

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting #239
January 14, 2004**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 in the Lankford Laboratory in the Electrical Engineering Annex with President Nancy Reed presiding. Senators present were: Kvashny, P Johnson, Byerly, Dunham, Gray, Harter, Held, Nathan, Roberts, Schaller, Troyansky, Watts, Dukes, Sherif, Jackson, Masten, Sinzinger, Reifman, Russ, Shriver, Camp, Marshall, Garner, Gelber, Meek, Curry, Hoo, Marbley, Marks, Soonpaa and Spallholz. Senators excused were: Quinn, Dolter, Meek and Camp. Senators unexcused were: Wilde, Aranha, Buelinckx, Alford, D'Amico, Kuriyama, Williams, Jones, Duemer, H Johnson, Baker, Floyd, Ellis, Hsiang and Tacon.

I. Call to Order. President Nancy Reed called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm.

II. Recognition of Guests in Attendance. President Reed recognized President Jon Whitmore, Provost William Marcy, and Vice-Provost James Brink.

III. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #238. President Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Reifman said that on the second page, the next to the last paragraph, should read "CopyTech, West Hall Room 145." On page 6, last paragraph "Brew N' Walk" should be changed to "Bruin Walk." Senator Meek said that on page 2, second paragraph from bottom, "of a tape" should be deleted. Senator Marks said that on page 3, third paragraph from bottom, the name of the person abstaining should not be mentioned. The revised sentence should read "The motion was passed with one abstention." President Reed asked if there were any emendations to the minutes. There were none, and President Reed said the minutes stood as amended.

IV. Old Business. President Reed said that in the handout there was a resolution proposed by Senator Watts regarding university excused absences. There are several options: to pass the resolution as presented, or send it to a Senate committee. President Reed called for a motion. **Senator Held** moved to have the resolution sent to committee. **Senator Spallholz** seconded the motion. President Reed asked if there were any discussion. Vice-Provost Brink said that he would be very happy, with Madam President's permission, to be an ex-officio member of that committee or simply called in to discuss the matter if the committee feels the need to do so. President Reed said that his willingness to volunteer was noted. Vice-President Shriver said that he had two comments on the proposal. He wondered if it is necessary to address the specific item of what are too many absences. Perhaps it is also necessary to address other language like the language "within a reasonable span of time" and similar open-ended issues that are potentially problematic. Who then defines "reasonable period of time," the student or the professor? As long as we are considering this in committee, perhaps we should consider the complete language not just how many is too many. President Reed asked if there were any other comments.

Senator Harter said the current policy allows the department chairperson or others responsible to notify the instructor, but the proposal requires that they do that by telephone. The telephone may not be the easiest way to reach instructors. They may keep odd office hours. Senator Harter said that she felt that this was a little too restrictive.

Senator Reifman said that he had the exact same thought. If you have a team that has 20 members each taking four or five classes, the supervisor of the team would have to make 100 phone calls, which could be cumbersome. The current written memos seem more efficient. President Reed said that these are issues that the committee can take up.

Senator Johnson said that the language in the proposal that says "seek a limit" raises the question of what is an appropriate limit. One person might say three absences, another five. What do we mean by a limit? When you try to codify things like this you create more problems than if you left it up to the instructor to contact the appropriate team coach and work out the problem.

Senator Watts said the point of the resolution is to generate discussion and to seek input from the university. We are not to the point yet of codifying the operating procedure. When you look at the operating procedure you can see that it could be more specific. With the plans that the university has to facilitate students moving through their college education more quickly than they have been, it is valuable to look at this policy now, and perhaps make a statement to students that yes you can participate in a wide variety of activities outside the classroom, but there should be a limit to the amount of time that they can be away from the classroom.

Vice-President Shriver asked if he was reading the proposal correctly, that this proposal is due for review this year and those recommendations have to be made by April. Vice-Provost Brink said no, that it is a flexible time. President Reed clarified that it is under review this year. The resolution was referred to committee. President Reed asked if there were anything else under old business.

Senator Held asked how successful the university has been in finding places for all students in classes this semester. **Vice-Provost Brink** said that they are doing very well. They have been working very closely with the chairs and the deans and with the enrollment management people opening sections and creating new sections and things seem to be going smoothly.

President Reed said that if any Senators had questions that they wanted to ask of President Whitmore, since he has made an unscheduled appearance, this is the appropriate time. There were no questions directed to the President.

