

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
MINUTES #198 - FACULTY SENATE  
MAY 5, 1999**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 in the Senate Room in the University Center with Tim Floyd, president, presiding. Senators present were Herring, Misra, Thorvilson, Loudon, Shinn, Borst, Drager, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Lodhi, Newcomb, A. Perez, G. Perez, Reckner, Reed, Robert, Rylander, Stein, Stinespring, Stompler, Bremer, White, Hartmeister, Ponticell, Thompson, Hoover, Khan, Spallholz, Cochran, Boylan, Couch, Farley, Pigott, Becker, Trost. Senator Sarkar was absent with prior notice. Senator Tuman was out ill. Senators Dornier, McComb, Whitlark, Boal, Gomez, Burkett, Liman, Crawford, Lan, Meaney, Olivarez were absent from the meeting. Parliamentarian, Brian McGee, was present at the meeting.

**I. Call To Order** was announced by President Timothy W. Floyd at 3:18 p.m.

**II. Recognition of Guests** –Vice Provost Jim Brink, Assistant Provost Elizabeth Hall and Dr. Surendra Varma, president of the Faculty Council Executive Committee from the Health Science Center's School of Medicine were present at the meeting.

**III. Approval of Minutes** #197 (April 14, 1999). The minutes were approved as read and distributed.

**IV. Welcome for newly elected Senators.** President Floyd greeted the newly elected Senators who were present. He pointed out the attendance policy which is in Section 8 of the Senate By-laws. Missing three or more meetings during a term (defined as three years) without adequate cause or missing five consecutive meetings results in a vacant seat. The Senate President rules on the validity of excuses.

Senator Stein asked about absences on study committees. President Floyd acknowledged that no rules exist about such absences but observed that Senators are expected to attend the meetings of their committees.

**V. Committee Reports:**

The Faculty Senate Committee Assignments for 1999-2000 were distributed at the door. The list was approved unanimously.

Study Committee A, chaired by Senator Boylan, presented a draft of the newly proposed class evaluation form. Senator Boylan, however, did not ask for any action to be taken today. Senator Robert inquired about the ranking of instructors with A-F. Senator Boylan replied that the students have insisted on that feature. Senator Newcomb commented on the size of the instrument with only 10 questions somehow perceived as reflecting the attention span of the students. Vice Provost Brink pointed out that the deans have expressed concern on a number of points about the form to the Student Senate. The matter remains a pending issue before the Faculty Senate, to be revisited in the fall.

Study Committee B, chaired by Senator Robert, presented its recommendations about the bookstore on campus. The following recommendations were passed unanimously: 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 student's needs and opinions concerning the future of the bookstore.

Senator J. Pérez asked for such lengthy reports to be sent early to senators for consideration. President Floyd advised that such is the normal policy but an exception is being made now because this is the last meeting of the year.

Study Committee C, chaired by Senator Meaney, presented a series questions relating to the efforts of Texas Tech to become a Research I institution. Senator Thompson suggested contacting Dr. Schmidly and inviting him to make a presentation concerning Texas Tech's progress toward Tier I Research level to the Senate next fall. Senator G. Pérez, a member of the committee, commented that the purpose is to question the idea of becoming a Research I institution.

**VI. Unfinished Business:**

Senator Stinespring commented on issues not yet resolved from the Status and Welfare Committee. In particular are the issues of the appeal mechanism for Graduate Faculty. The Graduate Council remains its own appeal board. Secondly is the issue of collegiality as a factor in post tenure review and in tenure and promotion. Senator Stinespring urged that these two issue be passed on to the Status and Welfare committee.

Senator Newcomb remarked about the change in the "drop policy." Formerly, dropping a course required the signature of the instructor after 30 class days. Apparently, that is no longer necessary here. Our co-peer universities are keeping the signature requirement. Originally, it was a recommendation from the Senate to have the signature passed some seven or eight years ago. Somehow that was just quietly dropped recently. Senator Newcomb urges that something recommended by the Senate which was overturned by the Administration with no apparent good academic reason be considered carefully.

Senator Stein asked about the committee assignments and wondered why there is no apparent carry-over. President Floyd commented that issues are assigned to committees by looking more at who is serving on any given committee relative to previous experience with or interest in particular issues.

