

Minutes
Faculty Senate
Meeting #35
October 14, 1981

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, October 14, 1981, at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Benjamin H. Newcomb, President, presiding. Senators present were Anderson, Bacon, Bartell, Berlin, Blaisdell, Burkhardt, Cepica, Clements, Cochran, Conover, Cummings, Denham, Freeman, Gilbert, Graves, Harris, Hickerson, Hill, Horridge, Keho, Kimmel, Kunhardt, Malloy, Masten, Mogan, Moreland, Nelson, Owens, Pearson, Rude, Schoen, Smith, Sowell, Stewart, Tan, Urban, Volz, Williams, Wilson and Zyla. Senators Biggers, Filgo, and Gipson were absent because of university business. Senators Chonko and Maynard were absent.

Guests included John R. Darling, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Julio T. Llanas, Director, Affirmative Action; Wendell Tucker, Director, Personnel; Willie Ulich, Past-Chairperson, Retirement and Benefits Committee; Ernest Sullivan, Parliamentarian; Preston Lewis, University News and Publications; Kippie Hopper, University Daily; Pat Graves, Avalanche Journal; and representatives from the television media.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

At its October 14, 1981 meeting, the Senate:

1. heard a discussion of health insurance rates and information presented by the Benefits and Retirement Committee;
2. approved the 1980-1981 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate;
3. approved a slate of nominees for appointment to Faculty Senate Standing committees and recommended faculty for appointment to University Councils and Committees;
4. heard a report from the Budget Study Committee, a standing committee of the Faculty Senate;
5. discussed summer school scheduling and budgeting;
6. clarified the interpretation of the Senate's Constitution on nominations and elections;
7. discussed the establishment of a committee on energy use and conservation;
8. heard a very brief report from the Senate President on the meeting of the Council of University Governance Organizations;
9. discussed disorderly conduct at football games and the policy on keeping the concourse clear;
10. voted to table a resolution commenting on the search for the new Vice President of the Health Sciences within the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center;
11. referred the matter of a more suitable meeting room for the Faculty Senate to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee;

12. discussed the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate and by what authority it has this jurisdiction;

13. heard an update on the activities of the Tenure and Privilege Committee;

14. heard a brief report on the pass/fail debate at the University Center.

Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

I. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 1981 MEETING

Wilson moved approval of the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

II. DISCUSSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Lewis Hill, Chairperson of the Benefits and Retirement Committee and a member of the Faculty Senate, responded to a number of questions which were previously directed to the committee and called attention to the handout of information prepared by Wendell Tucker, Director of Personnel. Hill briefly explained the working of the health insurance system and the history behind the development of the current premium rate. He stated that some information indicates the Texas Tech faculty may wish to go to a "catastrophic-type" plan or a straight major medical type plan. Hill is appointing a sub-committee to explore faculty wishes on this matter. Professor John Craig, Electrical Engineering, will chair the committee.

Mr. Tucker explained some of the detailed figures on the handout and discussion followed. Anderson questioned the reason behind the increase in premiums from 1979/1980 to 1980/1981. Among the reasons given were increase in number and amounts of claims, as well as the changeover in claims processing by Blue Cross.

Nelson and Bacon were not in favor of a reduction in benefits. They also questioned Hill about the "high option" plan the committee had considered in the past and were told that because of the cost such a plan seems to be not desirable.

Hill noted that Tech prefers "custom coverage" that is designed especially for Texas Tech. Many insurance carriers are hesitant to bid on this type of coverage, and few companies bid when Tech's insurance was up for bids.

The pros and cons of HMOs were discussed briefly. When questioned about the possibility of another rate increase next year, Tucker replied that it is quite possible. Tucker said that Tech compares "reasonably well" with other state agencies in present benefits and health insurance rates. Decreases in rates will come about only as a result of a decrease in claims or in benefits, Tucker concluded.

At the conclusion of the discussion Newcomb thanked the members of the committee and suggested that the sub-committee might want to poll the faculty for input into the type of health insurance desired.

III. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE (1980-1981)

Wilson moved approval of the report as circulated. The motion passed.

IV. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Malloy

Malloy referred to the slate of nominees for appointment to University Committees and Councils and to Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate and moved the Senate approve the slate and forward the recommendations for University Committees and Councils to the appropriate administrative officer. The Senate voted approval of the following nominees:

MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (University Committee)

Jacquelin Reinier, History (member)
Frank Gonzales, College of Education (alternate)

Standing Study Committees of the Faculty Senate

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Valerie Chamberlain, Home Economics
Jerry D. Berlin, Arts and Sciences

FACULTY STATUS & WELFARE

Jim Graves, Agriculture
Steve Beck, Chemical Engineering

BUDGET STUDY COMMITTEE

Gary Elbow, Arts and Sciences
Sue Gately, Business Administration

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Dorothy Filgo, Education
Lowell Blaisdell, Arts and Sciences

V. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

BUDGET STUDY COMMITTEE - Wilson

Wilson reported that this committee has met once and is presently waiting on FTE count from the administration before scheduling another meeting.

Committees A and B had no report.

VI. SUMMER SCHOOL SCHEDULING AND BUDGETING

Smith initiated the discussion of summer school scheduling and budgeting with the information that early in October departments were asked to submit a summer school schedule, and the complaint was made that summer school schedules depend upon summer school budget amounts which will not be known until December. Another complaint according to Smith was the fact that freshman orientation and summer school teaching for some faculty members conflict. Lack of coordination between the offices of Academic Affairs, Financial Affairs, and Student Affairs was cited as being one of the major problems.

