

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting # 249
February 9, 2005**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 in the Escondido Theatre in the Student Union building with President Gene Wilde presiding. Senators present were: Doerfert, Johnson, Perry, Kahera, Carr, Drager, Dunham, Grass, Hart, Held, Howe, Jeter, Miller, Myles, Nathan, Schaller, Smucker, Troyansky, Wenthe, Jones, Mercer, Sherif, Cejda, Duemer, Halsey, Olivarez, Collins, Jackson, Lakhani, Letchford, Masten, Blum, Gustafson, Reifman, Camp, Soonpaa, Kreidler, Spurrier, Whitfield, Watts, Gelber, Wilson, Donahue, Ellis, Marbley, Morse, Smith and Spallholz. Senators excused were: Toda, Hein, Baker, Chamber, Garner, Lucas, Meek and Tacon. Senators unexcused were: Brooks, Loudon, D'Amico, Rahnama, Sinzinger, Reeves, Bixby and Tombs.

I. Call to Order. President Gene Wilde called Meeting #249 to order at 3:18 February 9, 2005 in the Escondido Room of the Student Union Building.

II. Recognition of Guests in Attendance. President Wilde recognized guests including: Provost. William Marcy; Vice Provost Liz Hall; Vice Provost Jim Brink; Managing Director of Traffic and Parking, Buddy Knox; Dr. Gil Reeve, Strategic Planning; Megan Laura, University Daily; Joey Kirk and Roland Stearns, Audio Technician. [

Friday, February 4th, Dr. William J. Mayer-Oakes (retired emeritus TTU professor of Anthropology) died at the age of 82; he was a past Senate president in 1983-84. Mayer-Oakes was Senate president when Lauro Cavazos was TTU President and when the Senate passed a vote of no-confidence about Cavazos (over the issue of doing away with tenure). Mayer-Oakes took the vote and drove out to the airport to deliver it personally to Cavazos early the next morning as Cavazos was leaving town. Faculty Senate President Gene Wilde asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mayer-Oakes. [0:40]

III. Approval of Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by **Senator Drager**, seconded by **Senator Wilson**, and passed. [1:29]

IV. Invited Guest: Buddy Knox, Managing Director of Traffic and Parking [2:44-47:20]

Mr. Knox addressed the Senate regarding the reports on campus parking he is to present to the Board of Regents. The two reports are listed on the Senate Webpage under "Upcoming Issues."

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/senate/upcomingevents/TTU%20Parking%20Plan%202005v2.ppt>

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/senate/upcomingevents/Financing%20Future%20Parking%20Growth%20v3.ppt>

Some of the points made during the PowerPoint presentation were: Citibus is a very efficient user of our transportation dollars; Walker Parking Associates says we are tremendously undervalued, that the Texas Tech problem is one of location and not capacity; for the first time in Tech history he had to turn away a staff/faculty member for parking permit; there were no more; also, that SGA indicated it would cease funding Citibus service. Some of the points raised by senators in questions and comments: is there data support that expansion of class hours would alleviate some of the congestion; is there a comparison of costs with faculty pay at other institutions; would smaller spaces for smaller cars help add to available spaces; might employees look to Federal programs for help; and parking tickets for patrons attending Maedgen Theater events are creating a good deal of ill-will.

Invited Guest: Gil Reeve, Director of Strategic Planning [48:21 — 55:34]

A short concise report with handout was presented regarding the history and current activities of the Office of Strategic Planning. It was announced that the 2004 annual assessment reports are being prepared now with Academic Department reports due to their respective Deans by March 11, 2005. Reports are linked to the Strategic Plans and Assessment Reports homepage: <http://techdata.irs.ttu.edu/stratreport>. There is now a focus on five of the nine strategic goals aligned with President Whitmore's goals; they are: 1) Access and Diversity; 2) Academic Excellence; 3) Resources and Infrastructure; 4) Engagement and Partnerships; and 5) Recognition. Also announced were websites:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/accountability/default.cfm> for the State of Texas's State Accountability Report, and

<http://www.irim.ttu.edu/dashboard/indexVML.shtm> for a Texas Tech produced **dashboard** presentation of the data in that report.

