

Texas Tech University
Minutes- #201- Faculty Senate
November 17, 1999

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 17, 1999 in the Senate Room in the University Center with Present Nancy Reed presiding. Senators present were Elam, Giaccardo, Shin, Borst, Drager, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Iber, Lewis, Meek, A. Perez, G. Perez, Reeves, Schaller, Stein, Stomblor, Walker, Weinberg, Hartmeister, Murray, Thomas, Burkett, Norville, Thompson, Khan, Cochran, Boylan, Cardenas-Garcia, Carr, Cooper, Couch, Farley, McVay, Mross and Becker. Excused from the Senate meeting were Lawver, Newcomb, Rylander, Tuman, Hein, Laverie, Zhang, Spallholz, Pigott and Trost. Unexcused from the Senate meeting were Thorvilson, Lodhi, Boal, Lakhani, Crawford and Van Cleave.

I. Call to order was announced by president Nancy reed at 3:17 p.m.

II. Recognition of Guests- David Schmidly, Bob Sweazy, Bill Dukes.

III. Approval of Minutes #200 (October 13, 1999) were approved as corrected.

IV. Remarks from Invited Guests.

Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Technology Transfer, David J. Schmidly on the topic "Achieving 'Top Tier' Research Status: A Goal for Texas Tech." Schmidly started out by quoting President Donald Haragan, "The leadership of Texas Tech has adopted a goal of substantially increasing research activity and research funding while maintaining an effective balance among teaching, research and service and enhancing the quality of all university programs." To achieve these two objectives will be addressed.

Objective 1: Become one of the top 100 graduate-research institutions in the country as measured by total research and development funding.
Objective 2: Become the university of choice for the best undergraduate students in the state and beyond.

To reinforce these objectives Schmidly stated that "it is clearly to Texas' advantage for TTU to achieve top research status, since Texas is below other populous states in R&D. It (top research status) is compatible with TTU's mission and goals and plans are to engage students in undergraduate research.

While straightening TTU's R&D program the Humanities will not be left behind. Schmidly sees the humanities as essential for learning and life and are a vital part of scholarship at research universities. The humanities prepare students to think creatively and imaginatively. With that said Schmidly returned to the theme of research.

Schmidly summarized the goals Tech needs to reach in order to become one of the top research universities in the U.S.

- Become a top tier institution in research and education
- Top 100 in total R&D; more than 50 Ph.Ds in 15 fields
- Take our research into the marketplace
- Up the economic ladder of West Texas

Texas Tech's current status is
A Research II institution in the Carnegie rankings
129th in the nation in total research dollars
158th in the nation in federal funding
92nd in the NRC ranking of doctoral programs

In the 2000 edition of the Carnegie Classifications the requirements to become a tier I institution have been changed. Under the year 2000 guidelines Tech will become a tier I institution. The average for the past three years, at Tech, has been 160 Ph.Ds produced in 28 fields.

Next, Schmidly quoted from his own research, which stated that institutions that receive the most in research dollars have the highest reputations in other aspects of education, undergraduate and graduate education for example. Higher status institutions also enjoy lower faculty workloads, and have greater budgets. To summarize why universities are so interested in research can be stated thus: the knowledge it generates, the prestige it brings to the institution, and the money it adds to the institution and the community that surrounds it.

TTU will take the following steps to become a national top tier university.

- Strengthen faculty by increasing faculty by 100 positions and work on retention
- Improve facilities and space for more research
- Continue Federal Initiative Program by keeping consultant in Washington DC
- Pursue interdisciplinary perspectives
- Get the right "toys" (Supercomputer) for research
- Focus on institutional strengths by targeting resources
- Expand Partnerships with TTUHSC, Federal Agencies, state & local governments, and the private sector.
- Straighten graduate programs
- Embrace research education through Honors College and Howard Hughes Program
- Improve infrastructure and lower workloads to improve research environment
- Expand PR effort

To continue on the theme of workloads Schmidly stated that findings from the Texas Coordinating Board found Texas Tech University faculty teach 34% more classes than is recommended. Faculty at Texas A&M and UT Austin teach under the recommendation. Tech has budgeted for 22 new positions for the upcoming academic year.

