

Annual Report 2003-2004

Discussion Highlights- for full version see Faculty Senate minutes for that meeting.

#235, September 10, 2003

Invited Guests. President Reed introduced Dr. Donald Dyal, Dean of Libraries. Dyal began by talking about the state of the Libraries. He noted changes that have taken place at the library during the nearly two years that he has served as Dean. See minutes for full report.

Old Business:

President Reed introduced Gary Elbow, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian, who discussed the SACS review. We are currently in the process of undergoing a reaffirmation. Tech underwent reaccreditation ten years ago. SACS has decided that accreditation is continuing and so every ten years Tech reaffirms its accreditation, so we are not reaccredited in a technical sense. Two years ago, SACS passed a resolution to totally revise the process of reaffirmation.

President Reed introduced Vice President Shriver, who provided an update on the status of OP 60.15. This is the smoking policy which the Senate discussed at the end of last year. A decision was made this summer on the policy by Interim President Haragan, so no further input from the Senate is needed.

New Business:

President Reed asked Provost Marcy to provide the Senate with an update on the searches for the deans. The Dean of Engineering search committee has completed interviews with two candidates. One is Kirk Schulz, Chair of Chemical Engineering at Mississippi State and the other is Pamela Eibeck who is Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies at Northern Arizona University. There is a third candidate, Anjan Bose, who is Dean of Engineering and Architecture at Washington State and who specializes in power distribution engineering.

#236, October 8, 2003

Invited Guest. President Reed introduced the new President of Texas Tech, Jon Whitmore. President Whitmore said that during his first week in office he met with the President of the Faculty Senate and told her that he wanted to be actively engaged with the faculty and with the Faculty Senate. The faculty advising the President and Provost's Office about matters that are important to them is an important time-honored tradition in higher education. President Whitmore said that he served on the Faculty Senate when he was a professor and was active on committees.

Old Business:

President Reed addressed two issues that were raised at the last meeting. One concerns the Senate Room in the Student Union. She said she has heard that they are undergoing such extensive renovation and asbestos abatement that they are not going to schedule those rooms because the contract-driven proceedings might eliminate them or make them unavailable from day to day. The second issue concerned a remark in the UD about the areas of free speech. It was taken out of context in the UD and referred to the Student Affairs Handbook, page 17, of the Campus Grounds Use. That is simply a discussion of what the students can do on different parts of the grounds. It has in no way any implications for what occurs in the classroom.

New Business:

President Reed asked if Senator Schaller wanted to make any observations about the holy days provision. According to Texas House Bill 256, students are allowed to go wherever necessary without prior notification. **Senator Schaller** said that Vice-Provost Brink might care to comment. **Vice-Provost Brink** said that the law was changed so that students no longer have to give prior notification. However, the new wording in the operating procedure states that students should give prior notice that they are going to be absent for the observance of a religious holy day. Those holy days need to be consistent with an organization that is tax-exempt, according to the state statute. He said that he believed that the administration had gotten as close as it could to the admonition to be courteous by giving prior notice. **Senator Schaller** asked if faculty would be within their rights to require students to give prior notice. **Vice-Provost Brink** said that it is against the law.

#237, November 12, 2003

President Reed said that it would be necessary to deviate from the agenda because of cross-campus obligations. She introduced **Provost Marcy**, who spoke about OP 30.15, which was scheduled to appear under Old Business. Section D of the operating procedure concerns the evaluation of administrators. There was a resolution passed last May, but there was not actually time for the administration to see what the Senate had passed. Provost Marcy said that this is an OP that is reviewed in every even-numbered year, so it is due for review next spring. Comments and suggestions for revision should be sent to Jim Brink, who will make recommendations to Provost Marcy for actual implementation. Provost Marcy has looked at the suggested changes to the OP, and feels that it needs to be looked at more broadly than just Section D. Section D only applies to department chairs, assistant deans, and associate deans. If you look at the entire organizational structure that the OP refers to, it starts with the president, the provost, deans, department chairs, etc. If we are going to make a revision to one component of it, we really ought to look at making it consistent all the way from the chancellor down to the lowest level.

Invited Guest: Dr. James Brink.

Vice-Provost Brink asked that INGOT (Incentives to Graduate On Time) sheets be distributed to members of the Senate. He said that he appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Senate and talk about some ideas that they are discussing, and that they want to discuss with the Senate. They have taken the opportunity to discuss these ideas in as many forums as possible across campus. It was just a week ago that Dr. Brink addressed the Student Government Association. These ideas are receiving a great deal of approval and understanding. Vice-Provost Brink said that there is no reason to read the sheet, but that he would outline it very quickly. Our purpose is to encourage students-- not to punish them—but to encourage them to apply themselves more rigorously and move towards successful completion of courses and graduation in a more timely manner.

