

April 27, 1978

Meeting of the General Faculty of
Texas Tech University

Clarence A. Bell, President of the Faculty Senate welcomed approximately 130 faculty members to the first general faculty meeting called by the Faculty Senate and introduced the current officers of the Faculty Senate, Vice President Margaret E. Wilson, Secretary Roland E. Smith, and also the newly elected officers of the Faculty Senate whose terms of office will begin on May 15, 1978: Margaret E. Wilson, President; Otto M. Nelson, Vice President; and Gary S. Elbow, Secretary. Bell then turned the meeting over to Dr. Cecil Mackey, President of the University.

Dr. Mackey expressed the opinion that the past academic year had been a good one for Tech and a year in which significant progress has been made in establishing a proper role for faculty participation in governance on campus and that the Faculty Senate will take its place as a very important part of what goes on on the campus.

The President took this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize some of the faculty whose achievement was outstanding. The Board of Regents recently gave their approval of two Horn Professors, M.M. Ayoub, Industrial Engineering; and Henry Wright, Department of Range and Wildlife Management. Recipients of the A M O C O Distinguished Teaching Award for 1977-78 were Margaret Wilson, Darrell Vines, Jacquelin Collins, and Valerie Chamberlain. Earlier in the year the Dads Association recognized individuals in three separate categories, Creative Teaching, Doyle Williams, Accounting; Distinguished Research Award, Richard Saeks, Engineering; and New Professor Excellence in Teaching Award, Jerry Stockton, Agriculture Education.

University Committees have been restructured in order to provide a more meaningful role for both faculty and students and the process of selecting nominees to those committees have been changed somewhat. Students now serve on most committees.

The Tenure Review Committee has been at work reviewing the present tenure policy and has made recommendations for changes in the University's tenure policy. Draft copies of that revised policy are now in circulation for review by deans and faculty. Faculty members are urged to examine this draft copy concerning a matter which is important to all faculty.

Funding problems exist in the area of organized research. Though the legislature usually provides 50 percent of the estimated cost of research projects, Tech will be operating under a 25 percent funding system next year. Despite funding problems, all areas of research on the campus have increased over last year's totals, and in the area of energy research 14 departments and three colleges have faculty involved in energy research.

Dr. Mackey emphasized the importance of private financial aid, stating these fund many campus projects, including faculty development leaves. Several faculty members had questions relating to the small amount of money available for such leaves. By law state universities are not allowed to use state funds for faculty leaves. Dr. Mackey classified this as a high priority item in speaking with legislators.

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Reporting on the Medical School, Dr. Mackey stated it had been an eventful and rewarding year, for both those in charge of programs and for those who have received benefits. The Medical School has had its probationary status lifted and is now authorized to move ahead on a year-to-year basis. The first phase of the 250 bed hospital has now opened, is functioning well, and is adequately funded at this time. Regional Health Centers are open in El Paso and Amarillo, and a site has been selected in the Permian Basin area while construction continues locally. Requests will be made in next year's budget for funding for the College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy and Dr. Mackey is hopeful for support in the legislature for both of these schools.

Another area in which the legislature has shown interest is faculty workloads. It is possible they will try to define in legislative language specific workloads in terms of classroom hours for faculty, or perhaps they will simply give policy directions. Dr. Mackey felt it would be extremely important for the University to be allowed to retain flexibility in order to develop workload standards which take into consideration the overall teaching activities of the faculty.

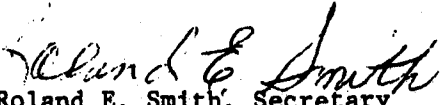
The building program at Tech continues; the Home Economics Building is almost completed, the Ag Pavilion is progressing, and the Ag College facilities at New Deal are nearing completion. On the drawing board and funded are a student recreation building, an electrical engineering building, and the renovation of the old library. Nearly completed is a study area in the library for blind and partially sighted students. Soon resident halls will have facilities for handicapped students. In the budget for the coming year approximately \$9,000,000.00 is being requested to make modifications to accommodate handicapped persons on campus.

Based on enrollment projections by the Coordinating Board, 530 million dollars is the projected amount of ad valorem tax funds for the next 10 years. Of this amount Tech's share is 14 million dollars for new construction in the next six years. No immediate allocation of any of these funds is being made because the fate of the ad valorem tax funds are uncertain due to litigation questioning the constitutionality of the tax.

Dr. Mackey emphasized the need for flexibility in the area of local funds invested by universities. Allegations that several institutions have mishandled such funds have led to the possibility of removing those funds from university control.

Dr. Mackey concluded by stating that hopefully the outlook of the next legislature which is scheduled to begin its meetings in January 1979 will continue to be generally favorable to higher education.

Respectfully submitted,


Roland E. Smith, Secretary
Faculty Senate