Texas Tech University  
Faculty Senate Meeting 
Meeting #248  
January 12, 2005

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 in the Escondido Theatre in the Student Union building with President Gene Wilde presiding. Senators present were: Brooks, Johnson, Perry, Kahera, Carr, Dunham, Grass, Hart, Held, Howe, Jeter, Miller, Myles, Nathan, Rahnama, Schaller, Smucker, Troyansky, Wenthe, Sherif, Cejda, Duemer, Halsey, Jackson, Letchford, Sinzinger, Amor, Blum, Reifman, Camp, Soonpaa, Kreidler, Spurrier, Whitefield, Reyes, Watts, Gelber, Lucas, Meek, Wilson, Bixby, Ellis, Marley and Morse. Senators excused were: Doerfert, D’Amico, Toda, Hein, Baker, Collins, Masten and Chamber. Senators unexcused were: Louden, Jones, Mercer, Olivariez, Lakhani, Gustafson, Garner, Donahue, Smith, Spallholz, Tacon and Tombs.

I. Call to Order. President Gene Wilde called Meeting #248 to order at 3:18 January 12, 2005 in the Escondido Room of the Student Union Building.

II. Recognition of Guests in Attendance. President Wilde recognized guests included: Dr. William Marcy, Provost; Dr. Liz Hall, Vice-Provost; Dr. Jim Brink, Vice-Provost; Everage Williams, Supervisor of Benefits; Gwen Wallace, Benefits; Buddy Knox, Managing Director of Traffic and Parking.

III. Approval of Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Gelber, seconded by Senator Schaller, and passed. [1:01 – 1:26]

IV. Senator Troyansky moved to suspend the rules to allow President Whitmore to address the Senate; seconded by Senator Howe and passed. [1:28 - 8.47]

President Whitmore: I am going to try to do this very quickly because I’m kind of intruding on your already set agenda, but we are starting a legislative session. It is an important legislative session for Texas Tech. I did talk to you earlier in the year a little bit about our agenda, but I wanted to just review with you because you’ll see some things in the paper probably over the next couple of months, and I’m not sure when the next meeting is that I can be here to talk about it then. I just wanted to outline what our priorities are.

First of all, as you recall, they asked us to submit a budget that had five percent less money in it than we had for the last biennium session. So our first goal would be to restore that funding and I think we have a very good story to tell with the additional students over the last three years. Our second priority is to get a higher amount of dollars in the formula for the amount of students and credit hours that we generate. You folks are working hard generating a lot of credit hours, but what the state did the last biennium was to actually reduce the amount money per credit hour that they were giving us. The very least, we’re going to try to get it restored. It’s down now to fifty one dollars and twenty five cents. It had been fifty six dollars and twenty five cents. Five dollars doesn’t sound like very much until you realize how much 760,000 (credit hours) times five bucks adds up. So that’s our second goal, to get the funding back up and then get full funding for the full number of students that we are now teaching which is over what it was before. The formula funding increase would be one of the places we could get some extra money for additional faculty and for possible raises for the faculty and staff for the coming year. So that’s a really important part of our legislative agenda. In addition HEAF dollars are being reconsidered. They are upped in five years and then a bigger one every ten years and there is some discussion in the legislature about making some significant increase to the HEAF dollars for all the universities that receive HEAF money; and that would be very, very helpful to us. That’s money we use for library purchases, for equipment, for renovations and for smaller new building projects. So it would help the institute and all of us a lot to do that. In addition there’s tuition revenue bonds for helping to build new buildings, and as I said before earlier in the year, our priority is to match the funding that we’re trying to raise from private sources for a new business building, and then allow us to renovate the old business building for additional faculty offices and hi-tech classrooms for us by everyone in the university who wants to use them. And then there is a smaller twelve million dollar project for funding for an expansion to the Law School, half of which was to be raised privately, and has been raised privately by a single donor. In addition, as you know, for this year we got at least some of our research funding back; it used to be called “excellence fund.” In last year’s budget we didn’t have that full amount of money at all. It is very useful in support of startup, for supporting people in projects in research. So we’ll be arguing strongly for more permanent restoration of that funding to support particularly research infrastructure and an increase in that funding; not just getting it back but also getting an increase in that funding for us. Those are the main items that we will be asking the state to help us support, to increase our funding. There’s also some additional exceptional items which have also been reduced five percent, so we have to argue for a return of that funding, and then for an increase in funding for a couple of those projects. One is the water research initiative that cuts across many colleges and departments in the university, and some funding for small business development and agricultural development, as well as some increase in the Hill Country fund for additional courses that we are now offering in the Hill Country.