Old Business:

Senator Ellis said that when President Whitmore addressed the Senate last month, he said that before he would commit himself to including sexual orientation in the non-discrimination clause, he would study the matter. **Senator Ellis** said that he had himself done some study and that there is actually a Senate recommendation that was passed November 14, 2001 that has yet to be commented on by the administration. He said that he doubted that without the Senate's prodding the administration would comment on it. He would like the Senate to vote that President Reed write a letter to President Whitmore asking that he respond to the recommendation made by the Senate on Nov. 14. President Reed asked that the motion be seconded. The motion was seconded, and President Reed asked Senator Ellis to read

the policy to the Senate. President Reed then asked for a vote. The Senate voted that President Reed should write a letter, and she said she would do that very soon.

New Business:

President Reed said that **Vice-President Shriver** had some new business. **Vice-President Shriver** said that he would like to discuss the two announcements that we all received via campus mail. It is not that we are not happy for Dr. Burkhalter and Dr. Childress that they were promoted and probably deservedly so. The problem is the cost of sending the announcement to every single person on campus who subsequently discarded it. You might as well take money out of your pocket and discard it. I understand that this is student money, but nonetheless, **Vice-President Shriver** suggested that the Senate send a letter to Michael Shonrock and suggest that in the future could we not explore lower cost ways of sending announcements such as posting it on the web or sending one to every department that they can post on their door.

#238, December 10, 2003

Invited Guests. President Reed introduced the invited guests, Maurice Welch and Hope Calvillo. Welch thanked everyone for the opportunity to come and talk about course packs. He noted that everyone should have picked up sample course pack books at the door, as well as a pen and notepad. Inside the book is a gray card. One of the situations that happens within CopyTech each semester is that approximately one week before the start of each semester they get inundated with course packs.

Old Business:

President Reed asked if there was any old business. **Senator Reifman** said that in the previous Senate meeting mention was made of the TLTC workshop on the topic of teaching and research tracks for faculty. **Senator Reifman** attended and offered a summary for the Senate. He recounted that Provost Marcy had said at the workshop that faculty could have some flexibility. At a certain point in their career faculty may want to focus on research in the lab or in the field, and at a later time in their career, they may want to focus more on teaching. There was a discussion of Boyer's concept of the scholarship of teaching.

New Business:

President Reed said that the packet containing the minutes also contained a copy of Student Senate Resolution 39.09 and that she hoped the Senators had had a chance to examine it. She described it as an extraordinary document that had been hand delivered with a gold seal. The resolution states that students would like to see course objectives, expectations, required texts, and syllabi prior to enrolling in a course. President Reed pointed out to the student that delivered the resolution that she cannot possibly do that herself because she does not have the software to do it.

#239, January 14, 2004

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 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.

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.

#240, February 11, 2004

Invited Guests:

President Reed introduced Vickie Gustafson and Kathy Stalcup. Vickie Gustafson thanked everyone for their time, and explained that her purpose for being there was to obtain input about some services that they want to provide. For the last two or three years, they have had an instrument called a portal in development. The first phase of development was meeting student needs. The next stage is to tie in the needs of the faculty. They have developed an instrument to try to assess what the faculty's needs are. The faculty's input is vital in making sure that they can meet faculty needs and she welcomes questions and comments at any time. Kathy Stalcup asked the Senate how many of them had heard of www.raiderlink.ttu.edu or raiderlink.com.

Old Business:

President Reed introduced Vice-President Shriver. He said that the job of the Nominating Committee was to solicit names of those individuals who would be willing to serve as Faculty Senate officers. If Senators have questions about eligibility, it is important to keep in mind that they have to have some years left on the Senate. Those rotating off in 2004 are not eligible.

New Business:

Senator Reifman said that at the previous meeting, he had raised an issue regarding the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). At the meeting, President Whitmore said that he would have to study it further to decide if this was something worthwhile to participate in. Senator Reifman said that he had

located the web site and written the address on the board if any Senator or anyone in the Provost Office would like to study the matter. It is an attempt to measure educational quality more directly, what goes on in the classroom, the amount of discussion between professors and students, paper writing, etc., as opposed to the cruder U.S. News & World Report. It costs approximately \$7,000 for a university to participate in the survey. At the time he looked this up, the '04 survey had closed and they were still taking sign-ups for the '05 survey.