President Whitmore said that he did not have any speech to make but that there were a couple of things that he would at least like to mention. An ongoing issue that President Reed will be very much involved in is the continuing discussion on tuition at this and every other university. We raised tuition by ten dollars per credit hour for the spring semester, and that generated enough funding for us to provide a raise for faculty and staff, and to put 25 percent (which is five percent more than required) aside for financial aid for students affected by this raise. We were also able to create a few faculty positions. We are now engaged in discussion about what to do about tuition for fall semester. President Whitmore has appointed a committee called the Budget Advisory Committee, which is a committee of faculty, staff, students, and two deans, and it is chaired by the Provost. There are two reasons for the committee. The first is that so a broader array of people at the university can get an inside picture of the budget of the university and a deeper understanding of its complexities from all its aspects. For the next few weeks, that committee will focus on one issue, and that primarily is where we go with a recommendation on where our tuition ought to be in the fall semester. President Whitmore said that this is not the only advice he will receive in making a final decision about tuition, but the committee will be a major advisor to him. His other advisory group consists of the deans and vice-presidents who will advise him from an administrative point of view. The President said that he does not think that there is any question that tuition will go up again. Other institutions such as the University of Texas at Austin have made a recommendation for a current and future upgrade in tuition costs. Every other institution in Texas will also be looking at that issue, and although it is conceivable that some institutions may not raise tuition in the fall, the President would predict that most will. Our discussion has to do with what do we need in terms of new resources in order to do what we want to do, including the President's plan to create 100 new faculty positions over the next three years or so. The President would not like to stop with the raise that we just had and look at having another one, but all those things cost additional funds and it will have to be channeled into the discussion. President Reed sits on that committee; she will have a major voice, and President Whitmore said that he guessed she will be talking to some of the Senators about what is being discussed within that committee and getting feedback from you as well. The only major hindrance is that we have to move within about a month and know what we want to recommend because the next meeting of the Board of Regents is scheduled for the 26th and 27th of February, and that is the meeting in which they would need to act on this in order for our students to know when they are registering what they will be paying for in the fall. President Whitmore asked if there were any questions about the tuition issue.

Senator Schaller asked how Tech's tuition compares with UT and A&M now. President Whitmore said that UT and A&M are ahead of us. UT will be with what it is charging this semester. He said that he did not have the numbers with him but that they were both ahead of us. The real telling thing is if you add in all the

fees. To some extent, Tech has fewer fees than some of those institutions, including course fees, individual fees, and so on. Looking at what an English major pays, or a science major taking a sequence of courses, is the only real way to get a detailed picture of the difference. The fact is that they are ahead of us. UT is very aggressive in what they are going to do with their tuition increase in the fall, so they will be further ahead of us assuming we would stay even, which he said he does not think we are planning on doing. Tech is not at the bottom either; we are in the 60th or 70th percentile in comparison with all of the state institutions within Texas. Provost Marcy added that we are honorably placed. President Whitmore said that it is fluctuating considerably because everyone is adjusting their tuition rates, and tomorrow it could be somewhat different. President Whitmore asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Senator Held said that when the Board of Regents meets they will also set the enrollment projections for the fall, and asked what they are. President Whitmore said that the enrollment projections for the fall are expected to go up. They probably will not increase as much as they have the last two years, but the big factor that they do not know about is, if they raise tuition this spring and possibly raise it again for the fall, how that will affect enrollment. The other institutions in Texas are raising their tuitions as well, so there is not a big savings in going to another institution. Right now, applications to Tech are up over where they were last year and that is somewhat of an indication that enrollment is likely to go up. More and more students are applying to multiple institutions, and so how many actually end up coming to Tech is always a bit of a guessing game right up until the very end. But his prediction is that Tech will be up. We are at 28,500 students, and that should be a little lower in the spring because some students do not return for the spring. Our spring enrollment is still very strong compared with spring semester of last year.

Senator Held asked if A&M's decision to do away with legacy admissions had surprised the President at all, and if Tech was planning to do anything like that. President Whitmore said that he had never studied A&M's admission policy very carefully and did not know that they had that. He said that Tech does not have any kind of standard legacy policy within our admissions criteria.

Senator Watts asked how far Tech is from instituting a tuition ceiling. President Whitmore said that he wished we were there now. But the message that the state sent to state institutions was that the state could not continue to provide the resources, and when they looked around at the tuitions in other states ours were relatively low. This led them to the decision that they would allow the state institutions, within reason, to increase their tuitions as a way of keeping up with the need for raises and other expenses. He said that he does not see a very near term end to the situation where states are not able to put a lot of money into higher education, and therefore they are allowing tuition to become a greater provider of funding for higher education. This is happening not just in Texas but in all states. The new governor of California has announced some cuts to the University of California universities and to counteract that allowed them to raise tuition. He said he does not know of a state that is not part of that trend right now. Senator Watts asked if he thought that Tech would raise tuition every semester. President Whitmore said that it would be his plan to do it only once a year unless there are some extraordinary circumstances. That is why we need to do a thorough study and know what we need to get to go through a whole year. If there are deep cuts in the middle of the year, that might trigger a need to discuss raising tuition at mid-term, but his goal would be to set tuition once a year and that it remain set, barring emergencies. This was an odd year because Tech did not receive permission to do anything with tuition until the year had started.

Vice-President Shriver said that he was curious as to how Tech is holding the line on other expenses that affect freshman students like room and board and dining services fees. How much have those gone up over the last couple of years? President Whitmore said that he did not know, but that when a three percent raise is given, housing and dining staff obtain their income from a different set of dollars and so they need to increase their income in order to pay for the three percent raise for their staff. He said that their fees have gone up a reasonable amount, and that Tech benchmarks that against what other universities are doing. Unless something rare happens, the cost of groceries and staff time to prepare them and the fact that Tech is giving raises will put pressure on their costs to rise.

