

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS

FACULTY SENATE '98 - '99

Faculty Senate Meeting #190 -- 9 September 1998

>Ad Hoc Honors College committee report was presented. Of particular importance were the need for significant funding for the new Honors College and development of a cohesive faculty identity with current faculty taking part in the new College.

>The recommendations of the Committee on Committees were approved.

>Senate liaisons to various committees were announced.

>Assignments for various Senate committees were announced. Study Committee A will consider the student evaluation forms of the faculty and also the conduct of student organizations off-campus especially if there is criminal conduct involved with an additional emphasis on sexual harassment training. Study Committee B will consider the Master Plan Parking situation relative to matters other than costs. Study Committee C will consider the efforts of Texas Tech University in becoming a Research I institution. Academic Programs Committee will consider the establishment of a campus-wide computer upgrade policy as well as the changes proposed by the Graduate School for graduate admissions. Budget Study Committee will examine the financial aspects of parking under the new Master Plan proposals. Committee on Faculty Status and Welfare will consider the proposals for the formation of the College of Fine Arts and the issue of the appellate rights for those denied membership on the Graduate Faculty with particular attention to the impact such a denial might have in light of the Post Tenure Review provisions.

Faculty Senate Meeting #191 -- 14 October 1998

>The report from the Ad Hoc Honors College Committee was presented. The following resolutions were passed as amended: 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) The faculty under contract to the Honors College be designated as Honors Faculty in the Texas Tech University catalogue 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 tenure 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 department 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.

>The Budget Study Committee presented a report entitled "Analysis of the Parking Garage Component of the Texas Tech Master Plan Proposal" with an addenda packet which included a referendum ballot proposal. The following resolutions were passed: 1) [*amended to read*] That the Faculty Senate opposes building parking garages on the campus until other alternatives are offered for 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.

>The referendum ballot was to be redrafted by the Budget Study Committee.

Faculty Senate Meeting #192 -- 11 November 1998

>The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee presented the issues involving the proposal for a Fine Arts College and a proposal for the reassessment of the need for Graduate Faculty Status in light of the Post Tenure Review process.

>The issue of collegiality as part of the tenure review procedure was raised with the assurance that it would be referred for study to an appropriate committee.

Faculty Senate Meeting #193 -- 9 December 1998

>A report was presented from the meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Of particular attention were two opportunities to apply for grants to study issues which would have a state-wide interest and to apply for the summer Fellow Internship Program to work at the Coordinating Board in May.

>Additional charges to committees were announced. The Academic Programs Committee continues with their previous charge and now also how changes in the registration and TECHSIS generally will affect faculty responsibilities and academic regulations. The charge to the Budget Study Committee now includes looking into the status of the faculty/staff scholarship fund. The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee is now looking into benefits of non-married faculty members at Texas Tech and also collegiality as part of the tenure review procedures. Study Committee A has the added charge of conduct of student organizations off campus and prayer at the football games as directed in O.P. 10.05. Study Committee B adds to its charge the future of the Texas Tech bookstore. Study Committee C is now also considering if the Grievance Policy should be amended to name as respondents faculty members who voted on the decision being grieved.

Faculty Senate Meeting #194 -- 13 January 1999

>The Committee on Committees announced that the Nominating Committee will be selected at the February meeting.

>Status and Welfare Committee reported progress in amassing information on the matter of graduate faculty status from other schools. In addition, the concept of the College of Fine Arts is going forward. Discrimination of benefits such as health for "significant others" is still being assessed.

>The motion was unanimously approved for the Senate to send a letter of congratulations to Keith Bearden and the Goin' Band From Raider Land for receiving the Sudler Inter-collegic Marching Band Trophy.

Faculty Senate Meeting #195 -- 10 February 1999

>The Budget Study Committee on Employee/Dependent Scholarship Funds presented the following resolutions which were passed. The Faculty and Staff Senates should remain vigilant to ensure that: 1) Faculty/staff continue to be notified regularly (at least annually) about the availability of these funds; 2) amounts of awards should be increased so that the interest does not accrue unnecessarily, and 3) all interest on the principal must be spent as intended, not diverted for any other purpose.

