

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes #220
December 12, 2001**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 in the Senate Room in the University Center with President Giaccardo presiding: Senators present were Elam, Kavaskny, Byerly, Dolter, Donahue, Harter, Howe, James, Meek, Reed, Reeves, Roberts, Schaller, Stinespring, Weinberg, Dukes, Hein, Johnson, Lakhani, Mann, Zhang, Blum, Russ, Shriver, Quinn, Bradley, Carr, Cooper, Curry, Hoo, Hsiang, Marbley, Steinhart and Willis-Aarnio. Excused Senators were Iber, Lewis, Williams, Thomas, Norville, Phelan and Marshall. Unexcused Senators were Blanton, Buelinckx, Kuriyama, Lee, Lucas, Marks, Yang, Murray and Reeder.

I. Call to Order was announced by President Giaccardo at 3:18 p.m.

II. Recognition of Guests: Vice Provost Jim Brink; Assistant Provost Liz Hall; Parliamentarian Gary Elbow, Gary Wiggins, Vice President for Information Technology; and Andrew Shoppe, Service Learning Coordinator, University Office of Campus Life, Professor Lewis Held, Oscar Solis from GPSGA.

III. The minutes for the November 14, 2001 meeting were approved with the following correction: Senator Uzi Mann suggested that Senator Dukes was misquoted in paragraph three of page two and it should have stated that he was talking about a letter from the president to the grievance committee and the grievant, not solely about the grievance hearing committee. No other changes were noted and the minutes were accepted as amended.

IV. Invited Guests

Gary Wiggins, Vice President for Information Technology for Texas Tech University addressed the Faculty Senate. He stated that he has held this position in a non-interim basis since February. He felt that his office needed to be organized more functionally than bureaucratically. He informed the Faculty Senate that the student information portal was operational and the next phase would have more student-faculty capabilities. In addition, his office is also working on creating a strictly faculty portal. His office is also planning this spring to offer fifty megabytes of personal storage space on the web for all students and faculty. As a reminder the Texas Tech website can be located at www.ttu.edu or at www.texastech.edu and the Help Desk can be located at 742-HELP.

Mr. Wiggins then discussed site-licensing agreements that Texas Tech was currently involved in. The Microsoft campus agreement makes most of the Microsoft products available to students and university computers at no charge. He asked the Faculty Senate for any suggestions regarding additional software they felt might be beneficial to the university.

In regard to Internet connectivity, last year Texas Tech had an 11-megabit connection to the outside world, we now have a 155-megabit connection, which is already at approximately 70% capacity. The super computer and visualization facility at Reece Center now has a fiber optics connection with campus.

Since institutional research is also part of his office, Mr. Wiggins stated that the campus data warehousing is working well regarding enrollment and financial account information. The data warehouse allows numerous queries, including access to teacher evaluation scores over the last few years. Video classrooms and technology classroom are being created throughout the university; specifically recent changes have been made in Holden Hall and The College of Business Administration. He asked the Faculty Senate for their input in how to best use this new technology and what classroom technology is appropriate, desirable and will give us immediate utility.

Texas Tech is doing an e-mail integration in order to lessen the overhead burden on people so they can do their jobs more efficiently. A year ago there were 62 e-mail servers on campus that did not communicate with one another. We are not going to consolidate every e-mail address on to one server, ideally we are trying to create one directory where everyone can locate everyone else's e-mail address regardless of what e-mail server they are on. This project has become a little harder than we initially thought, but we hope to have this ready some time during the spring semester.

With regard to the hundreds of servers we have on campus, we are hoping to use the server support group we have created in the data center to offer server management and operation and consulting services for best practices for those who wish to manage their own servers. The library will have a new web-based software system installed shortly.

Mr. Wiggins finally identified some of the committees that have been created in his office. He discussed the Strategic Advisory Committee of deans and vice presidents on information technology, a Technical Advisory Committee, and a committee that is extremely important is the Security Committee. A university community is an open community, however, there are people out there trying to do us serious damage via viruses, hacking, stolen data, identity theft, etc. The committee is very interested in creating policies and best practices for security measures for the operation of the university's technology resources.

At this point Gary Wiggins opened the floor to questions.