President Reed asked Senator Marx if he was thinking of a resolution to address both of them at the same time or two separate resolutions. Senator Marx said that he had in mind a single resolution and that he had included President Whitmore to make sure that there was no suggestion that we were criticizing him. President Reed said that she would draft a resolution and run it by the Senate for the wording. Senator Marx said that he would hate to ask the Senate to vote on something in which the wording is not clear. We could use very simple wording: the Faculty Senate expresses its support for Chancellor Smith and President Whitmore. President Reed asked if that was all. Senator Marx replied that it was that it is unusual. President Reed asked if it was one sentence. Senator Marx said that it was. President Reed asked if Senator Marx wanted to exclude that they are in charge of the internal destiny whereas the Regents are in charge of the external destiny. Senator Marx said that he did not think an explicit challenge to the Regents was warranted in that we do not know what they have done. President Reed called for a vote to have her draft a one-sentence resolution. The motion passed with one opposed and one abstention. President Reed asked if there was any other new business.

President Reed asked Senator Nathan if he still stood by his resolution. He said he would like to ask the person that seconded if she would like to withdraw. Senator Watts said she was willing to withdraw her second. Senator Nathan said he was willing to withdraw his motion.

#241, March 10, 2004

Invited Guests: Buddy Knox, Director of Traffic and Parking Services.

President Reed introduced Buddy Knox, the Director of Traffic and Parking Services. Buddy Knox introduced his colleague, Eric Crouch. Knox said that he appreciated the invitation to speak because a lot of the problems in Traffic and Parking are a result of them not communicating well. He said if the Senators had any ideas of how they could do things better, he was willing to consider them. Knox described what was going to be happening in the short term with traffic and parking at Texas Tech. He said that this year, they have charged approximately \$250,000 less in citations than they had in the past. They have several initiatives that they have put into place to help people park better, rather than punish them for parking poorly.

Old Business:

President Reed called upon **Senator Kvashny** for a Nomination Committee Report. **Senator Kvashny** said that the Committee has nominated the following candidates for office. The candidates for President are: Gene Wilde and David Troyansky; for Vice-President, Liz Watts and Andrew Jackson; and for Secretary, Richard Meek. **President Reed** said that the elections will be held at the next meeting. Write-in candidates will be permitted, but at the moment the slate is closed.

President Reed turned to other committee reports. She said that Senators should have received one report with the agenda mailing. She called upon Senator Nathan for a report from Study Committee B. **Senator Nathan** said that the Committee was asked to look into the issue of having a faculty ombudsperson on campus. They looked at a number of institutions that had ombudspersons for faculty

and staff and students. After looking at various models and for the two reasons that they had identified in the report that was sent with the agenda mailing, they decided to recommend against hiring an ombudsperson at this time. The two reasons why they decided to recommend against having an ombudsperson at this time are that they found no evidence that faculty desired it. The need was suggested by the Provost Office rather than being initiated by the faculty. It may be that the reason for this is that the needs that would be served by a faculty ombudsperson are already being served in other ways. The second reason why they recommended against an ombudsperson is that on other campuses that do have ombudspersons, the usage by faculty seems quite low. The situations in which faculty ombudspersons are better utilized are ones in which the ombudsperson represents not only faculty but staff and students as well. Given the cost of hiring an ombudsperson, it seemed prudent to recommend against hiring one at this time. There are also good reasons for hiring an ombudsperson, and they spent a long time discussing what to do if the Senate goes against the Committee recommendation and decides to recommend hiring an ombudsperson. The Committee would like to move that the university not create such an office unless and until a faculty survey indicates a need or desire for such a position.

Senator Dunham asked if the motion could be repeated because she could not hear what **Senator Jackson** said. **Senator Jackson** restated the motion. **Senator Dolter** read the wording as it would be if the motion passed: "...the provost will solicit input from associate deans, chairpersons, and all tenured/tenure-track faculty from the relevant college or unit." **President Reed** asked if there were any discussion of the motion on the floor. She then asked if someone would like to call the question. **Senator Troyansky** said yes. **President Reed** called for a vote. **The resolution was passed with one abstention.**

New Business:

Senator Wilde said that in recent weeks several colleagues had expressed interest in seeing revisions made to OP 32.34, Faculty Awards. It is due for revision or renewal this year so that it is kind of a short time frame. The specific concern was that a number of the awards, the Presidential, the Distinguished Teaching Award, things like this; the nominations come out of the Dean's Office and then go to the appropriate screening committees. He knows of several individuals who have been nominated for various awards and that the awards are getting bottled up some place in the department or college. He wondered if it might be possible to amend the OP and give the Faculty Senate the ability to pass forward nominations for some of these awards. This would create an alternate method by which people could be recognized for contributions. He said that he had contacted Jim Brink and talked briefly about this with him. As a faculty member, **Senator Wilde** said that it is his right to make some kind of recommendation and pass it on up, but he suggested it would have more force if it was something that was passed along to and ratified by the Faculty Senate. He would like to see if there is interest on the part of the Senate. If there is interest and support it could be passed along to a committee to do or he could spend some time crafting possible wording for the next meeting.