That’s it. That’s essentially, in a nutshell, our legislative session. We’ve already been talking to area legislators who are on board and going to support this agenda very strongly. And, I’ll be spending time in Austin as well as Chancellor Smith and others making sure that this agenda stays in front of everyone. The overall goal is more funding for higher education through formula, through HEAF funds in particular and in special needs and interests that we have at Tech. But those two major funding sources, if they increase will benefit Tech very much. So that’s my presentation.

I don’t know about your time, I know it’s tight, if there were one or two quick questions I could probably take them, but you do have two invited speakers. There will be an opportunity for the leadership of the Senate to go down and talk to legislators, and we’ll be arranging that. Right now we’re not sure when the primary time to do that is. We want to time that so that it has the most benefit. But for some of our legislators to hear directly from our faculty and staff representatives, funding could be made available to them for startup, for supporting people in projects in research. So thank you for having me, thank you for squeezing me in. And thanks for being here for the new semester. I had my picture taken with a bunch of scholarship students today and the all told me they had at least one class they went to today. So I’m assured that things are up and running. And my thanks to the Provost’s office who works hard to make sure that we have extra courses added when we need them to keep our ‘graduating on time’ program. So thank you.

Invited Guest: Everne Williams, Supervisor for Benefits [8:53 — 31:56]

There was no formal presentation but rather questions were taken from the senators. Questions addressed involved the 90 day waiting period for medical insurance for teaching assistants; the possible use of pre tax dollars for benefits (such as parking, gym benefit); need only make a phone call for full benefits when out of area; new dependents must be added within 30 days; any lobbying efforts to make up for erosion in medical and dental benefits [Senator Perry wished to know if there were any ongoing attempts to make benefits worse!]. Supervisor Williams ended with an invitation to come by, or email if there are any further questions.

President Wilde appointed Senator Lucas chair of an ad hoc committee to investigate restoration of faculty benefits. [32:10 — 32:43]

Invited Guest: Buddy Knox, Managing Director, Traffic & Parking [32:43 — 1:02:44]

“Parking is not a benefit,” Mr. Knox began; “we’re going to take steps to create a Traffic & Parking advisory committee and ask representation from the faculty and staff, student government. But until I can do that I wanted to pitch some ideas to you folks that I’d like to pitch to the Board of Regents….ways to make parking better, not cheaper or more expensive.”

1. Charge six dollars for processing a ticket.
2. Expand R14 to the north taking away residence hall parking.
3. Sell finite number of spots C1 lot west of stadium and make shuttle service more efficient.
4. Expand visitor parking pay areas
5. People who disrupt parking should pay for that disruption.
6. Charge contractors and vendors on campus.

Further comments were solicited regarding the following: “what are your ideas on letting the students park on the inside and all of us park on the periphery — that is customer service ……or we go to a pedestrian campus and everyone….. park out on a very great parking lot that is serviced by world class buses.”
Senator Held remarked that parking close to work is a matter of morale and Senator Howe added that a 1990’s UCLA survey noted that one of the things that made Tech special was the availability of Tech faculty to students. Knox commented that bicycle lanes are also part of their consideration in building parking areas. Senator Watts inquired as to whether commercial parking garages off campus have been approached to assist with student parking near campus. President Wilde indicated that the proposal presentation may be put on the Faculty Senate web site.

President Wilde asked Senator Held to convene his committee as soon as we get A) the PowerPoint presentation of Buddy Knox, and B) the report, and prepare a Senate response. Brief additional discussion ensued. Those who have additional thoughts were invited to email Patty or contact Senator Held. President Wilde would like a report by the February Senate meeting. [1:03:32 — 1:07:09]

V. Old Business [1:07:09]
Faculty Status and Welfare Committee Report (January 12, 2005) report by Senator Troyansky:
The committee recommends the following revision of OP 32.01b:
“Upon request, a faculty member will be evaluated for promotion and tenure in any year in which timing requirements are met. Faculty members, including ranks not accruing tenure, should have their professional records submitted for review by the basic academic unit on an annual basis. If unusual circumstances justify a suspension of the tenure probationary period to cause the years included not to be sequential, a request for an extension of the probationary period may be made to the SVPP. The request will be initiated by the candidate, reviewed and commented upon by the department/division administrator and dean, and forwarded to the SVPP.”