Senator Nathan asked if the state reduction in funding has taken the form of a reduction in formula funding. **President Whitmore** said that he thought it had and that it is not as fully funded as it used to be. **Vice-Provost Brink** said that last biennium it was \$56.65 for the one hour freshman level arts and sciences,

this biennium it is \$51.25 for the same category. **Provost Marcy** said one thing to keep in mind is that Tech does not actually get the formula dollars. What Tech gets is a proportional share of the total amount of money that is put in the formula, and that is very hard to measure. We have the same funding now that we had two years ago when we had 4,000 fewer students.

Senator Dunham asked if the chances were still good for restoring the excellence money from the legislature. President Whitmore said that it was his understanding that earlier in the special session they restored them but that no one has released the funds. Provost Marcy said that it is quite likely that they will come in a different form than they were originally allocated. The funds were cut by one-third in terms of reallocation and the governor vetoed it which put it into executive authority. The governor has the authority to spend that two-thirds any way he wants to. In all likelihood it will not go to the same universities in the same proportion as it did originally, nor will it be used in the same way as it was originally. President Whitmore said that, at least for this year, it would not be the full amount. If we did get it, we would use and be expected to use it for our research efforts. Tech has people working in Austin to try to free up the dollars but it has not come forward yet.

Senator Reifman asked about the NSSE, the National Survey of Student Engagement, which has emerged in recent years as an alternative to the U.S. News & World Report type of rankings. U.S. News and World Report relies on very crude aggregate statistics, the percent of your student body that graduated in the top ten percent of their high school class, etc. The NSSE wants to measure what actually goes on in the classroom and it involves massive surveys to students asking them in how many of their classes did they have to write papers, how many conversations have they had with their professor about the class outside the classroom, was there discussion in the class. Does Texas Tech participate in that, and if not, would there be interest in our being assessed in that project? Senator Reifman said that it is his understanding that it is voluntary on the part of the university to join the project and voluntary on the part of the university as to whether they want to release the findings. President Whitmore said he does not know a lot about it but thought that Tech did not participate in it. He said that originally they did not ask everyone to participate and that they started out with a certain select cross-section of institutions. He said he would have to study it to answer in any more detail.

Senator Held said that he wanted to publicly thank President Whitmore for implementing the raises as quickly as he has, from a morale standpoint alone. He also thanked President Whitmore for holding the line on the number of free speech areas on the campus. He said that we are all receiving an object lesson in what could happen in Lubbock if the whole campus were opened to fanatics. The ability of professors to get to their classrooms, let alone lecture in their classrooms, could seriously be jeopardized if we make the campus a free speech area. President Whitmore said that he appreciated Senator Held's comments on that.

President Whitmore said that it is his intention to stay in touch with this group and with faculty in other forums throughout the next semester. Last semester was not just a one-time occurrence. He said that he meets with President Reed anytime she wants to meet with him, and is always available to take her calls. He respects faculty governance and the issues the Senate is looking at and is interested in them. He said that he needs to be available to the Senate on a reasonable basis to answer questions.

V. New Business. President Reed said that the Nomination Committee will be busy between now and the next Faculty Senate meeting in February, at which time the slate of officers for next year will be announced with nominations accepted from the floor. The election takes place in April. There are certain qualifications which the bylaws state regarding the officers, and senators might want to look that over. Senators might want to consider serving as an officer, and those interested should contact President Reed, who will then pass the names along to the committee. The person serving as President is entitled to a course reduction, though the President also serves on many committees and it ends up being something of a trade off. The President is also given lunch in December and May. President Reed is taking notes and saving documentation from the Budget Advisory Council, since the President serves a one year term while other members of the Council serve two year terms. President Reed will pass along this material, including brochures, handouts, and a CD containing the university budget, to the next Faculty Senate President. The positions of Secretary and Vice-President of the Senate do not include a course reduction. The position of Vice-President is the easiest. The Secretary's position is probably the most difficult. After listening to the

tape and writing up all the minutes, they are subject to criticism. President Reed asked the Senate to be thinking about serving in one of these positions, and asked if there was any other new business.

VI. Announcements. President Reed introduced **Vice-Provost Brink**. He announced that on the 28th of February which is a Saturday, at 10:30 am, Jon Whitmore will be inaugurated formally as the fourteenth President. Some Senators may remember the last inauguration, held in the midst of a driving ice storm. This ceremony will be much more modest at President Whitmore's request. It will be a very simple, yet elegant affair. There will be a reception the night preceding the inauguration on Friday, February 27th in the museum. The ceremony will take place in the Student Union building because all other facilities on campus are already reserved for other functions. Vice-Provost Brink distributed a handout and asked that Senators distribute them to their constituents in whatever form that they felt was appropriate. It contains information about the deadline for renting regalia. Senators who have faculty colleagues that rent regalia should be aware that there is a very tight window. This has also been announced to the deans and on TechAnnounce as well. Dr. Jonathan Marks will have a roll in the ceremony. Vice-Provost Brink thanked President Reed, who asked if there were any further announcements.

VII. Adjournment. In the absence of any further announcements, President Reed adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.