

Minutes

Meeting # 12, February 14, 1979

Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 14, 1979 at 3:45 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Margaret Wilson, President, presiding. Senators present were: Adamcik, Alexander, Allen, Aycock, Brittin, Chamberlain, Cummins, Dale, Davis, Dixon, Eissinger, Elbow, George, Gillas, Higdon, Jebson, Kehoe, Kellogg, Lee, L. Luchsinger, V. Luchsinger, McDonald, McGowan, McPherson, Mehaffie, Nelson, Newcomb, Oberhelman, Owens, Pearson, Reichert, Rylander, Sanders, Sasser, Smith, Sowell, Stoune, Tereshkovich, Troub, Wade, Wagner, Walkup, Williams, and Wright. Members absent were: Christian, McGlynn, and Shine. Members absent because of other University business or pressing personal matters: Hunter, McLaughlin, Michael, Mogan, Morris, and Vines.

Guests included: Charles Hardwick, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Don Wickard, Registrar; Gene Medley, Associate Director, Admissions and Records; James D. Howze, Art; Henry C. Thomas, Physics; and Rod McClendon, University Daily.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED

The Faculty Senate:

- I. Accepted the Report of the ad hoc Committee on Equus.
- II. Created an ad hoc committee to study academic freedom and its application at Texas Tech University.
- III. Voted to forward to President Mackey as findings of the Senate a portion of the Report of the ad hoc Committee on Equus.
- IV. Heard a supplementary report from the ad hoc Committee to Study Faculty Employment Contracts.
- V. Moved to form an ad hoc committee to investigate the use of University motor pool vehicles.
- VI. Heard the final report of the ad hoc Committee on Raising Retirement Age of Faculty.
- VII. Heard a report from the Committee on Committees.
- VIII. Passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a manual pre-registration plan.
- IX. Moved to request a change in the 1979-80 University calendar.
- X. Voted to delete a portion of the charge of the Academic Affairs and Status Committee.

Senate President, Margaret Wilson, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

I. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 1979 SENATE MEETING

Hearing no corrections or additions, President Wilson declared the minutes accepted as distributed.

II. REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUUS - James Howze

Howze moved that the Senate accept the report of the ad hoc Committee to Investigate the Cancellation of Equus as distributed. The motion carried. The lengthy committee report contained the following recommendations:

1. A committee should be appointed by the Faculty Senate to study academic freedom and its application on this campus; special attention should be directed to developing a better understanding of the various activities that fall within the protection of the concept.
2. Every effort should be made by faculty, administration and Board of Regents to raise the status of academic freedom on this campus and to cultivate an appreciation for academic freedom in the community served by Texas Tech University. For example, the three groups should each undertake a program of self-education designed to enable them to better understand, protect and interpret academic freedom. In addition, faculty members should be committed to testing academic freedom when necessary; administrators should be prepared to support the faculty in its pursuit of academic freedom; and the Board of Regents should be prepared to explain to the legislature and their constituency the importance of academic freedom.
3. The Board of Regents and administration of the University should accept the policy that each academic area has the responsibility for selecting the content of the offerings in its discipline so long as its decisions are consistent with sound practices of scholarship and ethics as defined by the discipline as a whole.
4. The Theatre Arts Division should be able to schedule Equus or any other play so long as the selection is in accordance with sound practices of scholarship and ethics as defined by the theatre arts discipline as a whole.

Following prolonged discussion of the ad hoc committee's report Sasser moved that an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate be formed to carry out recommendation #1 of the Equus Committee. The motion carried following further extended debate.

Lee then moved that discussion of Committee recommendations #2, #3, and #4 be postponed until the ad hoc committee created by the Sasser motion reports to the Senate.

Adamcik moved to divide recommendation #2 from recommendations #3 and #4 and to consider it separately. The motion to divide the recommendations for consideration carried.

The portion of the motion to postpone the consideration of recommendation #2 carried, but the motion to postpone the consideration of recommendations #3 and #4 failed.

