

MINUTES

Meeting #9, November 8, 1978

Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 8, 1978 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Margaret Wilson, President, presiding. Senators present were: Adamcik, Alexander, Allen, Aycock, Brittin, Chamberlain, Christian, Cummins, Dale, Davis, Dixon, Eissinger, Elbow, George, Gillis, Higdon, Hunter, Jebsen, Keho, Kellogg, Lee, L. Luchsinger, V. Luchsinger, Mann, McDonald, McGlynn, McGowan, McLaughlin, McPherson, Mehaffie, Michael, Morris, Nelson, Newcomb, Oberhelman, Owens, Reichert, Rylander, Sanders, Sasser, Shine, Sowell, Stoune, Tereshkovich, Troub, Walkup, Williams and Wright. Members absent were: Mogan, Pearson, and Wagner. Absent because of other University business were: Smith, and Vines.

Guests included: Cecil Mackey, President; Charles S. Hardwick, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Clyde Morganti, Assistant to the President; Philip H. Marshall, Psychology; Donald T. Dietz, Classical & Romance Languages; Robert Davidow, School of Law; and Rod McClendon, University Daily.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED

The Faculty Senate:

- 1) heard President Mackey address the Senate on invocations policy
- 2) passed a motion that a letter be sent to President Mackey recommending that an opinion regarding the constitutionality of the Texas Tech University invocations policy be solicited from the Attorney General of Texas
- 3) heard a discussion of the peer evaluation process for probationary faculty members from Charles Hardwick
- 4) heard comments on the role of the Academic Budget Council and its relationship with the Faculty Senate
- 5) passed a resolution urging that faculty retirement policy be made consistent with that for classified and administrative personnel as soon as possible and prior to the federally mandated 1982 deadline
- 6) voted to establish a procedure by which administrative officers of the University may fill vacancies on committees as they occur during the year
- 7) accepted a report from the Committee on Committees recommending nominees for several vacancies on University committees and designating three members for the ad hoc Committee on Procedures for Filling Temporary Faculty Senate vacancies
- 8) passed a resolution supporting the continuation of carillon performances at designated times on weekdays and expressing appreciation to Judson Maynard and the students who provide the music

Senate President Wilson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. The first order of business was a request by Wilson to alter the agenda, placing President Mackey's remarks on the Board of Regents response to the Senate recommendation on invocations policy as the first item to be considered. The request was made to accommodate President Mackey, who had to leave for the airport immediately following his presentation. The request was approved.

I. REMARKS TO THE FACULTY SENATE ON INVOCATIONS POLICY - President Cecil Mackey

President Mackey informed the Senate that the Chairman of the Board of Regents, after informally consulting several Board members, opted not to place consideration of invocations policy on the August Board agenda. It was the Chairman's judgement that the University has an established policy on invocations and that there was no interest among Board members in reconsidering that policy. President Mackey went on to say that he does not consider prayer at football games to be a major issue, but that he would probably not recommend the institution of such a policy if it were not already in effect; however, he considers the discontinuance of an existing policy to be a somewhat different matter. Mackey indicated that, in his opinion, the Board does not wish to open up public debate on the invocations issue and is not likely to place the matter on its agenda in the foreseeable future. Measures are taken by the administration to ensure that prayers at football games will not be offensive to members of any religion, but short of giving students prepared prayers to read, non-sectarianism is difficult to guarantee.

Newcomb inquired if a legal opinion on constitutionality had been provided the Board. Mackey said that University Legal Counsel Marilyn Phelan's opinion was inconclusive on the matter, and that the issue is not clear one way or the other.

Davidow questioned if the decision not to change invocations policy might have been made in violation of the open meeting law. Mackey stated he had discussed this matter with Phelan who saw no violation of the law since no decision was reached through formal Board action.

McLaughlin moved that the Senate request the President of the University to solicit an opinion on the matter of the constitutionality of the invocations policy at Texas Tech from the Attorney General of Texas. Without further discussion the motion carried with six votes against and two Senators abstaining.

The Senate then returned to the regular agenda order.

II. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 1978 MEETING:

Wilson called attention to a typographical error on page 3., item 13 which should read DO NOT MAIL YOUR GRADES. On page 6., REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES should have an additional paragraph reading: Brittin reported that at the request of the Senate a study was made showing that new faculty appointments to University Councils/Committees for 1978-79 were from those persons nominated by the Senate, with the exception of the faculty appointed to the Graduate Council and Radiation and Laser Safety Committee.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jebsen asked for clarification of Item E., number 13, which is an excerpt from the Minutes of the Board of Regents meeting on September 29, 1978 reading: "Resolved, that the retirement of all classified professional and administrative employees will be on or before the last day of the fiscal year in which the employee reaches age 70. Annual appointments after age 70 must be permitted with specific Board approval." Jebsen questioned the term administrative employee in the second line. Hardwick identified administrative employees as those who are classified administrative employees or professional administrative employees. Tenured or untenured faculty are specifically excluded from this category.

Shine questioned Item D, #3, of the September 26, 1978 Academic Council meeting minutes, which read: "The list of persons to be considered for tenure this year has been distributed to deans." Hardwick reiterated the need for course evaluations and peer evaluation as elements in the tenure review process.

