

November 17, 1976

MINUTES

The Fall Meeting of the Faculty Council was held on Thursday, October 28, 1976, at 3:15 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Dr. Jacquelin Collins, Chairman, Executive Committee of the Faculty Council, called attention to the fact that, according to the Charter of the Faculty Council, the President of the University presides over the Faculty Council Meeting, and with this comment introduced President Cecil Mackey.

Dr. Mackey responded by stating that in his opinion it is undesirable and inappropriate for the President to chair the principal faculty body of the university. He added that he felt that the faculty should decide whether to function largely through a Council, through a Faculty Senate, or through some other form of organization. Dr. Mackey said that he would support before the Board a form of organization which the faculty felt was best. He also commented that the agenda for this meeting was not one which would raise great issues in terms of relationships with his administration although there are some matters for consideration at this meeting which are of importance to the faculty. He emphasized again that he was not comfortable being involved in the Faculty Council and also being the person who might have to make the final decision on issues generated by faculty action. He stated that he would prefer finding some alternative to this arrangement as quickly as possible. Dr. Mackey expressed his hope that the faculty will move quickly toward proposals which would encourage more active faculty participation and more meaningful faculty involvement in decision making. He then expressed his willingness to proceed under either of two courses: to absent himself and let the process of "the next in line" take effect, which would leave Prof. Collins, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, in the role of Chairperson; or to proceed through the agenda and see how it goes. He asked for expression of opinions or comments. Prof. Newcomb stated that a committee of the Faculty Council is now working on a proposed Charter Revision and working on a plan in which it would recommend that this body be replaced by a Faculty Senate. Prof. Clarence Bell, Chairman of the committee, reported that the committee hopes to have a plan to present at the Spring meeting of the Faculty Council.

After some discussion President Mackey suggested that the meeting begin with him continuing as Chairperson subject to later determination of conflicts of interest if any should seem to emerge.

FIRST AGENDA ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING

A motion for approval of the minutes of the Spring meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

SECOND AGENDA ITEM: PASS-FAIL POLICY

Prof. Jacquelin Collins was asked to comment on the past action and history of this issue. He reported that: early this Fall the Gully Committee Report came to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council; the report was considered and the decision to bring it to the Faculty Council for its consideration was made; and, at the same time, the Executive Committee endorsed the adoption of the report by a majority vote. He called attention to the six paragraphs of the Gully Committee Report included in the faculty distribution and to the omission of the introductory and concluding paragraphs that bracketed these six paragraphs in the original report. He emphasized the importance of these two paragraphs and read them for the purpose of including them in the discussion and as part of proposed action. They are as follows:

"Texas Tech University recognizes the need for students to broaden their educational horizons and to study in areas of interest in which their background might put them at a competitive disadvantage. Provisions are made for such study with pass-fail grading. Students who desire to take particular courses pass-fail should consult with their curriculum advisors for guidance in this area. The pass-fail option is subject to the following restrictions:" (At this point the six paragraphs are included) and: "Students are cautioned that credits for courses completed under the pass-fail option may not be transferable to certain other institutions and may not comply with certification requirements."

Prof. Collins concluded by advising that positive action by the Council and approval by the President, on the full recommendations as proposed, would put all eight paragraphs in the catalog in place of the current pass-fail policy statement.

The six paragraphs of restrictions contained in the report and proposed for adoption, together with the introductory and concluding paragraphs, are:

1. Undergraduate students may take up to 13 semester hours toward satisfying degree requirements in which they will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Courses specified in the catalog as available only with pass-fail grading, and courses taken in excess of degree requirements are not included in the 13-hour restriction.
2. No more than 9 hours of course work used to satisfy general degree requirements may be taken pass-fail. A student may be restricted by his college or department from taking a course pass-fail which is a pre-requisite for a course or courses in his major field.
3. No student on probation will be allowed the pass-fail option.
4. A student must declare the intent to take a course pass-fail no later than the last day on which a grade of "W" is automatically given for courses dropped. A student who has chosen to take a course pass-fail may subsequently change to a letter graded basis no later than 30-days prior to the first day of final examinations.
5. The names of students taking a course pass-fail will not be made known to the instructor.
6. Courses taken in the declared major or minor shall not be taken by pass-fail unless required by the department. The department of the major or minor will decide whether courses taken under the pass-fail system, before a student has declared a major or minor, shall count toward satisfying the degree requirements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Prof. Collins moved the adoption of this change in the Pass-Fail Policy. The motion was seconded. Dr. Mackey advised that when this action comes to him he will refer it to the Academic Vice President. He expressed his opinion that the Academic Vice President should make the actual decision in such matters.

