

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

April 18, 1979

Margaret Wilson, President of the Faculty Senate, called the second meeting of the General Faculty called by the Faculty Senate to order at 3:35 p.m. and welcomed the approximately 150 faculty members present. One item of business was considered, that being an amendment to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University, Article V., Section 4, Paragraph 2. The original paragraph reads: "The positions of the chairperson of the Men's Athletic Council and the Women's Athletic Council of the University shall not be open to nominations by the Faculty Senate." The proposed amendment reads: "The position of chairperson of the Athletic Council of the University shall not be open to nomination by the Faculty Senate." The Men's and Women's Athletic Councils became one Athletic Council shortly after the adoption of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate and the amendment reflects this structural change only. The amendment passed unopposed on a voice vote.

Wilson expressed her thanks to the faculty and the Faculty Senate for their support during her tenure as At Large Senator and as President of the Faculty Senate. She also expressed appreciation on behalf of the Faculty Senate to the faculty who have served on the 10 ad hoc Faculty Senate committees this year. She then recognized the current officers of the Senate, Otto Nelson, Vice President, and Gary Elbow, Secretary, and introduced the newly elected officers who will serve during 1979-80, Gary Elbow, President; Louise Luchsinger, Vice-President; Wendell Aycock, Secretary. Wilson then recognized the Senate Office Secretary, Grace Frazier, and Senate Parliamentarian, Vernon McGuire, and thanked them for their efforts on behalf of the Senate during the past year. Wilson then turned the meeting over to Dr. Cecil Mackey, President of the University.

President Mackey announced the appointment of two Horn Professors, Robert Baker, Biological Sciences, and Richard Saeks, Electrical Engineering; named the four recipients of AMOCO Outstanding Teaching Awards, who were Peder Christiansen, Classical and Romance Languages; Gene Hemmle, Music; Eddie Palmer, Sociology; and Ronald Smith, Plant and Soil Sciences. Three other faculty who have received Dad's Association Awards during the year were also recognized. They were: Marion Hagler, Electrical Engineering, recipient of the Spencer Ray Wells Faculty Award for Creative Teaching; Pill-Soon Song, Chemistry, Distinguished Faculty Research Award; and Erich Kunhardt, Electrical Engineering, New Professor Excellence in Teaching Award.

Mackey reported that, with the exception of State organized research funds, the recommendations of the Legislative Budget Board for 1980-81 were generally favorable. The State College Coordinating Board reacted favorably on the recommendations of the college and university presidents to increase funding for faculty salaries, and these recommendations are now awaiting legislative action. Mackey further indicated that faculty salaries have the highest priority of any item on the Texas Tech budget. However, there has been a decrease in student credit hours generated by the University this year, especially at the graduate level, which may reduce formula funding. There is also concern over the possibility of a 2% across the board cut in all State agency funding which would affect the University. On the bright side, the legislature does have before it proposals authorizing the funding of faculty development leaves for the first time. There is also a possibility that the legislature will pass a one-year budget in the hope of increased State revenue in the next year.

Ken Thompson, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs, has prepared a budget briefing showing all sources of University income and its disbursement. This report will be presented before the Faculty Senate and can be discussed also before the faculty of any college requesting it.

The President continued his remarks, indicating his opinion that the general state of the University, despite budget problems, is good. He indicated that departmental and area reviews have revealed many areas of considerable strength upon which the University can continue to build. He also called attention to the need for greatly increased private funding support if the University is to maintain its present level of operation. It was noted that the Board of

Regents has expressed greater awareness of the importance of private funding than in the past. The Regents policies have been codified for the first time, and the Board has approved a mandatory faculty retirement age of 70. It appears that the legislature will remove the \$25,000 ceiling on retirement contributions this session.

The University computer facilities will be upgraded by fall with new equipment which should increase capacity by several times its present level. Plans are under way for a centralized media center to be placed in operation over several years, beginning possibly as soon as fall 1979.

Several endowed or partially endowed faculty positions have been established. Among these are two chairs in the College of Agricultural Sciences funded by the estate of former governor Thornton of Colorado, the Briscoe Chair in Banking in the College of Business Administration, and a distinguished professorship to be funded by the Ex-Students Association, hopefully the first of several such positions.

Mackey went on to note the completion of several construction projects including the new agriculture facilities at New Deal, the Ag Pavilion on campus, and the athletic ticket office and letter lounge north of Jones Stadium. Under way are the Electrical Engineering Laboratory, a facility for storage of hazardous materials, a student recreation center, and renovation of West Hall to house student services and the old library to house the Department of Mathematics. A new facility for the Music Department, completion of the basement of the Goddard Building, and installation of a women's locker room in the Coliseum are top priority projects pending before the Board of Regents.

The President concluded his remarks by stating that he and his staff have devoted much of their time during the first two years of his tenure to systems development which makes it possible to respond more quickly to new priorities and to better meet previously recognized needs.

Mackey then volunteered to answer questions from the floor. Ben Newcomb, History, opened the questions by asking about the state of academic freedom on campus. Mackey responded that he sees no threat to academic freedom at Texas Tech. Two recent court suits over the University student demonstration policy were, in Mackey's opinion, settled properly and the University rules in question were sustained. The Equus matter was not viewed as a matter of academic freedom since no administrative determination on production of the play was involved.

Responding to a question from Tom Manning, History, Mackey indicated that a decision on the Library Committee's recommendation to eliminate the Core Collection will be made by fall.

The final question, from Robert Bell, Psychology, was on the University Affirmative Action policy. Mackey is concerned with the lack of progress in hiring of women and minorities at the University. Continuing efforts are being made to attract more minority students. It may be necessary to interject additional administrative controls in the departmental employment process in order to insure the employment of minority and female faculty and this could involve additional costs to the University.

The meeting adjourned at 4: 40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary S. Elbow, Secretary
Faculty Senate