> The nominating committee was presented: Senators Olivárez, Meaney, and Stinespring.

> The Board of Regents has expressed interest in an informal get-together with members of the Faculty Senate. Provost Burns offered to find out if such a meeting was allowable under the SACs regulations.

> A report from the Graduate Council on Graduate Faculty membership has not yet been received by the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Meeting #196 -- 10 March 1999

>New officers for 1999-2000 were elected. President will be Nancy Reed; Vice President Charlotte Dunham; Secretary John (Jack) Becker.

>The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee presented three resolutions. Two passed and one was tabled. These two passed: 1) In recognition of the large-group open forum conducted January 21, 1999, of the faculties of the School of Music, and Departments of Art, and Theatre and Dance, with Assistant Provost Liz Hall to discuss the proposed College of Fine Arts, the Senate commends the effort of the university administration and the university trustees to approve the formation of such a college within the university. The Faculty Senate urges that matters relating to approval by the Texas Higher Education coordinating Board of a college of fine arts at Texas Tech University and the funding necessary to establish an appropriate administrative structure for that college be expedited. 2) The Faculty Senate recommends that fringe benefits be extended to domestic partners of faculty members. Funding for these fringe benefits shall be provided from non-state funds, as is the case with other public institutions offering this incentive for the productivity

and retention of their faculties. Domestic relationship status can be determined by affidavit or documentation of shared domestic responsibilities. It is the belief of the Senate that the same rationale for providing fringe benefits for the spouses and dependent children of faculty members applies to domestic partners. The Faculty Senate has already gone on record opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender.

The following resolution was tabled pending someone from the Graduate School addressing the Senate on the issue: The Faculty Senate recommends that the separate evaluation of faculty for Graduate Faculty status be eliminated and replaced with an endorsement on the Post Tenure Review and Tenure/Promotion evaluations. Appeals and other matters related to Graduate Faculty status shall be conducted through the channels established for Post Tenure Review.

> The Senate asked the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee to continue deliberations on the issue of collegiality as a criterion for faculty evaluations.

>The report from the Academic Council relative to the school calendar for 2000-2001 was given. It calls for four Saturday classes in the first summer session and five Saturday classes in the second summer session. Commencement is August 12. Faculty are to be on duty August 14 for the fall term; December commencement is on the 16th. In January, faculty are on duty on the 8th; May 12th is commencement. These changes are required to keep the contact hours compatible with SACs requirements due to Federal holidays and the student request for additional study days prior to final exams.

Faculty Senate Meeting #197 -- 14 April 1999

> The Budget Study Committee presented a resolution regarding the Master Plan parking which was amended and then passed as follows: A Resolution Regarding the TTU Administration's Plan for Parking Garages -- 1. The Faculty Senate requests that no garage proposal go to the Board of Regents before the senate has been consulted and given sufficient time to respond. 2. In the opinion of the Faculty Senate, a period shorter than 2 months is insufficient for us to conduct careful studies, deliberate thoughtfully, and provide meaningful input. 3. The Faculty Senate asks the Administration to consider and present other alternatives besides parking garages for the campus. 4. The Faculty Senate asks that the Administration show courtesy to the Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates by tendering its proposal during the 1999-2000 school year (i.e., not demanding summer meetings) since the issue is not an urgent one.

> Vice Provost Brink announced that the previously reported Saturday class schedule for the summer of 2000 has been changed. Now, there will be no Saturday classes in either summer term. Classes, however, will be 2 hours long.

> Development Leaves have been increased from the present 18 to 36 for next year.

Faculty Senate Meeting #198 -- 5 May 1999

> Study Committee A presented a draft of the newly proposed class evaluation form. No action was taken and the matter remains a pending issue to be revisited in the fall.