Reichert then moved to divide recommendation #4 from recommendation #3 and to consider it separately. The motion failed.

Adamcik moved to instruct the President of the Senate to forward to President Mackey as being the findings of the Senate the following statement from the ad hoc committee report:

Even if all the events that led to cancellation are construed in a light most favorable to the University administration it can still readily be demonstrated that an atmosphere restricting academic freedom was created. Restrictions on academic freedom can exist and are just as harmful even where there is not an overt act, series of acts or fault on the part of any individual to point to

Report of the ad hoc Committee on Equus continued.....

as having created the condition. At the suggestion of the Dean of Arts and Sciences Equus was cancelled by the director of theatre arts with the approval of the faculty and subsequently Curse of the Starving Class was cancelled by the director of theatre arts with the approval of the faculty; these plays had little in common except that they both contained a nude scene. The present state of affairs indicates that there is a general prohibition against producing any play with a nude scene in it, no matter what the play's educational value to the campus community or its literary worth.

The Senate has concluded that this general prohibition whether it be by the Board of Regents, President of the University, Vice-president of Academic Affairs, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Director of Theatre Arts or the collective faculty of Theatre Arts, (or any combination of these) constitutes a violation of the academic freedom of individual faculty members and students of Theatre Arts on this campus and this is intolerable.

The Board of Regents and administration of the University should accept the policy that each academic area has the responsibility for selecting the content of the offerings in its discipline so long as its decisions are consistent with sound practices of scholarship and ethics as defined by the discipline as a whole.

The Theatre Arts Division should be able to schedule Equus or any other play so long as the selection is in accordance with sound practices of scholarship and ethics as defined by the theatre arts discipline as a whole.

Adamcik's motion carried.

Wilson expressed the Senate's appreciation for the ad hoc committee's work.

III. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY FACULTY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS -

Ruth Wright

The ad hoc committee received copies of the Gaston bill, studied it, and agreed unanimously that the effect is the same as that of the two bills studied previously (Clayton bills): the abrogation of tenure. The committee finds this bill to also be unacceptable.

IV. USE OF TECH VANS - Gary Elbow

Elbow called attention to the report on the use of vehicles in the University motor pool which was distributed to Senators and moved that an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate be formed to further investigate the use of these vehicles. Elbow reported that the Athletic Departments are monopolizing the use of vehicles which, presumably, were purchased primarily for the use of the academic departments of the University. In January faculty members seeking to schedule the use of vans for April weekends found that none were available and many requests for use of vans have been denied because they are already rented.

Hardwick agreed that problems do exist in scheduling use of vehicles in the motor pool and expressed a willingness to work with an ad hoc committee to try to resolve them. He also stated that two more vehicles are currently on order.

Use of Tech Vans continued.....

Elbow's motion carried without opposition.

V. FINAL REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RAISING RETIREMENT AGE OF FACULTY - Harry Jebson

The final report of this committee was mailed to the Senators with the agenda. Since that report was written the administration has been instructed by the Board of Regents to revise Tech's policy regarding mandatory retirement, using age 70 as a guideline. The administration has gone even further than the Committee recommendations by considering policies that will encourage half time or one-third time teaching between ages 65 and 70, with a variety of other options for continued service within those years.

VI. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Helen Brittin

Brittin outlined the schedule of the Committee on Committees in obtaining a slate of nominations for the Senate to send to President Mackey for use in filling vacancies on University Committees/Councils for next year.

February 19, 1979

Mail information and nomination forms to all voting faculty.

The information and forms shall contain:

- a. The name of each committee for which vacancies are to be filled.
- b. The number of vacancies to be filled on each committee.
- c. Any special requirements for nomination to each committee.
- d. Spaces for the faculty to nominate and to supply qualifications of the nominees.

March 5, 1979

Completed forms for nominations of faculty to University Committees and Councils are due to the Committee on Committees.

