

MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING #112

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 17, 1990 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate room of the University Center with President Julia Whitsitt presiding. Senators present were Andrews, Barr, Beckner, Brink, Burnett, Couch, Dometrius, Ervin, Finn, Fish, Hall, Hartwell, Hennessey, Hildebrand, Howe, Hurst, Kimmel, Lee, Long, McClendon, Mann, Mehta, Nathan, O'Callaghan, Owens, Pearson, Peters, Peterson, Piatt, Richardson, Rinehart, J. Smith, R. Smith, Thompson, Tock, Trost, Vann, Wagner, Wilson, and Williams. Senators Curry, Hayes, Harp, Hill, Strauss, Tallent, Troyansky, and Westney were absent with reason.

I. Introduction of Guests

President Whitsitt called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and recognized the following guests: Robert Lawless, President; Donald Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joe Goodin, Dean, Arts & Sciences; Denise Jackson, Director of Annual Giving, Office of Development; Doug Birdsell, Suzi Duffy, and David Murrah from the Library; Jim Barlow, Lubbock Avalanche Journal; Connie Swinney, University Daily; and Nick Federspiel, Student Senate.

Professor John Bliese served as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

II. Consideration of the minutes of the December 6, 1989 meeting.

Secretary Wagner noted that the first line in item X C should read as follows: "The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on the third Wednesday, ..."

Dr. Stanley Fowler requested that his telephone number listed in an attachment to the minutes be changed to 742-3013. Senator Long requested that the resolution passed by the Faculty Senate be presented in the minutes. (See attachment)

With no further corrections or additions the minutes were approved.

III. Remarks by President Robert Lawless

President Lawless made the following comments:

A. We have made very little progress on assessment of the university programs. We will begin in the spring semester.

B. He looks forward to working with Senator Fish and the budget committee. We are almost parallel with North Texas University in faculty salaries. There is only \$6,500 difference between Texas Tech and North Texas in faculty salaries. The two universities were also similar in semester credit hours. Texas Tech reported 1170 FTE's; North Texas had 1167. The composition of the FTE's was different, however. North Texas reported that 59 percent of their FTE's were in the first three ranks, Lecturer, Instructor, and Teaching Assistants. Tech had 70 percent in the lower ranks.

C. President Lawless commented on the recent NCAA meeting that he attended:

1. Pell grant eligibility for student athletes was increased from \$1,400 to \$1,700. This and the athletic scholarships are the only sources of aid available to the student athlete.

2. Beginning in 1992 the basketball season will be reduced; the first game may not be played prior to December 1. The number of games per season was reduced from 28 to 25. A team may play in a tournament only once in every four years.

3. Spring football season was modified. There will be 21 days in which a team may practice 15 times; no practice times may be on Sunday. Ten of the 15 practice times may involve contact.
4. The NCAA agreed to a policy of year-round drug testing.
5. The admissions and graduation rates must now be disclosed. Statistics must be given by race.

IV. Remarks by Executive Vice President and Provost Donald R. Haragan

- A. As of 3:00 p.m. January 17th the registration was 22,773 students. This number represents a gain of 382 students over the spring semester, 1989. Of the 1050 students whose registration was cancelled, most due to non-payment of fees, 545 (51.9%) re-registered. Students going through the add/drop process totalled 4,575 (20%).
- B. The January 10th *Wall Street Journal* reported a Supreme Court ruling that colleges and universities that are subject to job discrimination complaints may be required to turn over tenure votes to the court.
- C. Commencement for the spring semester will return to one central convocation ceremony. Following this ceremony each college will conduct its own graduation exercise which will include distributing diplomas. General convocation will be conducted at 9:00 a.m., followed immediately with concurrent college ceremonies.
- D. The Joint Committee on Evaluation has submitted its report to the Provost's office. The Student Senate, as well as the Faculty Senate, will be asked for comments.
- E. House Bill 638 of the last legislative session requires that each institute of higher education establish a program to assist certain faculty members to become proficient in the use of the English language. We must submit a program to ensure that all our faculty are proficient in English by September 1, 1990. Senator R. Smith, Director of the Intensive English Program, was asked to provide recommendations. The Provost's office compiled the recommendations and distributed them to the deans of each college. The Faculty Senate will also be asked to respond to the initial plan.
- F. Statistics from the TASP test reveal that 70% of Tech freshmen were exempt from the test due to college credits earned prior to September 1, 1989. Twenty percent of the remaining freshmen took the test in the fall semester; another 10% will take the TASP this spring. TASP coordinator, Don Garnett will soon move to the basement of Holden Hall in the area that the Tech Press now occupies. Of the freshmen who took the TASP 85.8% passed; pass rate for blacks was 63%; pass rate for Hispanics was 74.5%. Overall pass rate for all Tech students was 84.3%.

V. Reports from Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Senator Mehta, chairperson of the committee on committees, submitted the following names for consideration as the nominating committee for next year's officers: Senators Burnett, Political Science; Finn, Accounting; and Trost, Electrical Engineering. Mehta moved acceptance of this slate; motion passed. Senator Mehta then requested volunteers for the homecoming and committees.
- B. Senator Brink, convener of Study Committee C, read the following resolution proposed by the committee for Senate consideration:

"In the interest in student progress in undergraduate courses the Faculty Senate encourages every faculty member administering grades to give some evaluation of the student's work before the official drop deadline".

Senator Brink proposed the acceptance of this resolution; motion passed.

