Meeting Minutes - September 1, 1999

The Staff Senate met on Wednesday, September 1, 1999, in the Senate Room of the University Center, with PeeWee Roberson, President, presiding. Senators present were: Cory, Curlee, Flores, Graham, Nava, Nichols, Schuessler, Smith, Trischitti, Weaver, Wheeler, Clawson, Tillack, Billingsley, Burns, D., Whyburn, Bell, Hunter, Kinghorn, Little, Meriwether, Prado, Silvas, Welch, White, Widener, Williams, Burns, J., Crosby, Garcia, Lira, Sandoval, Ramos, Rocha, Chavez, and Thomas. Senators Ables, Pirkle, Saiz, Segura, Ellis, and Stubbs were excused.

Recognition of Guests

President Roberson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed the alternate senators: Sims, Turner, Burt, Cates, Segran, Barnett, and special guests: Donald R. Haragan, President; Robert H. Ewalt, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Jim Brunjes, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs.

Presentations by Guests

Donald R. Haragan spoke to the group about his resignation as President of Texas Tech and noted that he will be moving back to faculty status as soon as a national search can be completed and someone hired, which will be on or before August 31, 2000. He spoke about the accomplishments that have been made at Texas Tech during his tenure as President and the future goals for Texas Tech. President Haragan told the group that the staff needs to have their opinions and ideas brought forward and all groups need to be represented. The Staff Senate is an important group and he fully supports the group and its efforts.

Jim Brunjes, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs made a presentation regarding the University Budget for fiscal year 2000. He explained to the group where the education and general funds come from and noted that the State of Texas had been very good to Texas Tech University this fiscal year. Tuition increased from $36/hour to $38/hour this year. He told the group that the Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF) is a fund designated by the State Legislature for those institutions not receiving Permanent University Fund (PUF) monies and this fund will also see an increase. Among other items, he noted that the State of Texas funds approximately 34.7 percent of our total budget of $359.8 million.

Robert H. Ewalt, Vice President for Student Affairs, said that he is very proud of what the Staff Senate has accomplished. The group is well organized, has good involvement, and is looking at credible issues and going about things in the right way. He mentioned that care has gone into the planning of the Staff
Senate and noted how carefully the details have been taken care of, as well as how the Staff Senate communicates with people; these are things that have helped the organization to become credible. He also noted that there is a tremendous responsibility for the group and cautioned that the group never forget where were are and where we want to be in the future as a Staff Senate. The pattern that has been established for the group and how things are accomplished has set the stage for the future of the organization. He complimented the group on what they are doing and what they have done and noted that there are a lot of things to be dealt with that have to have leadership to accomplish. He said that the three senates, Faculty, Student, and Staff, working together could do a lot of things that haven't been done before. Congratulations!

President Roberson presented a framed citation from the Staff Senate to Donald Haragan, Jim Brunjes, and Robert Ewalt thanking them for their support.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mary Nichols and seconded by Craig Wheeler that the minutes of the meeting held August 4, 1999, be approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A year-end Treasurer's Report was distributed to those present. Anyone interested can look at the report on the website: http://www.ttu.edu/staffsenate.

Committee Reports

Communication and Public Relations Committee

Craig Wheeler noted that Staff Senate still needs $20 to purchase the brick for the Millennium Project. It has been suggested that we have a Jamboree or a First Anniversary Celebration for the Staff Senate.

Action: Please let Craig Wheeler know your ideas regarding the venue, activities, and invitees.

Ad Hoc Fees Committee

Tabled.
President's Report

Bryan Sebastian is the Chair of the Privatization Committee and it was noted that he had met with the Executive Board to establish what the committee's charge is. He will keep the Staff Senate members informed regarding concerns with privatization.

The By-laws and Constitution are on the website (http://www.ttu.edu/staffsenate) if you need a new copy. If you do not have access to the website, let Jan Kinghorn know and she will mail you a copy.

The Spirit Arena opening will be on October 1 and 2; tickets can be obtained from all United Grocery Stores. You must have a ticket to attend any tour through the arena.

A presentation on the parking plan is scheduled for the Faculty Senate Meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, at 3:15 p.m. in the UC Senate Room. All interested are invited to attend. Lewis Held, President of the Faculty Senate, distributed a sheet of "Questions/Concerns About TTU's Plans for Parking Lots & Garages" to those present. He invited all to attend the Faculty Senate Meeting to learn what the parking plan will be.

Next Meetings

Staff Senate Executive Board Meeting, Friday, September 29, 1999, Llano Estacado Room, UC, 3:00 p.m.

Staff Senate Meeting, Wednesday, October 6, 1999, Senate Room, UC, 3:00 p.m.