March 12, 1979

4-5 p.m. Committee on Committees meets to make up a slate of nominations.

March 26, 1979

4-5 p.m. Committee on Committees meets to finalize the slate of nominations.

March 30, 1979

Slate of nominations will be given to Senate Office Secretary to duplicate and circulate with agenda for the Senate meeting on April 11.

April 11, 1979

The Senate nominates persons to fill vacancies on University Committees and Councils for 1979-80.

VII. RESOLUTION ON PRE-REGISTRATION - Vince Luchsinger

Luchsinger moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolution on Pre-Registration continued.....

Resolved that Texas Tech is one of the few universities in the state of Texas that does not offer pre-registration. Further, it is contended that students would benefit from pre-registration by the early resolution of schedules permitting them to optimize their semester study, living and work plans; and that the administration could better allocate, and re-allocate, resources by the early indications of demand for course offerings.

It is further noted that several years ago Texas Tech conducted a manual pre-registration for upper division and graduate students that was not without success. Computer pre-registration is reported to be years and many thousands of dollars distant in the future.

Resolved that Texas Tech administration and faculty investigate the possibility of conducting a manual pre-registration at the end of Spring Semester 1979 for summer an/or fall terms to test the feasibility of manual pre-registration on a continuing basis.

According to Hardwick a committee has studied the possibilities of pre-registration or a computerized form of registration, but at this time Tech's computer is inadequate to handle such a system of registration. He hopes that with the installation of a new computer the University will move rapidly toward a computer pre-registration system and believes that perhaps some type of manual system of pre-registration might be beneficial in the meantime. Several senators spoke in favor of the resolution and it was adopted without opposition.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senators discussed several of the announcements items briefly and action was taken on one, the 1979-80 University Calendar.

The University calendar proposed for Summer 1979 through Summer 1981 is as follows:

- Summer Sessions 1979 - June 4-July 14; July 16-August 25
 - Final exams July 12-13 and August 22-23
 - Final grades due July 16 and August 24
- Fall 1979 - August 30-31 registration December 22
 - Final exams December 17-21
 - Final grades December 22
- Spring 1980 - January 8-9 registration May 10
 - Final exams April 30-May 6
 - Senior grades May 8; final grades May 12
 - Commencement May 9-10
- Summer Session 1980 - June 2-July 12; July 14-August 23
 - Final exams July 10-11 and August 20-21
 - Final grades due July 14 and August 22
- Fall 1980-August 28-29 registration December 20
 - Final exams December 15-19
 - Final grades due December 20
- Spring 1981 - January 13-14 registration May 16
 - Final exams May 6-12
 - Senior grades May 14; final grades May 18
- Summer Sessions 1981 June 1-July 11; July 13-August 22

Announcements continued.....

Luchsinger moved to recommend to Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Len Ainsworth, that the beginning and closing dates of the Fall 1979 Semester be moved one week earlier, keeping December 22, 1979 as the due date for final grades. The motion carried.

Jebsen proposed an alternate recommendation to move the final grade due date for Fall 1979 to December 27, 1979 in the event that the Luchsinger recommendation is not acceptable to Ainsworth and the Administrative Council.

Wright moved to table the Jebsen motion until after the Senate receives a response to the Luchsinger recommendation. The motion to table the Jebsen motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Senators inquired about the revised Faculty Review Forms. Hardwick assured the Senate that faculty members would be receiving instructions concerning the faculty reports shortly.

The Academic Affairs and Status Committee asked the Senate to clarify a charge made by the old Faculty Council, referring to a statement which requested their committee to study the procedures used for student advising.

Discussion suggested that in the time since this request was made a part of the charge of the Academic Affairs and Status Committee the University and its Colleges have improved student advising at all levels.

Newcomb moved that the committee pursue the charge to study the procedures used for student advising. Newcomb's motion died for lack of a second.

Adamcik then moved that this sentence be struck from the charge of the Academic Affairs and Status Committee. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary S. Elbow, Secretary
Faculty Senate