Prof. Otto Nelson moved consideration of the motion paragraph by paragraph. The motion was seconded.

When a question was raised concerning the presence of a motion on the floor and the Nelson motion was ruled out of order, Prof. Roland Smith resolved the question by moving to amend the original motion to include consideration item-by-item. This motion was seconded, and, after considerable discussion, was passed. During the discussion Prof. Orlo Childs raised the question of a quorum. President Mackey asked and received consent to proceed on the premise that sufficient notice had been given and that the majority of the interested faculty was present.

Discussion on numbered paragraph one was preceded by a review of the entire report by Prof. Arnold Gully. Prof. James Harper stated that the system is being used in a manner contrary to its purpose. Dean Robert Anderson spoke in favor of the proposed policy.

Debate shifted to paragraph two and Prof. James Harper moved to strike the phrase "more than nine hours of" from the first sentence. This was seconded but a motion to table until completion of discussion on all paragraphs was passed and discussion continued. Prof. Magne Kristiansen questioned whether or not students were sufficiently aware of degree requirements. Prof. Neale Pearson reported his experience in support of Prof. Harper's position. Prof. William Andrews reported from his study and concluded that the system was a "shelter for people with poor skills." Prof. Monty Strauss countered with the observation that the study shows that less than 5 percent are abusing the policy. Prof. Harry Jebson stated that it is not humanitarian to "turn out students who can't read and write." Prof. Richard Cheatham indicated that he thought adequate options were included in the various curricula. Prof. Robert Bell pointed out that some students are working with a foreign language in all of their courses.

Prof. Ben Newcomb moved to remove the Harper amendment to restriction paragraph two from the table. It was seconded, but ruled out of order. However, a motion to over-rule the chair was passed and discussion proceeded on the amendment. Prof. Jebson stated that the issue is one of "required courses" not of "pass-fail options." Dean Anderson suggested that it might be amended to avoid concentration in one area of study. President Mackey expressed concern for course differences. Dr. Dennis Cogan moved the question. The Council approved the previous question and proceeded to vote. The Harper amendment failed.

Discussion on paragraphs three and four included an amendment to paragraph four stipulating that a student changing from pass-fail back to a graded basis would not recover the pass-fail hours involved in the change. This amendment failed. Prof. Strauss noted that a change in the wording was needed in order to accommodate summer sessions. Prof. Gully agreed.

During discussion on paragraph five concern was expressed for the accuracy of grades recorded. There was a suggestion that the Registrar report recorded grades back to the faculty so that there might be a final review. Dr. Mackey offered assurances that the system would be accountable.

Discussion on paragraph six was minimal and, after another question as to the presence of a quorum, the vote was taken on the original motion. It passed in the form presented by Prof. Collins: six paragraphs of restrictions, plus an introductory and concluding paragraph.

THIRD AGENDA ITEM: TRAVEL FUNDS FOR FACULTY

RESOLUTION ... Presented by Prof. Eugene Korkowski

It is demoralizing to the faculty within the academic departments of Texas Tech University that travel funds for the presentation of research at professional meetings have been frozen at previous years' levels and have become inadequate to provide for the increased amount of research this faculty has generated.

The presentation of faculty research at professional meetings enhances all phases of educational quality at this University. Such research improves the preparedness in teaching of the individual professor, of his department, and of the University as a whole; presenting such research likewise increases the visibility and reputation of the individual professor, of his department, and of the University as a whole.