Shine asked if persons being considered for tenure this year would be evaluated using the new policy or old. Hardwick replied that since any modification of the tenure policy must pass through several steps before it becomes final and the projected time for adoption of any revised policies is uncertain, tenure considerations for this year will be in accordance with existing policy and that general guidelines for conducting peer evaluation within the departments have been distributed. The document recognizes the need for flexibility in establishing peer evaluation, with the method by which this is to be done left to the discretion of the deans and chairpersons. Members of peer evaluation committees should come from among the senior faculty of the department. The peer evaluation committee should meet with the faculty member to discuss his/her methods of instruction, course objectives, outlines, texts, and other materials; however, evaluators should recognize variation in teaching styles. Committee members should visit the classroom periodically to observe presentation of materials and interaction with students.

In response to a suggestion from Alexander, Hardwick indicated that this policy does not trespass on academic freedom and stated that it would be in effect this year. He added that peer evaluation is a requirement for tenure, that promotion usually goes along with tenure, and that information obtained by the peer evaluation committee should be made available to the tenure and promotion committees, both at the departmental and college levels when a probationary faculty member is being considered for tenure.

Aycock asked for clarification of Item C., which reports a conversation between Vice President Hardwick and Wilson regarding the future of the Academic Budget Council. Hardwick responded that he had met with Louise Luchsinger, Council Chairperson, and has a meeting scheduled with the entire Council. Hardwick assured Wilson that he would make every effort to keep the Council informed and to consult with it on significant budgetary matters.

L. Luchsinger briefed the Senate on the history of the Academic Budget Council, stating that at the time Dr. Mackey became President three years ago the Faculty Council had as one of its standing committees the Budget Advisory Committee. This committee was briefed on budget procedures by Ken Thompson. Subsequently, the Budget Advisory Committee was inactive until May, 1977. This year the Council has a new name, charge, and membership. The Council has met with Hardwick to go over the charge and to determine what the activities of the Council would be. Hardwick assured Luchsinger that he would share information pertaining to financial affairs which would interest them with all the Council members.

Aycock's original concern was the need for the Academic Budget Council to periodically report its activities to the Faculty Senate. He questioned how much input the Council would have in the formulation of the budget. Hardwick pointed out that this council is responsible to the President, reporting through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Members of the Committee on Committees have been designated as liaison to certain committees for the purpose of keeping the Faculty Senate informed of their activities. The liaison person with the Budget Advisory Council could ensure that the Senate is aware of its activities, as could the liaison people with other committees. The charge of the Academic Budget Council includes responsibility for keeping the Faculty Senate

informed of its activities.

IV. RESOLUTION ON RETIREMENT - Harry Jebson

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University urges the Board of Regents to change the age limit on mandatory retirement for faculty to age 70, and that this change in retirement policy be enacted as rapidly as possible, far in advance of the required 1982 law.

This move will place the faculty on par with the classified personnel who in January 1979 will be protected by the new federal law.

Jebson moved the endorsement and recommendation of the resolution. After brief discussion the motion carried, with one vote against and one senator abstaining.

V. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Helen Brittin

Nominations were made for replacements on the Library Committee, the International Education Committee, the Convocations Committee, and the Honors and Awards Committee, and three faculty members were nominated to serve on the ad hoc Committee on Procedures for Filling Temporary Faculty Senate Vacancies. Nominated for the latter committee were Clarence Bell, Mechanical Engineering; Elizabeth Sasser, Architecture; and Gary Elbow, Geography. Newcomb moved Senate approval of the report. The motion carried.

Dale moved a procedure whereby administrative officers who have responsibility for appointing members to committees or councils may fill vacancies on those committees or councils from the list of Faculty Senate approved nominees for the current year. In the event that the number of vacancies should exceed the number of names approved by the Senate, or if a replacement from a specific college or with special qualifications should be required, the administrator should immediately inform the president of the Faculty Senate who will instruct the Committee on Committees to submit the names of appropriate nominees for Senate approval and forwarding to the appropriate administrative officer. The motion carried.

Adamcik then moved that the names of nominees for committees earlier approved by the Senate be added to the original list of nominees made up for this year and that all the names be submitted for consideration as replacements on the committees with vacancies. The motion carried.

VI. RESOLUTION ON CARILLON - Valarie Chamberlain

Chamberlain read the following resolution and moved the Senate recommend its adoption.

Whereas many faculty members and students enjoy the carillon music heard periodically on campus near the Administration Building, and

Whereas the time and effort Dr. Judson Maynard and the students spend providing this music is appreciated

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate go on record as supporting the continuation of the carillon music, and

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate go on record as expressing its gratitude to Dr. Judson Maynard and the students who provide the carillon music.

After brief discussion the motion to endorse and recommend the resolution carried.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Wilson stated that the draft for "Formal Procedures for Grievance" has been received from the office of the President. It is a rather lengthy, important document which should be shared with colleagues. A copy of this draft will be sent to Senators for their consideration and study.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Elbow", written in a cursive style.

Gary S. Elbow, Secretary
Faculty Senate

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