

**Texas Tech University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Meeting # 247  
December 8, 2004**

The Faculty senate met on Wednesday, December, 2004 in the Escondido Theatre in the Student Union building with President Gene Wilde presiding. Senators present were: Brooks, Johnson, Perry, Kahera, Loudon, Carr, Hart, Held, Howe, Jeter, Miller, Myles, Nathan, Rahnama, Schaller, Smucker, Wenthe, Jones, Mercer, Sherif, Cejda, Duemer, Halsey, Olivarez, Jackson, Lakhani, Masten, Sinzinger, Amor, Blum, Gustafson, Reifman, Kreidler, Spurrier, Whitfield, Chamber, Watts, Garner, Gelber, Lucas, Meek, Wilson, Donahue, Ellis, Marbley, Morse, Smith, Spallholz and Tombs. Senators excused were: Baker, Collins, Toda, Hein, Doerfert, Soonpaa and Camp. Senators unexcused were: D'Amico, Drager, Dunham, Grass, Troyansky, Reeves, Bixby and Tacon.

**I. Call to Order.** President Gene Wilde called Meeting #247 to order at 3:17 December 8, 2004 in the Escondido Room of the Student Union Building.

**II. Recognition of Guests in Attendance.** President Wilde recognized guests including: Dr. William Marcy, Provost; Dr. Liz Hall, Vice-Provost; Dr. Jim Brink, Vice-Provost; Dr. Michael Stoune, Associate Director of Graduate Studies; and Mitchell Moses, President SGA. [00:12]

**III. Approval of Minutes.** Motion to approve the minutes was made by **Senator Ellis**, seconded by **Senator Perry**, and passed. [20:03 – 20:40]

**IV. Invited Guest: Mitchell Moses, President, Student Government Association** [1:20 — 20:01]

Motion was made by **Senator Wilson** and seconded by **Senator Reifman** to allow Mitchell Moses to address the Senate regarding a Fall Break in the academic schedule. The motion passed.

SGA is looking for feedback from representatives of the faculty regarding the student proposal for a Fall Break. They have conducted surveys of student organizations which indicate desire for a semester break soon after mid-term, and preferably during an away football game. **Senator Held** expressed concern that parents and alumni also be polled. **Senator Donahue** also expressed concern as to how such a break may impact the Theatre and Dance production schedule. Considerable discussion ensued regarding advantages, disadvantages and logistics of scheduling.

Invited Guest: **Tom Shubert, Managing Director, Student Union** [20:40 — 37:51]

Mr. Shubert provided background on the Student Union and its evolution; the original construction in 1953, addition in 1953, and another addition with the School of Music in 1976. The current work is a 44 million dollar project with the addition of 92,000 square feet. In January begins the second phase with the opening of the food court, etc. then begins phase 2b with work on the courtyard, the Allen Theater and south meeting rooms. Future plans may include the possibility for a Grand Ballroom, and a large central meeting room for the campus. Current development will provide a space for a faculty club, a membership organization, on the second floor off the Matador Lounge. **Senator Held** expressed appreciation for the use of the Escondido Room and the former Senate Room, and **Senator Lucas** appreciation for the inclusion of a Post Office within the facilities and our indebtedness to the students for providing for this facility extension. **Vice-Provost Brink** requested it be “on record” that he had salvaged the stain glass window during the renovation of the old faculty club space and wanted it noted that he desires its return for the new club. Mr. Shubert addressed many questions regarding acoustics, function and other aspects of the continuing renovation.

**V. Old Business** [37:55 — 42:35]

The Committee on Tenure Probation Period report was presented by **Senator Wenthe**. There seems to be basic agreement between the committee and Provost, there remains concern regarding options that may create some inconsistency in procedure. Consideration of the issue is to continue in subcommittee. [37:55 — 42:35]

No report from Senate Committee B looking at the academic integrity issue as they await their charge [42:38 — 43:19]

Administration evaluations, Op. 30.15, was addressed informally in meeting between President Whitmore and Senate President Wilde. **Senator Held** asked to be reminded what the form looked like. **Senator Nathan** raised the question as to the definition of “appropriate unit.” **Senator Howe** moved that the term *relevant* as found paragraph 3d of the proposed addition to TTU OP 30.15 be replaced with *college or department*. The motion was seconded by **Senator Wilson** and passed. **Senator Jackson** moved to approve additions and changes to TTU OP 30.15. The motion was seconded by Senator Ross and passed. [43:23 — 1:01:19]

**President Wilde** announced that the wording generally accepted into the OP by the president and chancellor regarding the issue of Sexual Orientation will be accepted into the OP and presented to the Board of Regents as a point of information. At this point it has been generally accepted throughout the university administration. [1:01:20 — 1:02:13]

**VI. New Business** [1:02:15 — 1:38:27]

Motion was made by **Senator Wilson** and seconded by **Senator Nathan** to allow **Dr. Michael Stoune**, Associate Director for Graduate Studies, to address the Senate regarding extension of benefits to Teaching Assistants during our summer program. The motion passed.

According to **Professor Stoune** in the fall of 2000 the university implemented a program of fee waivers and tuition adjustment for full time teaching assistants that allowed full-time teaching assistants to pay in-state tuition and relieved them of approximately a thousand dollars a semester worth of fees. At the time the policy was put in place it extended the benefits through the summer semester as well. With the cancellation of the summer benefits to full-time TA's unless they have a summer appointment, this creates an impediment to good full and viable summer enrollment....as of this past summer graduate students without summer TA appointments were no longer provided those benefits. Part of the problem seems to come from the interpretation of the term "academic year." Discussion ensued regarding the impact of this change and possible solutions. **Provost Marcy** mentioned that this came from an interpretation from the Budget Office regarding the Texas Education Code and indicated he would visit with the audit staff to see if it is being properly interpreted. **Senator Howe** mentioned some precedent for an expanded understanding of the "academic year" in OP32.18 on faculty teaching load where uncompensated summer courses are presumed to count potentially toward the workload of the entire academic year. **President Wilde** invited members with any additional information on this issue to contact **Senator Meek** who will continue to gather information. [1:02:15 — 1:17:11]

The resolution from the Gender Equity Committee was addressed, brought forward by **Senator Nathan** a member of the Gender Equity Task Force. **Senator Held** questioned voting on the resolution recommendation until read in meeting. The resolution is available on the Provost's website. [1:17:15 — 1:19:46]

**Senator Held** revisited the issue of a fall break requesting the issue be brought to all faculty members on campus. **Vice-Provost Brink** suggested that the staff also be included. Additional discussion ensued with **Vice-Provost Brink** addressing some of the additional difficulties including possible resolutions from the Texas Senate. **Senator Held** moved that the issue be referred to a standing study committee, that that committee be charged with finding a way to solicit input from the entire faculty, and that we request President Whitmore not take action until the Faculty Senate has had a chance to give its input, and report back no later than February. The motion was seconded by **Senator Jackson** and passed. It is assigned to Senate Committee A. [1:20:13 — 1:38:27]

## **VII. Announcements:** [1:38:27]

President Wilde presented a brief report on the SACS accreditation report. He has a copy of the preliminary report. Provost Marcy has indicated he would make it available.

## **VIII. Adjournment:** Meeting was declared adjourned at 4:56 p.m.