VI. Summer School Scheduling and Budgeting continued.....

Vice-President for Academic Affairs, John Darling, responded by explaining that in the past departments were allocated so many dollars for summer school and the department scheduled around that certain amount of money. Darling said the university is changing from a "budget driven" summer schedule to one determined by academic needs. Departments have been consulted to determine what to teach and who is to teach these courses. Handled inappropriately this could be a "wish list," but the administration is trying to deal with the matter in a creative manner. It was pointed out that a breakdown in communications is one of the problems in this manner of handling the scheduling and budgeting. Zyla questioned the amount of money each department would receive--whether the amount would be more or less than in the past. Darling replied that this would depend upon the department and what that department wants to do. The administration hopes to be responsive to what the departments want to teach rather than the department being given a certain amount of money and that budgeted amount being used as a basis for scheduling courses. There was more discussion, both for and against this type of scheduling and budgeting.

Darling reported that an academic scheduling calendar has been developed and distributed to department chairpersons. He also pointed out that next summer is a year of record for budgeting purposes for the biennial budget and it is extremely important that Tech schedules the kinds of courses that are high in demand by its students so enrollment can be maximized. Darling also said that the Junction Center would be run differently than it has been in the past. Money will be allocated for the Junction Center rather than asking departments to fund courses at Junction out of a budget that has already been assigned to that department.

VII. INTERPRETATION BY THE SENATE ON ELIGIBILITY OF ADMINISTRATORS

Newcomb introduced this agenda item by calling attention to the excerpt from the Constitution of the Faculty Senate which was circulated with the agenda of this meeting. From the Constitution, Article III, Nominations and Elections, Section 5, "administrators serving one-half time or more in administrative positions shall not be eligible." Newcomb continued by saying that the question has arisen from time to time as to whether this provision means 1) no such administrator may serve and any person already on the Senate who becomes such an administrator should resign from the Senate; or 2) that while administrators are clearly not eligible for election, a senator may accept such administrative appointment subsequent to election and continue in the Senate. Since there is no such administrator presently on the Senate, the Agenda Committee believes that now is a good time to settle the matter.

Wilson moved that interpretation number 2 become the official interpretation of the Senate.

Zyla moved to amend Wilson's motion so that it reads: a senator may accept such administrative appointment subsequent to election and continue in the Senate the remainder of the year. Zyla's amendment failed by a vote of 10-21.

Wilson's motion passed as originally stated.

VIII. REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS ON PROPOSED ENERGY USE AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Newcomb talked with the Vice-President for Finance and Administrations as he was instructed by the Senate and was advised that that office would not favor the establishment of such a committee. Finance and Administration believes such a committee should be established under the Academic Affairs office where it would be a university committee and not a joint university/med-school committee. This type of committee would have less broad duties than originally proposed by the Senate resolution. Newcomb has discussed this matter with Vice President Darling and they are still working on it. Newcomb asked for discussion of this matter and/or suggestions. It was the feeling of the Senate that Newcomb should continue the discussion of the possibility of the establishment of such a committee with Vice-President Darling.

IX. REPORT ON THE MEETING, OCTOBER 2-3, OF THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATIONS- Newcomb

Newcomb reported on this meeting very briefly and told the Senate that he planned to circulate a written report to all the members of the Senate shortly.

X. DISCUSSION OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT FOOTBALL GAMES - Kimmel

Kimmel inquired about the policy of keeping the concourse clear at the stadium during football games. If there is such a policy, it should be enforced. Specific reference was made to conduct displayed at the A & M game. Smith moved that this matter be referred to the Campus Security and Emergency Committee. The motion passed.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Zyla read the following resolution and moved its adoption.

We welcome the idea that our University President, Dr. Lauro Cavazos, has decided to search for the new Vice President of the Health Sciences within the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. This is an important indication that our administration recognizes that among our faculty there are capable men and women who can lead our university and give it direction. This fact is of great importance for all of us who feel that we may make one day a significant contribution to this university in a different capacity. Such a step will be sure to increase our capabilities and our determination to work still harder, to produce more, and to be more competitive because we know that there is a chance for real advancement on this campus.

Smith moved that the resolution be tabled until such time as a copy of the resolution is circulated to the Senators for their consideration. The motion to table passed.

B. Zyla read the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Since "The Faculty Senate shall act on behalf of the faculty and shall serve as an advisory body to the President of the University and may consider all matters of university concern." I hereby move that it be accorded quarters consonant with its status and responsibilities. The

XI. Other Business continued.....

Senate Room of the University Center, ironically, is not a chamber suited for debate. It is an auditorium suited for lectures and other public addresses. Its accoustics--other than from the platform to the floor, exclusively--are very bad. Its size and seating arrangement are inappropriate and are an impediment to the free interchange of ideas. If the Faculty Senate is to take itself seriously, and if it is to be taken seriously by the rest of the University community, including the Administration, it must have assigned to it proper, fitting, and adequate quarters. Indeed, the nature of its quarters cannot but be interpreted as an accurate index of the value placed upon the Faculty Senate by the Administration.

After a brief discussion, Smith moved that this matter be referred to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. Smith's motion passed.

C. Kunhardt inquired about the jurisdiction of the Senate and the authority by which it operates. Smith by way of explanation referred to the Constitution of the Senate and the fact that it was approved by the President at the time it was drawn up, that it was approved by the Board of Regents, and finally the entire faculty of the university voted approval of the Constitution.

D. Newcomb called particular attention to agenda item B, number 5, which states that the Tenure and Privilege Committee is organized and currently considering the Minimum Standards for Promotion and Tenure developed by the Academic Affairs office and recently circulated.

E. Harris reported on the pass/fail debate at the University Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.


Clarke E. Cochran, Secretary
Faculty Senate