President Reed said that she thought that it should be passed along to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. She asked if anyone would care to make a motion to that effect. **Senator Reifman** moved to pass the matter along to the committee. **Senator Kvashny** seconded the motion. **President Reed** called for a vote. The motion passed.

#242, April 14, 2004

Officer Elections:

Vice-President Shriver said that all senators should have been given ballots as they entered the room. Everyone should have had a chance to read the candidate information sheets. Vice-President Shriver asked if any candidates or senators would like to make statements on their behalf before proceeding with the election. Hearing none, he asked Senators to complete their ballots.

Old Business:

Vice-President Shriver said that the Senate would next hear committee reports. He recognized Philip Johnson from Academic Programs Committee. Senator Johnson said that the Senators should have received the committee report that was mailed separate from the minutes. He said that President Reed had asked the Academic Programs Committee to meet to consider the resolution that was submitted by Senator Watts with regard to excused absences. President Reed referred it to committee and asked Senator Johnson to convene a committee. The committee met on February 19th, and at that meeting they invited several guests to attend: Robert Baker from the Athletic Committee, John Anderson from the Athletic Department, and Vice-Provost Jim Brink. Senator Johnson and Senator Camp from the School of Law attended the meeting as members of the committee. At the meeting, the policy represented by OP 34.04 was the subject of considerable discussion, particularly as it relates to excused absences. The original resolution that was submitted by Senator Watts addressed the wording of Part 4 with regard to notification of an excused absence by a student to the instructor. One of the changes that were suggested in that resolution was to change the wording from "should notify" to "require." After a wide-ranging discussion, the committee concluded that there should be notification to the instructor by any student who wants to have an official excused absence. They felt that there would be nothing wrong with changing the wording to "require," as they have suggested in the resolution attached to the report to change the wording from "should notify" to "must notify." In their discussion they concluded that the student should notify the instructor in person. They felt that it is good for the student to visit with the instructor and to inform them in person. Thus in their resolution they stated that it should be the student's responsibility to ensure that their instructor or instructors receive notice in advance of officially approved absences.

Election Results:

Vice-President Shriver said that it was his pleasure to read the results of the election. For President, the winner is Gene Wilde. For Vice-President, the winner is Liz Watts. For Secretary, the winner is Richard Meek. He thanked everyone for agreeing to run and encouraged everyone to be actively involved. He asked if there were any other items of old business. Hearing none, he moved on to announcements.

#243, May 12, 2004

Invited Guest: TTU University President, Jon Whitmore.

President Reed introduced Texas Tech University President Dr. Jon Whitmore, who provided a summary of the year. He said it has been his pleasure to serve as the fourteenth President of Texas Tech for the last eight and one half months. He said it has been a real learning experience and continues to be. President Whitmore said that he wanted to brief the Senate on the budget, primarily for next year. He said he would be taking the budget to the Board of Regents on Thursday and Friday, which will be the operational budget that will start on September 1 and run for a twelve month period. In general, it is a positive budget, but only so because the students are paying more tuition. That is where any positive side

to the budget has come from. In the '05 budget we will be offering funding for another three percent salary increase on top of the three percent one that was given in March. That is a total of six percent in merit-based salary increases in that six month period of time. It is unusual that one would get two raises in that short period of time, and we will be on a cycle of looking annually at the ability to give raises in the future. Because we have raised tuition for the spring semester and now have raised it again for the fall semester, we were able to carve out a significant number of dollars. The total of the faculty/staff merit program based on the new tuition increases amounts to 8.2 million dollars. It takes a lot of money to give a relatively modest raise to a fairly large number of people. See minutes for full presentation.

New Business:

Senator Troyansky said that we had already talked a bit about retention at this meeting, but once we lose people we have to replace them. One of the issues that has come up in his department with regard to this is that when new people are hired the state requires that there be a waiting period of 90 days to insure them. He said that he wondered whether the administration is doing something to lobby the state on this, or to find some way around it. Some colleges may have increased salaries a bit to provide a kind of bridge from whatever people were covered by before to what they are on now. They have been filling vacancies that quickly came open with one-year people rather than tenure track, and this means that they will be uninsured for one third of their nine-month contract.

Passing of the Gavel: