding the Honors College." Although the document was unsigned and undated, it was determined to have been compiled by vice-president Ponticell and allowed to remain under discussion. Senator Trost advised that in the future, all documents coming before the Senate must be signed and dated.

After lengthy discussions on issues including the autonomy of the Honors College, tenure qualifications of the Honors faculty, teaching loads, and reimbursements of academic "home" departments for specific periods of time while their faculty are under contract to the Honors College, the resolutions were passed as emended. The Resolutions read: 1) That established faculty be selected and

developed as a campus-wide Honors College, with those faculty under contract to the Honors College for a specific period of time; 2) That faculty under contract to the Honors College have a 3-2 or 2-2 course load to enable the development of problem-based learning and individual and collaborative inquiry and research; 3) That faculty under contract to the Honors College be designated as Honors Faculty in the Texas Tech University catalog and directory; 4) [*amended to read*] That if an academic department cannot meet the needs of the Honors College with established faculty, new faculty would be hired in the academic department but under contract to the Honors College for a specific period of time (e.g. one or two years). The academic department and the Honors College would fully collaborate in the search and selection process; 5) That the Honors College hire a staff of full-time advisers with student affairs and counseling backgrounds to assist Honors students with Honors College and university requirements, financial aid, and scholarship and awards competitions; 6) That the annual reviews conducted for Honors College faculty include teaching evaluations, peer reviews, and collaborative assessment of teaching, research, and service contributions to the Honors College; 7) [*amended to read*] That annual reviews, promotions and tenure reviews, and post-tenure reviews be conducted collaboratively by Honors College and academic department faculty and administrators. If existing, established faculty are contracted as a campus-wide Honors College faculty, most will already have achieved promotion and tenure. New faculty hired would be reviewed, promoted and tenured following established policies in their academic departments. These policies currently allow for flexibility in determining weight assigned to research, teaching, and service categories. Thus, faculty would not be promoted and tenured solely in an Honors College; 8) That the Chancellor's Office, President's Office, and Provost's Office secure funding needed for contractual buy-out of Honors College faculty; 9) That the Chancellor's Office, President's Office, and Provost's Office insure maximum departmental support of a campus-wide Honors College; 10) That Honors College faculty be provided with professional development opportunities to develop problem-based learning and individual and collaborative inquiry and research, and with opportunities to meet regularly to discuss problems and concerns; 11) That incentive grants be made available to Honors College faculty for the development of Honors courses that incorporate problem-based learning and individual and collaborative inquiry and research; 12) That the General Studies Program not be incorporated into the Honors College; 13) That Honors students major in academic areas, with their transcripts reflecting an Honors designation for Honors courses; 14) That a well-grounded Interdisciplinary Studies program be collaboratively developed for undergraduate students by the Honors College and academic departments.

V. Committee Reports.

Senator Held presented the report of the Budget Study Committee entitled "Analysis of the Parking Garage Component of the Texas Tech Master Plan Proposal" with an addenda packet which included a referendum ballot proposal.

In connection with his presentation, Professor Daniel Nathan from the Department of Philosophy addressed the Senate. Professor Nathan observed that the estimated cost of the new English/Philosophy/Education complex is \$46 million but that cost does not include any furniture. The complex is projected to be completed in three years at which time, it is expected by the administration that a budget for furniture will materialize. Professor Nathan added that while the English/Philosophy segment would benefit from being near the library, the Education wing need not be in parking lot R-6 at all.

President Floyd pointed out that, contrary to what the Senate had been led to believe at the September meeting, the administration has promised that no definitive plans to ask for approval of the Hulen/Clements garage are going before the Board of Regents during their November meeting. Doug Mann, Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning, added that he wanted to take something to the Board before closure of the school year and would like to set a target date of 1 March 1999. He assured the Senate that his office was not trying to hide something or slide in anything. Senator Held presented a copy of the agenda of the November Board of Regents meeting on which item #5 clearly pertains to the parking garage at the Hulen/Clements site. Gene West, Vice President for Operations, commented that that particular agenda was only "temporary." He added that there is a critical need for additional parking on the campus and that there is a waiting list of faculty and one hundred twenty students residing in the Wall/Gates & Hulen/Clement dormitory complex even now.

Senator Hartwell suggested that every member of the Senate send a short statement to President Floyd concerning what they perceive to be key issues, such as involving need rather than beautification and safety issues, in order for him to have specific information for the Board of Regents in November.

After considerable impassioned discussion, the Senate passed the following resolutions as presented by the Budget Study Committee and amended: 1) [*amended to read*] The Faculty Senate opposes building parking garages on the campus until other alternatives are offered or further justifications are provided; 2) A copy of this entire report will be mailed ASAP to all TTU faculty and staff; 3) Before any parking garage proposal is forwarded to the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate shall conduct a vote of the faculty and staff regarding their desires with respect to those parts of the Master Plan that concern (a) converting from surface lots to parking garages, (b) restricting vehicle access by closing of roads on the campus, (c) traffic congestion that may be caused by garages and closures, (d) financial burdens that may be incurred, (e) other impacts that the plan may have on faculty and staff; 4) A copy of this resolution and the results of this balloting shall be conveyed by the President of the Faculty Senate to the Chair of the Board of Regents in time for the regents to consider them carefully before making a decision.

Senators Reckner and Loudon asked that the referendum ballot proposed in the Addenda packet be re-written. As it stands, it is slanted to have negative responses. Senator Held agreed and invited Senator Reckner to serve as an ad hoc member of the Budget Study Committee to help draft a new ballot. Senator Reckner accepted.

Vice President West advised the Senate that a proposal concerning parking is going to the Board of Regents in November but that it concerns fee increases. Assuming that the projected 5% “across the board” salary increase goes into effect next year, he will be recommending that the Regents approve a 15% increase in existing parking fees. He will also propose a payroll deduction option for staff and faculty to cover the increased fee.

Senator Held also presented a document from the Budget Study Committee entitled “On the Financial Health of Texas Tech University and the Priorities that TTU is using to Allocate its Resources.” This was presented for information; no action was required.

In other new business, Senator Newcomb, speaking in behalf of the Committee on Committees, asked for volunteers to serve as liaisons to fill vacated positions on those various committees which accept such members from the Senate. Those committees include: General Education; Student Senate; and the University Center Advisory Board.

VI. **Adjournment** -- the meeting was adjourned by President Floyd at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy B. Reed
Secretary 1998-1999