

Texas Tech University
Minutes- #204 Faculty Senate
February 9, 2000

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 9, 2000 in the Senate Room in the University Center with President Nancy Reed presiding. Senators present were Elam, Lawver, Giaccardo, Shin, Borst, Drager, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Lewis, Lodhi, Newcomb, A. Perez, Reeves, Rylander, Schaller, Stompler, Weinberg, Hein, Laverie, Hartmeister, Murray, Burkett, Lakhani, Thompson, Zhang, Khan, Spallholz, Cochran, Boylan, Cardenas-Garcia, Carr, Cooper, Couch, Farley, McVay, Pigott, Becker and Trost. Senators excused from the meeting were Thorvilson, Iber, Meek, G. Perez, Stein, Tuman and Boal. Senators unexcused from the meeting were Walker, Thomas, Norville, Crawford and Van Cleave.

- I. Call to Order** was announced by president Nancy Reed at 3:17 p.m.
- II. Recognition of Guests**- Provost John Burns, Vice Provost Jim Brink, and Associate Provost Liz Hall.
- III. Approval of Minutes** #203, January 12, 2000 were approved as corrected.
- IV. New Business**

Senator J. Perez reported for the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee concerning the new Student Evaluation Forms, which were handed out before the meeting, along with the old forms. Perez stated that the committee had worked hard, for two years, on the new form and had gotten input from the Student Senate, office of the Provost, other universities, and the Tech Faculty Senate. The new form includes questions considered important to students and would be an important evaluation tool. After Perez's introductory remarks the floor was opened up for discussion.

Newcomb stated that he had trouble with question six. He did not see the difference between it and question ten. Drager- the scale proposed to answer questions one through six should be something besides the letters A-F. It looks too much like the letter grades that instructors use to evaluate students. The letters will be changed.

Brink- something besides the letters A-F should be used to enumerate the scale.

Drager- the instructions for questions 7-10 are unclear. The instructions will be changed to read, " Use the following scale to answer the following four questions."

Boylan- change the word "prefix" at the top of the page to something less confusing to students.

Stompler- can we send the committee our written comments? I do not like the A-F scale; it looks too much like grades.

Drager- the instructions for answering questions 1-6 should be changed as well. The instructions will be changed to read as follows, "Use the following scale to answer questions 1-6."

Trost- the exact date should be places somewhere on the form.

Rylander- question four seems to ask two questions, Leave out "and welcomed open discussion."

Stompler- Question four is a double-barreled question, (it asks two questions).

Drager- question four should be changed.

Lodhi- question one asks the students if the instructor knew his subject. Students do not know anything about the subject and they are not qualified to judge an instructor. Question one should be dropped.

Drager- question five makes question one redundant.

Couch- not all students can answer all the questions authoritatively. Can we send written comments to the committee?

At this time President Reed ended the discussion and stated that a vote on the form will be held during the March meeting. Questions and comments about the new form should be sent to J. Perez or the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee.

V. Old Business

Senator Held spoke for the Budget Study Committee concerning the Socrates Award. He stated the committee has dropped consideration of the award since the monetary rewards for the award are so small. He did have four resolutions, concerning the award, which hoped the Faculty Senate to consider. Held's resolutions will be considered by the Agenda Committee and given to the proper study committee.

VI. New Business

Senator Stompler reported for the Nominating Committee and presented a list of candidates who agreed to run for Faculty Senate officers. The list of nominations are as follows:

President- Charlotte Dunham

Vice President- Marc Giaccardo
Walt Schaller

Secretary- Fred Hartmeister
Jorge Iber

President Reed then asked for nominations from the floor and since they were none, nominations were closed. Candidates were asked to fill out an information slip and send it to the Faculty Office by February 28, 2000 so that it could be mailed-out, along with the March agenda, on March 1st. Elections for officers will take place during the March meeting, at which time write-in votes will be permitted.

Senator J. Perez asked if the vote on the new Student Evaluation Form could not be moved to the April meeting since he will be away on University business during the March meeting. President Reed moved the vote to the April meeting.

Old Business Continued

Senator Held asked if questions concerning the Drop Policy resolution could be addressed as Old Business. President Reed stated that the Drop Policy resolution would be considered as an announcement.

VII. Announcement

Faculty Senate Office Coordinator, Patty Pledger is in the hospital. Senator Stompler asked if flowers could be sent to her. President Reed stated that flowers will be sent.

Vice President, Gene West will come and speak during the March meeting on the issue of parking. He requested that questions be sent to him at least two weeks in advance so that he can better prepare his answers.

Vice Provost Brink spoke on the issue of commercial enterprises paying legally registered students to take class notes, which eventually become published on the Internet. He hoped the senate would take this issue under advisement for further study. Senator Cochran then spoke, (Cochran teaches a course on intellectual property at the law school). He stated that there are several straightforward and simple steps instructors can do to control the ownership and copyright of their class lectures. Copyright control and a limited license can be established easily by professors. A limited license limits lecture notes to students enrolled in the class and any one breaking the limited license agreement is in violation of the law. Cochran agreed to work with any committee formed to study this issue.

Senator Hartwell asked why Gene West was coming to speak on the issue of parking when parking was "a done deal." Apparently there are several issues, which still need clarification, including towing, and undersized parking lots.

At this time the Faculty Senate voted by a 2/3 majority to go into closed session. During closed session no votes were taken.

After the closed session Senator Couch announced that sometime in the coming two weeks, Tech faculty will receive a questionnaire from the steering committee evaluating teaching effectiveness. The steering committee is an outgrowth of a Kellogg Foundation Grant. The Kellogg Foundation hopes to evaluate and improve university teaching in the United States. Couch encouraged all senators fill out the questionnaire and she asked the senators to encourage their colleagues to do likewise.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:25.

Respectfully submitted
Jack Becker
Faculty Senate Secretary 1999-2000