Schmidly closed his remarks by stating that "Texas Tech is becoming a leader in research and graduate education nationwide and in Texas. We have the momentum, commitment and the energy to make a difference with our research and graduate programs."

Several Senators had questions for Schmidly they are as follows:

Borst: What is going to be done to help with research as far as the physical plant goes?

Schmidly: Construction of new research building, Supercomputer at Reese Center, and keeping 100% of all indirect research costs.

Mross: What is going on at the Reese Center?

Schmidly: The Supercomputer has a visualization capability, (virtual reality). A fiber optic cable connecting it with TTU and TTUHCS will allow people at TTU to use it on campus. Open House December 6, 1999.

Stein: Do you think that a 2-2-work load for teachers is achievable in five years?

Schmidly: No, probably not.

Giaccardo: Besides Reese Center what has the city done to help out?

Schmidly: The city and county leadership is very active and vocal in their support. Tech would have not gotten the Supercomputer without their help. They are helping out with a Biology IV Safety Lab.

Schaller: Do you know how many new faculty have left Tech in the past 6 to 10 years for better paying jobs?

Schmidly: No, the Provost Office has the exact figures, but hopefully higher salaries will rectify this problem.

Mross: Where will the money and credit hours come from to teach the IS1100 class now being taught?

Schmidly: The money to pay for IS1100 does not come from the departments which the teachers come from. IS1100 is an elective and should not hurt the elective hours and accreditation of most schools.

Thomas: What part of this issue does the legislature not understand/support?

Schmidly: In the past few years the legislature has been more interested in K-12 education and they traditionally take a "fix what's broke" attitude.

V. New Business

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed of Senators Cooper, Rylander, and Becker to study a resolution supporting Intellectual Freedom in Academic Libraries. The committee will report next month.

Senate Study Committee B reported on the new Drop Policy. Senators G. Perez, Boylan, and Iber spoke concerning the report. The committee offered two recommendations and recommendation I was amended and passed.

Resolution 1. To maintain academic standards on a par with other Texas state universities the present drop policy (which no longer requires faculty signatures) makes it more difficult for faculty to know when or if a student has dropped, and the Faculty Senate respectfully requests a return to the previous policy on drops.

VI. Old Business

Lewis Held represented the Budget Study Committee and he passed out two handouts. The handouts Held passed out had to do with the parking situation. Held stated that the two resolutions in the handout were worked up by a joint committee of student, staff, and faculty senators. After lengthy discussion both resolutions were passed. They are:

Resolution #1

Whereas the Administration's "Parking Feasibility Study" shows a demand for parking spaces that exceeds the supply and is expected to worsen in the next 5 years,

Therefore be it resolved that the TTU Faculty Senate gives its approval for the following Amended proposals for the parking Feasibility Study:

An increase in fees for reserved, area-reserved, and commuter spaces of 20% for the 2000-2001 school year, and

A conversion of parts of existing reserve lots to area-reserve status, with accommodation for any users who wish to retain a reserved space.

Resolution #2:

Whereas the Administration's "Parking Feasibility Study" contains no information about:

The possible impact of future garages on campus traffic or city commuter traffic, or

The numbers of spaces in each garage that will be devoted to faculty/staff vs. students,

Therefore, be it resolved that the following actions should be taken before financial commitments are made for any parking garage:

Traffic studies should be conducted in consultation with city engineers and the results should be reported to the Faculty Senate, and

Specific details regarding allocation of parking spaces (faculty, staff, student, or visitor) should be furnished to the Faculty Senate for each garage that is being planned,

The administration should continue to inform the Faculty Senate (at yearly intervals or more frequently) about the progress of its plans and the effectiveness of its actions toward solving the present and future problems in our parking system.

After some discussion both resolutions were passed as read.

Senator G. Perez offered his congratulations to Senator Held for his continuous fine work on the parking situation.

VII. Announcements

Mr. Ed Whitfill from the campus bookstore (Wallace's Bookstores, Inc.) will speak at the next meeting. The senate was advised to invite our friends and relations to hear Whitfill speak.

VII. Adjournment. Since there was no more business the Faculty Senate meeting adjourned.

Jack Becker
Faculty Senate Secretary
1999-2000