

Minutes

Special Meeting, Faculty Senate
July 13, 1979

The Faculty Senate met in a called meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 1979 at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Gary Elbow, President, presiding. Senators present were Anderson, Aycock, Blaisdell, Collins, Dixon, Filgo, George, Gipson, Gundersen, Harris, Higdon, Kimmel, L. Luchsinger, V. Luchsinger, McGowan, McLaughlin, Masten, Oberhelman, Pearson, Roberts, Rylander, Sanders, Sasser, R. Smith, Stewart, Troub, Walkup and Williams.

Guests included Donna Muldrew, Instructor, Architecture; Max Lennon, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture; Donald McDonald, Professor and Associate Dean, College of Education; Robert Rouse, Professor, Economics; Clarence Kincaid, Professor, Art; Russell Seacat, Professor and Chairman, Electrical Engineering; Oswald D. Bowlin, Professor, Finance; Jerry Ramsey, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ruthann Brockway, Avalanche Journal; and personnel from Channel 28 television.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED

The Faculty Senate

1. Passed a resolution instructing the President of the Faculty Senate, and other officers of the Senate he sees fit to take with him, to meet with the Chairman of the Board of Regents to petition for Faculty Senate representation in the selection process of a president for Texas Tech.
2. Passed a resolution to request that the Board of Regents of Texas Tech extend the deadline for the submission of application for the presidency of Texas Tech to at least September 1, 1979.

The meeting was called to order by President Elbow at 1:40 p.m. He indicated that, because of the special nature of the meeting and the short notice, no record would be made of absences. He then asked the senators present to introduce themselves. He introduced himself, the other officers of the senate and the office secretary and explained that he had invited to this meeting those faculty members who were appointed by the Board of Regents to participate in the selection of a president.

First, Elbow specified what he thought should be the limitation of the Senate's deliberations. He said that the Board of Regents has a legal responsibility to set up a structure and to select people to carry out that structure for choosing a new president for Texas Tech. The Senate may disagree with the Board of Regents' methods of organizing such a structure and it may not approve of the individuals that the Regents have chosen to serve on those committees, but the Senate really has no authority to act upon these particular matters, since the Board of Regents is carrying out the duty with which it is charged. The Senate meeting, he said, should deal primarily with the issue of the Board's treatment of the Faculty Senate and, by implication, of the faculty at Texas Tech University, since the Senate does represent the faculty.

Elbow then gave a short account of the events that had taken place prior to the naming of the search committees. Following this explanation, he requested comments or action from the floor.

Jacq Collins introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate has been specifically and officially designated to "act on behalf of the faculty" and to "consider all matters of university concern"; and

WHEREAS the selection of a University President is of as great a concern as any that periodically confronts the University community; and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate was not consulted regarding the procedures to be used in the selection of a president or regarding the selection of any of the faculty members chosen to serve in the presidential selection process; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University instruct its President and any other officers of the Senate he sees fit to take with him to meet with Mr. Robert Pfluger, Chairman of the Board of Regents, and other members of the Board as he may deem appropriate for the purpose of discussing ways by which the role of the Senate in the presidential selection process may be enhanced and specifically to petition for Faculty Senate representation in that process. "Faculty Senate representation" is understood to mean representation by the President of the Senate, the Senate's highest elected officer who is charged to represent the Senate generally or, by persons specifically named to represent the Senate in this instance, either by the President of the Senate or by the Senate itself.

There was a brief discussion, most of it in favor of the resolution. The motion passed by a vote of 24 for, 2 against.

Sasser introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS the deadline chosen for the applications to be submitted for the President of Texas Tech University appears too short for the provision of adequate dissemination of the notice of vacancy;

WHEREAS the advertisement of presidential vacancy at Texas Tech University appearing in the July 2, 1979 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education contains the shortest interval of all such announcements (both the University of Houston and North Texas State University allowed longer intervals--Houston: 6/25-8/1 and North Texas: 7/9-8/20);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Tech Faculty Senate request the Board of Regents to extend the deadline for the submission of applications for the presidency of Texas Tech to 1 September 1979.

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A brief discussion followed, and the resolution passed by a vote of 19 for, 4 against.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendell Aycock, Secretary
Faculty Senate

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the minutes from the special meeting of July 13 indicate, I was instructed by the Senate to meet with Mr. Pfluger, Chairman of the Board of Regents, for the purpose of discussing Faculty Senate representation in the presidential selection process. Wendell Aycock and I met with Mr. Pfluger on Wednesday, July 18. We found Mr. Pfluger to be understanding of our position and agreeable to bringing our complaint informally before the Board. I have subsequently received word that two Faculty Senate representatives of our choosing will be seated on the Advisory Committee, thus making Senate representation in the presidential selection process comparable to that of the Student Association and the Ex-students Association. In response to this communication, I asked the three members of the Faculty Senate who served in the previous presidential search process, Jacq. Collins, Panze Kimmel, and Henry Shine, to name two individuals to represent the Senate. Their nominations are Dr. Gary Elbow, President, Faculty Senate and Dr. Charles E. Dale, Senator, At-Large, and I have forwarded these names to Mr. Pfluger as the Faculty Senate representatives on the Advisory Committee.

It should also be noted that the Board of Regents agreed to extend indefinitely the closing date for applications for the position of President of Texas Tech University.

The second matter on which I would like to advise the faculty is the effective date of the Grievance Panel Procedure to which the Faculty Senate and President Mackey agreed last spring. The Procedure becomes effective on September 1, 1979, at which time the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee will cease to exist. An election will be held in September to select panel members. In the interim between the time the Procedure becomes operative and election of panel members, faculty wishing to resolve a grievance should initiate action by filing the grievance in writing with the University President. Instructions for preparing such a grievance statement, along with the entire Grievance Panel Procedure document will be published early in the fall semester. In the meantime, a copy may be obtained from the Faculty Senate office.

8/7/79