VI. Reports on Councils

President Whitsitt reported that the Provost's Council has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting; reports from Vice-President Peterson on the Academic Council, Secretary Wagner on the Operations Council, and Senator Peters on the Research Council were distributed with the agenda. Senator Couch reporting for Senator Harp, Faculty Senate Representative to the Gloria Lyerla Library Memorial Fund Research Travel Grants, reminded faculty to apply for these travel grants. It is possible that two grants will be awarded this spring semester.

VII. Old Business

A. President Whitsitt announced that approximately 140 Teaching Assistants attended the workshop for new teachers sponsored by Executive Vice President and Provost Ainsworth.

B. President Whitsitt read a letter from Thomas McGinnity, Assistant Coordinator, Student Organization Services, University Center, which supported the Faculty Senate resolution regarding advertising the sale of term papers on campus. Faculty members were urged to remove unauthorized posters and send them to him.

C. Responses to the Faculty Senate communication with the Provost's office include the following:

1. Vice President Ainsworth stated that the recommendation that late registration and add/drop close at the end of the fourth class day will take effect in 1991 with the publication of the new catalog.
2. Provost Haragan responded to the Faculty Senate report on writing intensive courses with the following comments:
 - a. Writing intensive does not necessarily mean great amounts of writing which must be graded by the faculty.
 - b. Class sizes will have to be studied, but not all classes will need to be small.
 - c. The program needs the support of the faculty for several years to affirm the value of these courses in producing higher academic performance.

D. The Faculty Senate resolution supporting the academic freedom of Dr. John Orem drew both positive and negative responses. President Whitsitt received one intensely negative "hate" letter. On the other hand, the Graduate Council passed a motion supporting the Faculty Senate resolution.

E. Senator Couch, reporting for Study Committee A regarding the request of librarians and archivists for membership representation on the Faculty Senate, stated that the committee recommended that this request be denied, while recognizing the great contribution of librarians to the intellectual life of the campus. The committee polled other universities on this matter and found no uniformity of procedure. Senator Wilson pointed out that full membership would

require a constitution change. Guests representing the library were invited to speak. Senator Howe moved that the librarians and archivists be invited to elect a non-voting representative to the Faculty Senate. With a second motion passed. Senator Barr introduced a resolution expressing support for the goals of the librarians and archivists and suggesting that they be considered for committee appointments. (See Attachment 2 for resolution.) Motion passed.

Senator Hennessey moved that the Faculty Senate ask the Provost's office to consider full faculty status for librarians and archivists. After a second the motion failed.

VIII. New Business

A. Whitsitt reminded the Senate that new officers will be nominated at the February meeting and elected at the March meeting. Several members of the Senate have asked about casting an absentee ballot since they will be attending professional meetings during the election. Whitsitt replied that the current by-laws do not permit absentee ballots. Whitsitt asked for a show of hands regarding the desire to amend the by-laws. Opinion was evenly divided.

B. Senator Rinehart offered the following resolution:
"In the wake of recent violence at the University of Montreal, and in the knowledge that the freedom to learn cannot co-exist with fear, resolved that the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University deplores all forms of violence against women."
After a second the resolution carried.

C. Senator Hall stated that it had come to her attention that inappropriate administrative interference in the grading practices of faculty members had occurred in the College of Arts and Sciences. Senator Hall moved that this situation be referred to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. With a second the motion passed.

D. Senator Hennessey moved that the Faculty Senate study the need for a university wide set of criteria for evaluation of research efforts with relevance for merit pay. With a second motion failed.

IX. Announcements

A. President Whitsitt reminded Faculty Senate members to turn in their spring schedules.

B. Whitsitt stated that the COFGO two-week summer fellowship applications are due.

C. The next agenda meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Wagner
Betty Wagner,
Secretary, 1989-1990

Attachment #1, Agenda item II.

WHEREAS Dr. John Orem's laboratory was recently viciously vandalized, resulting in valuable research material and equipment being destroyed or ruined, and

WHEREAS Dr. Orem has for the past several months been the target of a vicious campaign of threats against himself and his family, and

WHEREAS Professor John Orem, Department of Physiology, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, has recently been strongly commended by national professional regulatory bodies about the exemplary nature of his research, and

WHEREAS these unlawful and immoral activities directed against Dr. Orem by person or persons unknown constitute a serious threat to his personal safety, well being, and academic freedom,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT it is the sense of the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University that the University and the Health Sciences Center should strongly support the furtherance of intellectual pursuits in the sciences, humanities and arts, and

THAT the University and the Health Sciences Center should continue in the most vigorous manner possible to preserve and defend Dr. Orem's academic freedom.

Enacted by the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University, December 6, 1989, and

Transmitted to the President of Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center by means of a letter from the President of the Faculty Senate conveying the resolution.

Attachment #2, Agenda item VII. D

WHEREAS the Texas Tech University librarians and archivists have indicated in a request to the Faculty Senate that they wish "to participate fully in the intellectual life of the campus . . . , " including "curriculum changes, new programs, and long-range planning for the University, " and

WHEREAS the report of Study Committee A expresses support for this goal; and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate recognizes that library staff interacts with all disciplines and all levels of teaching, research and scholarship;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorse the request of librarians and archivists that they be considered for appointment to appropriate university and college committees involved in new academic programs, curriculum development, and long-range planning, and that college and university administrators be encouraged to seek from the library staff nominations for appropriate committee appointments.