A motion to accept the report as it reads was made by Senator Lucas and passed. [1:07:09 — 1:10:01]

Committee on Fall Break chaired by Senator Reifman will meet next week and asks for committee members to submit their reports so there may be a draft by February 1. Senator Held noted previous motion to notify the faculty at large and to check with the Law School regarding their schedule. [1:10:15 — 1:12:50]

Senator Howell proposed the following resolution, seconded by Senator Jackson and passed. [1:12:55 — 1:15:10]
WHEREAS university faculty clubs provide an interdisciplinary setting to bind together campus communities and to facilitate intellectual communication; and
WHEREAS Texas Tech University has always lacked a proper faculty club (that is, one with windows), and has not had any on-campus faculty club for the past eleven years, and
WHEREAS President Whitmore has now taken the initiative to organize a Texas Tech faculty club and to secure adequate space and amenities for it;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate proposes that the new faculty club be named the “Jon Whitmore Faculty Club.”

Senator Nathan proposed the following gender Equity Resolution, seconded by Senator Perry and approved. [1:15:11 — 1:17:16]
WHEREAS a major goal for Texas Tech University as stated in the University strategic plan is “to be recognized as one of the top public educational and research universities in the United States, attracting the best students, faculty, and staff;”
WHEREAS an important concern for attracting and retaining the best faculty, staff and students is to assure that all in the university are treated equally and fairly, without bias based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender, and
WHEREAS the University Gender Issues Task Force has identified areas for improvement in achieving the goal of equity and fairness;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate urges the University to adopt the recommendations sent to them by the Gender Issues Task Force without delay. Further, the Senate urges the University to give the Gender Equity Committee, currently being formed to address issues identified by the Gender Issues Task Force, all necessary support to fulfill its charge.

President Wilde noted that the Provost has now on the web site the administrator OP 30.15 previously passed regarding evaluation of chairperson. The OP on sexual orientation was presented to the Board of Regents at their December meeting as a point of information; it is in the pipeline to be written up and hopefully will be posted by next meeting. [1:17:19 — 1:18:27]

Senator Gelber moved the Senate accept the following resolution commending the Texas Tech football team; Senator Morse provided a second. Senator Held proposed to amend, seconded by Senator Ellis to add the words “while maintaining one of the highest graduation rates among major football programs in the country.” The resolution as amended passed to read:

WHEREAS the public visibility and prestige of Texas Tech University are influenced by the success of its athletic programs, which are an integral part of the university community providing scholarships and other support for over three hundred Texas Tech student athletes;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate congratulates Head Coach Mike Leach, his coaching and administrative staffs, and especially the student athletes of the 2004 Texas Tech Red Raiders football team for their victory in the Holiday Bowl against the 4th-ranked University of California Golden Bears, and on their postseason ranking among the top 20 teams in the country, while maintaining one of the highest graduation rates among major football programs in the country.

President Wilde announced the appointment of the Nomination Committee for Officers to be comprised of Senators Lee Duemer, Pamela Halsey and Liz Watts. Current officers are willing to discuss the responsibilities of the various offices. [1:33:47 — 1:35:15]

President Wilde appointed Senator Jackson to convene an ad hoc committee to discuss issues related to the faculty club. [1:35:25 — 1:36:22]

President Wilde asked Senator Held to convene his Traffic and Parking Committee to and discuss the matter of an advisory committee. [1:36:22 — 1:36:58]
Senator Lucas requested the Senate look into the resolutions of the lawsuits involving gender discrimination under President Schmidly.

VII. Announcements: [1:38:05]
President Wilde noted that he has been receiving “Tech in the News” an electronic publication and would have Patty put it on the Senate web site.

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting was declared adjourned at 4:58 p.m.