**VII. New Business:**

The Teaching Academy: The discussion concerned the Teaching Academy and the desire, expressed by Provost Burns, to award \$25,000 as merited to a department for combined excellence in teaching. Provost Burns has asked that any senators with specific input or questions please direct them to his office. Senator Stombler expressed concern that some departments are better equipped with technology than others and therefore seem to be disadvantaged in the selection criterion. Senator Couch explained that using technology is not always a factor in determining teaching excellence nor is it always appropriate. Senator G. Pérez made the motion to express general support for the program. Senator Stinespring made a motion to suspend the rule about sending the issue to a subcommittee. Several other senators commented upon issues relating to the library's role in teaching as well as qualifications for Tier I classification system of teaching. Vice Provost Brink added that next year, the Faculty Development Leaves have been increased from 18 to 36 and that librarians are eligible for these. President Floyd asked for a vote on the motion to express general support for the award. The motion carried.

Kellogg grant for self study of teaching excellence: Senator Couch spoke about this grant to evaluate teaching effectiveness. 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. Senator Couch went on to ask for general support from the Senate and that a senator be appointed to the steering committee. The motion to suspend the rule was once again in effect. Both issues received unanimous support of the Senate.

Senator Cochran presented the following resolution: 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 appreciates and commends the service of the 1998-1999 Faculty Senate officers. The resolution passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. Announcements:**

Dr. Surendra Varma, president of the Faculty Council Executive Committee from the Health Sciences Center's School of Medicine, addressed the Senate. He explained the difficulties now in existence between the School of Medicine and the University Medical Center over the issue of physicians being part of a teaching faculty. The Board of Managers of UMC want to rescind this arrangement and they have hired physicians who compete with those in the School of Medicine. The School of Medicine will lose its accreditation if UMC has non-teaching physicians.

There followed considerable discussion among the Faculty Senate. Due to the complex nature of the issue, Senator Stinespring wanted the matter to go to committee but Senator G. Pérez moved to suspend the rule. Senator Stinespring was especially concerned about the Faculty Senate taking sides with the School of Medicine over what could be perceived as a monopoly practice involving the University Medical Center. He also expressed concern about the potential of a huge financial turf war and suggested that the Senate hear other views of the issue about the use of the teaching hospital.

President Floyd asked to move on a motion of general support in behalf of the faculty of the School of Medicine due to time constraints.

In the end, the Senate passed with a vote of 29 to 1 the following resolution offered by Senator Drager and emended by Senator Cochran: 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.

Ad Hoc Committees: Senators will be contacted and asked to volunteer to serve on one or the other of two ad hoc committees over the summer. These committees will deal with the issue of the faculty workload policy and with the issue of the senate election procedures.

The Faculty Senate proposed meeting dates for 1999 - 2000 were presented. These are: September 8, 1999; October 13, 1999; November 17, 1999; December 8, 1999; January 12, 2000; February, 9, 2000; March 8, 2000; April 12, 2000; and May 10, 2000. While the Senate normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month during the academic year, the meeting date in November is shifted to the third Wednesday because of a conflict in use of the Senate Room.

Senator Held announced that on Thursday, May 6, the Graduate Council would be holding its regular meeting at which the issue of the appeal process is expected to be discussed. He added that Dean David Schmidly would be making a presentation about the appeal process and urged interested senators to attend.

#### **IX. Remarks of Outgoing and Incoming Presidents:**

President Floyd addressed the Senate, remarking upon the good year the Senate had but cautioning that there are some very important issues which will be carried over. He thanked the Offices of the President and of the Provost for their cooperation in working with the Senate. He went on to thank the agenda committee and Dr. McGee who served so ably as parliamentarian. President Floyd complimented Grace Frazier for her help in the transition period last summer and Patty Pledger for her outstanding job this year.

President Reed followed, thanking the Senate for their confidence and support and promising to work with the Senate and the Offices of President and Provost in moving Texas Tech into the next century.

#### **X. Adjournment.** There being no further business before the body, adjournment was announced by President Reed at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy B. Reed  
Secretary  
1998-1999