V. Old Business [56.02]

Study Committee A, “White Paper” on Proposal for a Fall Break — Senator Reifman [56:02-1:33:18]

The document included six brief sections: arguments in favor of a Fall Break, arguments opposed to a Fall Break, a tabular display of how BigXII universities with a Fall Break schedule important events during the Fall semester, a set of parameters the faculty would like to have considered should a Fall Break be implemented, and two Student Government resolutions presenting Texas Tech students views. A motion to accept the report was made by **Senator Ellis**, seconded by **Senator Perry** and passed. Appended to the report were a number of replies from chairs of science departments to a query from **Senator Held**. In the midst of ensuing discussion **Senator Held** made a motion to permit Professors Birney and Geissler to address the Senate regarding how a Fall Break would affect Chemistry. The motion was seconded by **Senator Perry** and passed. Their assessment was that they are unable to adjust labs under current schedule with the proposed Fall Break without losing a full lab, thus threatening accreditation and perhaps requiring an additional semester to their chemistry program. Comments and questions continued.

Senator Held made a motion “that the Faculty Senate views the current proposal, SGA Resolution 40.30, as unworkable and that we would like to put forward a counter proposal for consideration by the administration and Student Senate for the university to have a full week off at Thanksgiving.” The motion received seconds by unidentified Senators and was opened for discussion. After discussion, **Senator Camp** moved the current proposal be divided into two parts and voted separately. The motion was seconded by **Senator Reifman** and passed. Subsequently, a stated motion “that the Senate Resolution (40.30) passed by the Student Government Association calling for a Fall Break Thursday and Friday before an away football game is unworkable” was voted on and passed. The second stated motion “that the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving be considered as an alternative by the students and the President” failed with a vote of 14 for, 21 against and one abstention.

Faculty Senate Study Committee C — Senator Ellis [1:34-1:38:17]

The committee was charged with looking at the issue of online evaluation of administrators. Two options were presented: A) they could administer the evaluations through the Tech system, most likely using WebCT, the security of which could possibly be breached, this is especially true of a survey that allows respondents to save their work and return to it; B) they could outsource the administration of the evaluations to a web company which provides the best security and anonymity. In either case we would suggest that the university fund the evaluation and provide a staff person to receive the sort of information that an outsource company could provide. This could perhaps be done at minimal expense. **Senator Howe** moved to accept the report, which was seconded by **Senator Wilson** and passed. **President Wilde** asked that everybody look at the report for next month and that he would visit with the Provost.

Senator Held presented a motion (proposed) regarding parking spaces used by the Athletic Department on game days.

WHEREAS parking fees for faculty are likely to be raised substantially next year;

AND WHEREAS the Athletic Department uses parking spaces subsidized by faculty at no charge on game days;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: (1) That the Faculty Senate urges the Administration to require that the Athletic Department pay for any usage of faculty and staff parking spaces on a *pro rata* basis; AND (2) That the monies raised through such payments be used to defray part of the increase in parking fees charged to faculty and staff.

Discussion ensued regarding the monies involved, blocking off of parking areas, and the possibility of all events including cultural offerings falling into the same category. The resolution was passed with a voice vote. [1:38:18 -1:51]

Senator Lakhani and **Senator Jackson** had no reports from their respective committees at this time.[1:52-1:53:07]

President Wilde noted that the nomination committee has at this moment less than a full slate of candidates for Senate offices. [1:53:08-1:53:37]

President Wilde noted that the OP 03.10.10 on Sexual Orientation is approved and on the web. [1:54:06-1:54:20]

Motion to suspend the rules to allow a motion was seconded and passed. **Senator Donahue** moved Senate recommend we suspend paid parking in lots R3, R10 and R11 during visual and performing arts activities and events. The motion failed for lack of a quorum. **President Wilde** indicated he would draft a letter expressing the Senate’s concern regarding these matters. [1:53:46-1:58:28]

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.