Texas Tech University
Minutes -- #215 Faculty Senate
April 11, 2001

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 in the Senate Room in the University Center with President Charlotte Dunham presiding. Senators present were Elam, Giaccardo, Donahue, Drager, Hartwell, Lee, Lewis, Lucas, Meek, Schaller, Weinberg, Boal, Held, Malone, Lakhani, Zhang, Blum, Khan, Cochran, Carr, Marbly, Willis-Aarnio, Becker and Trost. Senators excused from the meeting were Iber, Hartmeister, Bradley Cooper and Cardenas-Garcia. Senators unexcused were Kieth, Thorvilson, Buelinckx, Lodhi, Perez, Tuman, Walker, Murray, Thomas, Mann, Norville, Reeder, Spallholz, and Smith.

President Charlotte Dunham recognized the guests Chancellor John Montford, Vice Provost Jim Brink and Parliamentarian Brian McGee. The meeting started at 3:19 p.m. without a quorum and President Dunham introduced Chancellor Montford.

I. Remarks from invited Guest:

Four issues addressed by Chancellor Montford were (1) the new members of the Board of Regents, (2) numerous issues from Washington and Austin legislative sessions, (3) the Horizon Campaign, and (4) the Campus Master Plan.

Robert Black and David Lopez are the two individuals who have been nominated to fill vacancies on the Board of Regents. Robert Black, who graduated from Texas Tech University, is the former president of Government International and has been an active member of the Foundation board. David Lopez, graduated from New Mexico State University and is the president of Southwestern Bell Texas. Having David Lopez in the Board will maintain the relationship between Texas Tech University and the Southwestern Bell Foundation. The confirmation of the new regents is set for April 23 (Wednesday).

Chancellor Montford discussed several proposals currently being debated in the legislature that will benefit Texas Tech. Currently, the university has facing financial shortfalls because of a decline graduate student enrollment. On the other hand, the university is also working with the legislature to produce programs that will provide increased funding for Texas Tech. The following are programs being considered. First, Senate Bill 737, a bill to provide additional research funds, should pass and we provide an extra $7.7 million. Second, the Texas Excellent Fund, which is a permanent annual research fund, will provide about $7 to $8 million for Texas Tech University, and this money will increase annually. Third, Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRB), a program in which the state will pay debt service on bonds used to provide capital improvements, will result in $30 million to the University. The legislative session ends in May, and these bills should be passed by then. These revenue bonds will be used to fund four projects: (1) to rebuild the Food Technology Building, (2) to construct a new clinical center for the Health Sciences Center, (3) renovations for the College of Business, and (4) to build a research center.

Improving communication between the university and Washington is another important task for the university, so that the university can get access to the agencies to continue to increase our research dollars.

The Horizon Campaign will be on August 31, 2001, and it will end with a $520 Million endowment. This campaign is going to focus on scholarships, faculty endowments, and program development. Program development will be addressed on program specific demands.
The Campus Master Plan includes the Indiana Parkway construction, which is from Indiana Avenue to the Loop. Parking on the campus is another serious issue at the university; however, the parkway is in the first priority in the plan. Another project we would like to get done is to build a new center for the performing arts for the College of Fine Arts. The city of Lubbock may participate in this project.

Then, the floor was opened for questions.

Senator Donahue asked if there were plans for funding new facilities for the College of Fine Arts. Chancellor Montford said that a request for funds has been accepted, but it has not been funded yet. It has been given an excellent ranking on the Board's priority list. Senator Trost asked why the master plan didn't take into consideration the needs of those who actually use the facilities being planned. She was especially concerned about the disruption that some of the projects cause to workers trying to do their jobs in these settings. Chancellor Montford responded that when the requests are sent to the board, the board will try to get the proper response and reaction to address each specific need. Senator Lee asked if the Chancellor had a sense of the low faculty morale that has resulted from spending money on building projects while not having money to pay faculty adequately nor to provide them with the resources they need to do their jobs. Chancellor Montford explained that funds for capital improvement come from budget lines which can not be used for operations. He also pointed out that trying to create better facilities so faculty can do their jobs better is the main goal. Additionally, he said that he has an open door policy and he welcomes any recommendation and suggestion. Senator Giaccardo commented that the plans for the Campus Child Care Center were begun two years ago, and wonders if it will finally be built. Chancellor Montford responded this is a funding issue, the board will get it on the agenda and the issue will be processed. Senator H artwell asked Chancellor Montford about his health. He responded that he had two angioplasties, which were in 1996 and 1998. He is eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly and feels great. Senator Meek asked if there is a committee studying the possibility of a performing arts center. According to the Chancellor, a planning budget was approved by the Board, with ½ of the funds will coming from the city. We will have adequate input from the faculty in the Arts before we do the project. Senator Held asked about a prediction for faculty raises next year. Chancellor Montford responded that the Legislature has been talking about increases for state employees; normally, that does not mean that faculty salaries will be increased. The importance of increasing state employees' salaries is that enables us to more easily increase faculty salaries, but on the down side it is hard to raise employees' salaries. But we are also trying to increase faculty salaries through a larger endowment. Christi Merak, a student guest, asked how the fund raising affects students. The most obvious result was the $31 million in scholarships. But we are also trying to do the endowments for faculty and endowments for programs, and also continuing to push for more dollars for scholarships. 9. Senate Lucas asked: How is the new construction in College of Fine Arts? The response was: We have received the plans from the architect and plan to build a 400 seat auditorium for small performances.

II. Call to Order was announced by President Charlotte Dunham at 4:10 p.m.

III. Approval of Minutes form #214, No changes.

IV. Old Business: there was no old business.

V. New Business: there was no new business.

VI. Announcements:
1. Faculty were informed at the latest web site, Pickaprof.com, which provides information about courses at TTU to students. Information was requested from Texas Tech via the Open Records Act which requires that such information be released to the public.

2. A suggestion has been made that retiring faculty donate academic regalia so that new faculty can check them out to wear to commencement so they can avoid the high costs of renting a cap and gown.

3. Senator Cochran reported on the result of a meeting with Walter Haeussler, President Dunham & a representative from HSC on intellectual property policy. He stated that O.P. 74.04, Intellectual Property, still doesn’t have grievance procedure that works. The concern is that we need a revised policy and in place by the fall. The problem is to come up with a policy by that deadline. The Board needs to integrate the different policies within the University System into one policy and this takes time. O.P. 74.04 section 16.01 (course development) was another issue to be discussed. Senator Cochran stated that under the proposed policy, the university has the power to use a faculty member’s class notes without paying royalties, even after the person has left the university such a practice has been implemented at several universities. Distance learning also raises this issue of ownership of course material.

   Senator Malone felt that if a professor uses resources then the University has a claim on these class materials. Senator Held said that policy is not conducive to academic freedom. Additionally, Senator Lee noted that the word “teaching” needs to be defined. A resolution dealing with course development was submitted. After a brief discussion focusing on editorial changes to the proposed resolution, the Senate voted on the following statement:

   Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate condemns the revision in Op 74.04 section 16.01. The Faculty Senate finds the spirit of the proposed policy incompatible with the principles of academic freedom and the development of the intellectual property.

   The resolution passed with one Senator voting in dissent.

4. President Dunham thanked Professor Brian McGee for his service to the Faculty Senate in his capacity as parliamentarian. Prof. McGee is moving to Kentucky.

VIII. Adjournment: President Dunham declared the 215th meeting of the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Shane Blum
Secretary Elect 2001-2002