Senator Schaller asked how do we find the student evaluations on-line. Mr. Wiggins replied that there is a direct url address and it also can be accessed through the Texas web-for-students registration website. Mr. Wiggins also stated that the grade distributions for each class would also soon be made available along with the teacher evaluation scores. Senator Steinhart stated that he believed that there was a registration requirement on Texas web for students that shuts

faculty out. He was told there was, but a link would also be made available on the web for faculty website and everyone should also be able to access it via his or her E-Raider account. E-Raider will soon allow you to pick your own password.

Senator Howe addressed the inability to contact large groups through the e-mail system. Mr. Wiggins informed the Senate that in the spring we would be able to send mass messages to each of our class sections and in the future a query list would be available to create your own group contacts. Mr. Wiggins agreed that the web for faculty grading software is not very good. Senator Lakhani inquired regarding firewalls to protect the Texas Tech servers. He was informed that the firewalls deal with known hacking sources and are not concerned with content. The network also prevents sending executables as attachments to prevent viruses. Mr. Wiggins also discussed the increased use of the system for student advising purposes.

President Giaccardo asked how the fifty megabytes of space would be offered and Mr. Wiggins was not sure yet, but would know more when it was rolled out in the spring. Senator Reeves suggested that the university eliminate the fee for faculty Internet use at home because he felt it was necessary in order to do our jobs. Mr. Wiggins agreed and felt that it should be discussed with the Provost's Office. Senator Steinhart addressed a memo he received regarding contacting the Help Desk instead of individuals faculty knew in the information technology office. Mr. Wiggins stated that the memo was referring only to the desktop support unit and he felt that it was important that people do have relationships with people on his staff.

Senator Roberts asked if there were other software site location arrangements beside the one with Microsoft and Mr. Wiggins stated that there were and he was open to other suggestions based on university-wide demand. Senator Reeves suggested that SPSS be made available and Mr. Wiggins stated that he agreed and it should be discussed as a possible option. Finally, Senator Willis-Aarnio asked for Mr. Wiggins's e-mail address and he said that we could contact him anytime at gary.wiggins@ttu.edu.

The next invited guest was Andrew Shoppe, Service Learning Coordinator, University Office of Campus Life. Mr. Shoppe reminded the Senate that service learning is the third component of the university's strategic plan. He stressed that service learning was currently in a developmental stage at Texas Tech. He passed around a handout of information regarding service learning and stated that his office wanted input regarding what the Faculty Senate thought service learning was. He also stated that we should have already received a survey about community service in our classes. Mr. Shoppe then opened the floor to questions.

Senator Reeves asked if this had anything to do with the campus compact and he was informed that the Texas Campus Compact is a service learning initiative, which is currently lead by President Schmidly, that serves as a resource for programs across the state. Senator Stinespring asked if service learning was associated with student teaching, and he was informed that student teaching by itself was not, unless it had an additional impact in the community.

A discussion ensued regarding the exact definition of service learning; what it entailed in the classroom; how it would be measured; and how departments would be held accountable for it. Mr. Shoppe reiterated that the service learning initiative was still in its developmental stages and assured the Faculty Senate that all of these issues would be addressed in the near future.

V. Old Business

Senator Reed, the chairperson of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, thanked the committee, which consists of Senators Reeves, Curry, Donahue, and Cooper along with the aid of Dr. Vicky Hampton and her graduate students. The committee is looking at employee benefits at Big 12 institutions as well as The University of Houston and North Texas. Dr. Hampton's class looked at compensation and other benefits of faculty and the report has been submitted to the committee who will review the report, meet in January, and then report back to the Faculty Senate.

VI. New Business

Senator Steinhart commented on the student business services letter which was sent out to students indicating that they needed to pay their tuition and fees in full by January 3, 2002. Senator Steinhart felt that this would have a significant effect on our students. A discussion ensued and a suggestion was made to create a committee to speak to Linda Gilbert about this new policy or have her attend our January meeting. However, a vote could not take place because there was no longer a quorum and the discussion was tabled.

VII. Announcements

President Giaccardo announced that the post-tenure survey has finally been completed and it has been distributed to the senate offices and the Provost's office and it is also available on the Faculty Senate web page. President Giaccardo also stated that he received a phone call from Ben Lock of the Chancellor's Office regarding the Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee. President Giaccardo will serve on the committee as the Faculty Senate representative along with another faculty member from Texas Tech and two from Health Sciences.

Adjournment at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Blum
Senate Secretary 2001-2002