> Study Committee B presented the following resolutions about the bookstore on campus: 1) Texas Tech Administrators should further investigate the issues raised by Ms. [Lisa] Gonzales. Faculty Senate Study Committee B recognizes that Ms. Gonzales was terminated and may therefore present a biased view of Wallace's Bookstore policies. However, her testimony seemed credible and merits further investigation. All parties involved in the situation Ms. Gonzales is describing as well as other employees of Wallace's Bookstore, both past and present, should be interviewed before any decisions are reached. 2) Primary criteria for evaluating proposals should be effective service to university community and business ethics, especially good employee relations and treatment. The business practices should be public knowledge, including employee contracts, fair hiring and firing policies, policies on payment of vendors, buy-back procedures which guarantee that students receive the advertised payment for used books rather than a percentage of it. 3) An effective, objective procedure for the evaluation of bookstore performance should be implemented to include the criteria identified in recommendation #2. This procedure should be used to evaluate Wallace's record of performance under the current contract. Information on Wallace's past record of the last four years should be provided. 4) The bookstore task force would benefit from the addition of a faculty representative with a business background on issues regarding employee relations. 5) The National Association of College Bookstores (NASCORP) in Overland, OH, should be contacted and asked for literature on the leasing/vendor industry. 6) The distribution of profit from the bookstore should be reviewed and the recommendations of the Faculty Senate implemented, i.e., bookstore profits should be used for the library or other academic purposes, and recommendations made previously by the Faculty Senate need to be reviewed. 7) The Bookstore Task Force should seek input from both the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate to discover the faculty and students' needs and opinions concerning the future of the bookstore.

> Study Committee C presented a series of questions relating to the efforts of Texas Tech to become a Research I institution. No resolution was introduced.

> The Status and Welfare Committee urged that two issues be considered next year. These are the appeal mechanism for Graduate Faculty and the issue of collegiality as a factor in post tenure review and in tenure and promotion matters.

> Senator Newcomb asked about the change in the drop policy which no longer requires the signature of the instructor. Originally, it was a recommendation from the Senate to have the signature.

> A motion of general support carried relative to the Teaching Academy and the desire to award \$25,000 as merited to a department for combined excellence in teaching.

> A motion of general support carried relative to the Kellogg grant for self study of teaching excellence. Ultimately, the goal is to modify the reward structure with more emphasis on teaching. The Carnegie Foundation is preparing new ranking guidelines based on teaching. Also passed in connection with this was the motion to appoint a senator to the steering committee.

>Senator Cochran presented the following resolution which passed:
Whereas, The 1998-1999 officers of the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate were Timothy W. Floyd, President; Judith A. Ponticell, Vice President; and Nancy B. Reed, Secretary; and Whereas, These officers worked diligently to shape the agenda of the Faculty Senate during the 1998-1999 academic year; and Whereas, These officers ably represented the faculty of Texas Tech University in meetings with the various constituencies of the university; therefore be it Resolved, That the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate appreciated and commends the service of the 1998-1999 Faculty Senate officers.

> The Senate heard a presentation from Dr. Surendra Varma from the School of Medicine. The following resolution, presented by Senator Drager and emended by Senator Cochran was passed: The Faculty Senate expresses its concern about the conflict between the faculty of the Texas Tech University School of Medicine and the University Medical Center. The Faculty Senate supports the faculty of the School of Medicine in their efforts to maintain the quality and accreditation of the Texas Tech University School of Medicine.

> Two Ad Hoc committees will be appointed during the summer to study the issue of (1) the workload policy and (2) the senate election procedures.

> The Senate calendar for next year was presented: September 8, 1999; October 13, 1999; November 17, 1999; December 8, 1999; January 12, 2000; February 9, 2000; March 8, 2000; April 12, 2000; May 10, 2000.

This summary was compiled from the monthly minutes of the Faculty Senate during the 1998-1999 academic year.

Submitted by

Nancy B. Reed
Secretary
1998-1999