Present levels of travel funding, however, serve as a negative incentive for involvement in research requiring travel to professional meetings. The faculty member who hesitates to publish, knowing he cannot afford to travel to present his research, will be the logical product of present travel-funding policies, and this drop in research activity will very likely reduce the excellence and prestige of the entire University.

Therefore, we, the Faculty Council, are resolved that Texas Tech University should appropriate adequate levels of travel funding to maintain excellence in research within the University's academic departments.

We also resolve that the distribution of travel money for presenting research should be equitable, according to demonstrated research output, among academic departments.

Dr. Mackey stated that if he understood the issue correctly, it is either a college or a departmental matter, not a matter of general university policy. Deans Ashworth and Graves stated that budget preparations on the college and department levels were subject to direction from the administration and that it had been stipulated that there would be no increases for travel.

During the discussion which followed, Prof. Collins suggested that Prof. Korkowski alter the Resolution to read: "Resolved: That the Executive Committee refer the matter of travel monies and their proper distribution to faculty members for academic purposes to the appropriate faculty committee to report back to the faculty at a later date."

Prof. Korkowski moved the Faculty Council endorse the Resolution. It was seconded, voted upon and passed.

FOURTH AGENDA ITEM: ATTENDANCE AT COMMENCEMENT

RESOLUTION...Presented by Prof. B. H. Newcomb

WHEREAS, without consent of the faculty, departments have been instructed to recruit a specified quota of their faculties to attend Commencement, and to furnish the names of those so recruited;

RESOLVED, (1) that the required attendance by faculty at Commencement be reconsidered by the administration; (2) that the faculty be encouraged to attend Commencement by the obtaining of notable speakers from the highest levels of the academic, business, government, literary, or scientific

communities, and by the seeking of faculty consent in the awarding of any honorary degrees.

Prof. Newcomb moved the adoption of this Resolution as presented. Prof. Manning, seconded. Dean Graves acknowledged that he had instituted the new policy due to lack of attendance at Commencement exercises. He feels that when only one fourth of the faculty is required to be present at any one time harmonious arrangements should be possible.

Dr. Mackey commented that he would hope that each college and perhaps even each department could find some way to take into account individual faculty members' preferences. He stated that people have various reasons for not attending commencement.

There were several comments on the awarding of honorary degrees. After responding to the comments by noting that honorary degrees serve two purposes, academic and other, and that he favors faculty input for academic degrees, Dr. Mackey called for a vote on the Resolution as stated. The motion failed.

AGENDA ITEM FIVE: EX-OFFICIO VOTING MEMBERS ON THE TENURE & PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION...Presented by Prof. Briggs Twyman.

WHEREAS, the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs are ex-officio voting members of the Tenure and Privilege Committee;

RESOLVED, that the Tenure and Privilege Committee be requested to investigate, in cooperation with the Office of the President, the desirability of having ex-officio voting members.

Prof. Twyman moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was seconded. Dr. Mackey commented that he felt that he and the Academic Vice President should not be on this committee. He asked Prof. Twyman to consider amending the Resolution to read: "ex-officio members" rather than "voting members." Discussion followed during which Prof. J. Smith commented that he felt the Committee would like very much to have the President and Academic Vice President as ex-officio members. Dr. Mackey responded by stating he would be more than happy to be available for discussion with the committee. He stated that his being a member of the committee might, in some cases, prejudice the legal position of the university. The motion to adopt the Resolution carried.

AGENDA ITEM SIX: OTHER BUSINESS

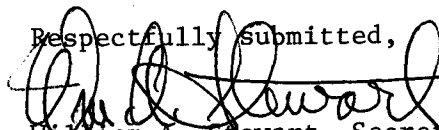
Prof. Otto Nelson proposed the following amendment to the Faculty Council Charter: That Article II, Section 4 be amended as follows:

1. Delete the first two sentences.
2. Replace them with "The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall serve as Presiding Officer of the Faculty Council. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson or the Secretary shall preside, in that order."

This amendment will be subject to action during the Spring meeting of the Council.

Dr. Mackey then asked for other business from the floor. The motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


William A. Stewart, Secretary
Executive Committee
Faculty Council