

**Texas Tech University**  
**Minutes- #203- Faculty Senate**  
**January 12, 2000**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 12, 2000 in the Senate Room in the University Center with President Nancy Reed presiding. Senators present were Elam, Thorvilson, Giaccardo, Shin, Drager, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Iber, Lewis, A. Perez, G. Perez, Reeves, Schaller, Stompler, Tuman, Weinberg, Boal, Hein, Laverie, Hartmeister, Thomas, Burkett, Lakhani, Thompson, Spallholz, Cochran, Boylan, Carr, Cooper, Couch, Farley, McVay, Pigott, Becker and Trost. Excused from the meeting were Lawver, Borst, Stein, Norville, Zhang, Crawford, Van Cleave and Cardenas-Garcia. Unexcused from the meeting were Lodhi, Meek, Newcomb, Rylander, Walker, Murray and Khan.

**I. Call to Order** was announced by president Nancy Reed at 3:19 p.m.

**II. Recognition of Guests-** Provost John Burns, Assistant Provost Liz Hall, and Provost Jim Brink were present.

**III. Approval of Minutes** #202 December 8, 2000 were approved as corrected.

**IV. New Business**

Senators Boylan and Spallholz requested the senate look into the problem of grade inflation. The Academic Program Committee was given the problem for study. They are to report back to the senate on or before the May meeting.

Senators Borst, Stompler, and Couch were appointed to the Nominating Committee. They were encouraged to work with Patty Pledger, Faculty Senate Office Coordinator, to come up with a list of eligible candidates.

Senator Held inquired if formation of the proposed Socrates Professorship could be discussed as new business.

President Reed agreed and allowed Senator Laverie, a member of the Excessive Council of the Teaching Academy, which is developing the Socrates Professorship, to speak. Senator Laverie stated the following changes had been made to the selection process. They are 1) increased faculty input into the entire process, 2) other people besides Deans will be able to nominate candidates, and 3) use of sample indicators, such as student evaluation forms will be used. Revised copies of the recommendations will be sent the Faculty Senate office in about a week and the Senate will discuss the changes in its February meeting.

**V. Other Business**

The Texas state Attorney General, Dan Morales, has ruled that letters written in the tenure and promotion process are not confidential because the process is now considered part of the Open Meeting Act. The impact of this decision is not known. Pat Campbell, TTU Attorney, stated in a letter that the Attorney General's opinion comes from a 1993 ruling, which stated that factual evidence must be disclosed but advisory evidence does not. Provost Burns stated that further discussions with Pat Campbell are needed and, if policy changes are called for, he would like to see the changes originate in the Senate. Assistant Provost Hall said that if changes were made the Senate would need to 1) guard the integrity of the process, and 2) insure that due process needs are kept, if changes are made. She also stated that the Faculty Handbook, (pages 88, 90, & 87) address the issue of letters in the promotion and tenure process.

The floor of the senate was then opened up for discussion and the following questions were asked:

Tuman- under the old system were candidates able to read letters with the names deleted? No.

Drager- does this ruling effect other state employees? Yes, the ruling originated in the Department of Public Safety.

Boylan- it is hard to tell what is factual and what is advisory or opinion. Most letters contain parts of both.

Trost- are any university cases cited in the Morales opinion. Yes, UT-Arlington.

Giaccardo- the tenure process needs to be kept open and this ruling does not take away from the tenure process we have in place. More openness may be better.

Tuman- would disclosing the letters without disclosing the authors be legal? No one knew.

Provost Burns stated that in a few weeks he would be attending a retreat with other academic officers from Texas. He will find out how they are handling this problem. President Nancy Reed suggested that the Agenda Committee meet with Provost Burns after the retreat and continued to communicate with Pat Campbell.

Pigott- someone should go to the Department of Justice and get a ruling.

Provost Burns stated that points of discussion should be developed.

Held stated all that needs to be done is a revision of the tenure policy.

Spallholz- can people sign-off on letters? No, it is against Tech policy.

Lakhani suggested that two letters be written one confidential and one private. This was determined to be against Tech policy as well.

## **VI. Old Business**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries reported. After some discussion the Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of a resolution supporting Intellectual Freedom for Academic Libraries.

Senator Held reported that the Board of Regents voted against the senate's recommendations concerning parking fees. The Faculty Senate and Student Senate will be consulted before any parking structures go up.

Confusion concerning the "Drop Policy" resolution was expressed. A "Drop Policy" resolution was voted on and passed in the December meeting. The resolution stated that the old drop policy should be followed, (not a proposed new one) so the old drop dates should be used.

## **VII. Announcements**

The search for a new president of TTU continues. TTU hired the firm of Hydrant and Struggles from Chicago to assist in hiring of a new president. The firm and search committee agreed on four key issues, which are not negotiable. The candidates must have:

1. Academic credentials and/or accomplishments.
2. Documented or demonstrated administrative ability.
3. Awareness of the TTU system. In the TTU system the president reports to the Chancellor, not the other way around.
4. Must have demonstrated vision in past positions.

The committee has received nine applications, and ten nominations, and expects a total of 50 viable candidates to apply. A question and answer session followed.

Senator Boylan asked what TTU would want with a candidate who had not moved a Tier I school to a Tier II position? There may be many reasons why- lack of funding being one.

J. Perez- how far along is the process? Not very far, the deadline date (31 March) for applications may be extended. Held- can the finalist be brought before the senate or a faculty wide forum to speak? Yes, most candidates in the past have done so.

Assistant Provost Hall announced that the Grievance Policy is being rewritten. The rewritten policy will be "run by" the senate for consideration. Most of the senate's recommendations concerning the Work Load Policy were followed by the Provost office. Provost Burns will respond in writing to the senate concerning the Work Load Policy.

Senator Reeves spoke on behalf of the committee looking into the feasibility of a child care center on Tech's campus. They are working closely with interested parties in the Student Senate, Staff Senate, and TTUHSC. The committee is in the fact-finding phase of its work and with the use of a questionnaire, will assess the need of a child care center at Tech. The questionnaire will be distributed 29 February and due back to the committee on 14 March. A high response rate was encouraged!

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Since there was no further business, President Reed adjured meeting #203 of the TTU Faculty Senate at 4:05.

Respectfully submitted  
Jack Becker  
Faculty Senate Secretary  
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