

MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING 85

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 21, 1987 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Gerald Skoog, president, presiding. Senators present were Aycock, Blair, Brink, Carlile, Cravens, Curry, Davis, Ethridge, Gades, Gipson, Hartwell, Higdon, Koeppe, Koh, McLaughlin, Mann, Mathis, Muma, Newcomb, Owens, Payne, Pearson, Platten, Postell, Samson, Sasser, Savage, Schoenecke, Scott, Steele, Stoune, Tereshkovich, Whitsitt, Williams, J. Wilson and M. Wilson. Senators Cartwright, Gustafson, Lawrence, McKown, Wicker and Wood were absent. Senators Ford, Gettel, Hudson, Keho, Smith and Stockton were absent because of University business. Senators Oberhelman, Reid, and Whitehead were absent because of illness. Senator Barnard is on leave from the University.

The meeting of the Texas Tech Faculty Senate was called to order by President Skoog on Wednesday, January 21, 1987 at 3:37 P.M.

Skoog welcomed and recognized visitors. Those in attendance include: Len Ainsworth, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, Harold Luce, Chairman, Department of Music; Preston Lewis, News and Publications and representatives from the news media.

I. Approval of minutes of the meeting of December 10, 1986.

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: "advacacy" is changed to "advocacy" in III.3: "studen" is changed to "student" in IV.B.: ":" is changed to "" in IV.B.3.; "introduced" is changed to "introduced" in V.C.. Additionally, the basis of Brink's resolution in V.C. is to be clarified by the addition of the phrase, "In response to an advertisement offering to 'prepare' students research papers posted in the University Center...." before "Brink introduced...".

II. Report by William Harwell on Academic Council Meetings

Updating the report on the December Academic Council meeting, Hartwell noted:

1. The draft Financial Exigency Policy has been referred to general counsel to ascertain if it is implementable in its current form.
2. Deans were reminded that the date that faculty annual reports are due in the office of Academic Affairs has been delayed until February 20, 1987.
3. VPAAR Haragan proposed a retreat of the Academic Council which would include possibly two regents and representatives from the Faculty Senate. A firm date for the event has yet to be set.
4. The city of Lubbock is going to sponsor a Texas Tech University appreciation day on February 26, 1987 with a dinner for invited guests. On February 27, there will be a series of activities on the Texas Tech Campus to advertise the ongoing academic and research activities of the University.
5. A faculty committee recommended that planning for faculty appreciation should continue into the spring semester for a later date than the proposed January 28, 1987 date. The Ex-students Association is considering monetary awards for new faculty.
6. The SACS is implementing new criteria for teaching assistants having their own class. Details are available in the December Faculty Senate Minutes.

7. New retirement rules eliminating mandatory retirement ages do not apply to professors in universities and schools with systems of unlimited tenure. The recommendation from the deans is to continue the mandatory retirement age of 70 while retaining the option to hire retired individuals on one year contracts. This approach would allow half time appointments with approval of the President of the University and greater than half time appointments with approval of the Board of Regents.

Reporting on the January meeting of the Academic Council, Harwell noted the following.

1. The add-drop deadline has been extended to January 27, for this semester.
2. Status of the Financial Exigency Plan is still indeterminate.
3. Hartwell will be attending a meeting of representatives of faculty governance bodies of colleges and universities in Texas in Austin. Financial exigency plans and planning is an agenda item for the meeting.
4. In a discussion of commencement, comments were not unfavorable.
5. Assistant VPAAR Sowell provided a report from the General Education Agency.
6. Funding difficulties due to low graduate enrollment was discussed. The need for strategies to change enrollment mix was noted.

Skoog noted that the committee on financial exigency planning, of which he is a member, has concluded that they are not able to find a policy which better serves the university than that which was approved by the Faculty Senate in October, 1986. He has communicated this information to President Cavazos and the Board of Regents.

III. Report by a representative of the Office of Academic Affairs and Research

Reporting for VPAAR Haragan, Associate VPAAR Ainsworth made note of the following.

1. Dr. Joe Goodin has been named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
2. Ainsworth elaborated farther on the open house on February 27, as part of the Texas Tech appreciation day.
3. The Spring semester is a formula generation term. Consequently, small classes are receiving closer scrutiny than usual before approval.
4. The retirement rule will be presented to the Board of Regents at their next meeting. It is for information purposes at this time and not official action.
5. Faculty participation in commencement was up circa thirty percent. Faculty in general and the Convocations Committee in particular are thanked for their participation.

IV. Reports by Senate Committees

No reports were forthcoming.

V. Old Business

A. Modifications of the Pass/Fail Policy as recommended by Student Senate.

Newcomb moved that the recommendation of the Student Senate be committed to committee for revision before consideration by the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded and passed.

VI. New Business

A. Recommendations of the Admissions and Retention Committee.

Wilson moved to accept recommendations. The motion was seconded. Brink moved to table the motion. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

B. Faculty participation in commencement activities.

At the request of VPAAR Haragan, the Faculty Senate was asked to address the questions:

1. Are there changes that need to be implemented to increase faculty participation in these ceremonies?
2. Are changes in the ceremonies needed?

In response to these questions, there was general discussion with diverse opinions offered from the floor.

No action was taken by the body, however.

C. Resolution by Thomas G. McLaughlin

McLaughlin introduced the resolution:

WHEREAS, it is unfortunately somewhat commonplace nowadays, in our institutions of higher learning to overemphasize competitive athletics at the expense of the educational progress of scholarship athletes; and

WHEREAS, for reasons one would hope obvious, such inversions of priorities is a pernicious thing; and

WHEREAS, the external pressures on athletic staff and personnel to do this pernicious thing are often very great;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University commends and applauds Coach Gerald Myers for his recent decisions to allow two of his players to miss games and/or practices in order to progress in their academic work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this decision on Coach Myers' part redounds to the credit of the University and furthers the purposes for which Universities exist. It is to be hoped such policies become the norm.

McLaughlin then moved adoption the resolution with an attached circulation list to include: Coach Gerald Myers, T. Jones, Athletic Director; Lauro Cavoza, President; and News and Publications. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

D. Resolution concerning role of student athletes at Texas Tech University

On behalf of the Agenda Committee, Skoog introduced the resolution:

WHEREAS, the overemphasis on intercollegiate athletics to the detriment of academics has become a national issue; and

WHEREAS, the presidents of the member universities of the NCAA will meet to address this issue,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University strongly encourages President Cavazos to take a position that asserts the priority and integrity of academics in the role of the student athlete and that the Faculty Senate stands ready to provide advice and support to President Cavazos in this effort.

Steele moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

E. Comment by McLaughlin

McLaughlin noted that an advertisement in The Chronicle of Higher Education by a College of Texas Tech University describes the university as a regional school. It was noted that the choice of terms was particularly unfortunate at this point in time.

Representatives of the college indicated that the intent of the expression was different from the apparent effect. Acknowledging that the choice of word was indeed a mistake, the Senate was informed that the advertisement would no longer be run.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Evans W. Curry, Secretary