

Texas Tech University Faculty Senate

1998-1999:02

October 14, 1998 Minutes #191

Parking Garage Resolution

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.