

MINUTES #135, FACULTY SENATE
September 9, 1992

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 9, 1992, at 3:15 in the Senate Room of the University Center with Benjamin H. Newcomb, President, presiding. Senators present were Aranha, Benson, Bliese, Bradley, Burnett, Cismaru, Couch, Curzer, Davis, Dragga, Dunn, Duran, Dvoracek, Freeman, Goebel, Haigler, Henry, Hopkins, Huffman, Jonish, Kiecker, D. Mason, J. Mason, Meek, Miller, Mitra, Morrow, Payne, Perl, Reynolds, Roy, Shroyer, Stoune, Strawderman, Trost, Troub, Urban, Wagner and Weber. Senators Coulter, Elbow, Fedler and Green were absent because of University business. Senators Daghistany and Zanglein were absent with reason. Senator Dunne was absent because of illness. Senator Hensley was absent.

I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:20 and welcomed the following guests: President and Mrs. Lawless, Donald R. Haragan, Len Ainsworth and Virginia Sowell, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; Robert Sweazy, Office of Research Services; William G. Wehner and Denise Jackson, Office of Development; Mary Ann Higdon, Library; Chris Loveless and Michelle Sutton, Student Association; Steve Kauffman, News and Publications; Sandra Pulley, University Daily; and other members of the news media.

Professor Clarke E. Cochran, Political Science, served as Parliamentarian.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of 6 May 1992 were approved without dissent.

III. REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT LAWLESS

President Lawless discussed the proposed capital fund drive. At this time a consultant is conducting a feasibility study. The goal is to prepare a report that evaluates the climate for raising money and identifies possible sources of gifts; this report would be presented at the December meeting of the Regents. While other Texas universities are currently conducting capital campaigns, Lawless argued that TTU had programs that could compete well with those at other universities.

Questioned about whether the campaign will be conducted at the university, college, or department level, Lawless responded that he will work at any level necessary for success. TTU can not rely on a "global sell," but must raise money for specific purposes. Usually it is more successful to identify a program that an individual might support and to steer the individual to an area of interest or concern. Goals include money for endowed chairs, for scholarships, for the library, and for facilities for the Southwest Collection and RHIM.

Senator Newcomb asked what could be done to meet the current needs of the library. He noted that the library was falling behind in its acquisitions because of inflation and low funding. Lawless responded that the administration would continue to look into the problem. The library was a priority, but funding would depend on what happened statewide. TTU has some opportunities. It reduced its budget by 5% last year yet did not get cut. While the university cannot spend all this savings (a 10% cut might still come later in the biennium), it is looking at some one time acquisitions.

IV. REMARKS OF VICE-PRESIDENT WEHNER

Vice-President Wehner urged the faculty to suggest individuals who might contribute to a capital campaign.

V. REMARKS OF PROVOST HARAGAN

(Complete report on file in Faculty Senate Office)

Wielding a battery of charts and graphs, Provost Haragan addressed the issues of funding and enrollments at TTU.

Funding: Although the enrollment has increased, state funding for higher education has grown little (2%) since 1985; on the other hand funding for state programs such as safety and corrections has grown dramatically. The result is a 10% decrease in per student expenditures for higher education in Texas; during this same period, spending for higher education increased in other states. The fees and nonresident tuition charged by Texas colleges and universities are also among the lowest in the nation. As a result Texas ranks last (51st out of the fifty states and the District of Columbia) in per student funds for higher education.

In response to the budget problems, forty-one professorial positions have been eliminated at TTU since 1985. Lectureships have been cut as well.

Enrollment and Admission standards: Current enrollment figures are 24,277, down somewhat from those of 1990. The decline in enrollment is only partially a result of higher admissions standards. Student cost at TTU are twice those of community colleges, and the pool of high school graduates has been low during the few years. While the headcount is down, the number of credit hours has declined less than 1%; the number of graduate hours has increased by 6%. The benefits of higher standards are clear: the average SAT scores, ACT scores, and GPAs of entering students have increased as has the one-year retention rate of first year students (now over 70%). Haragan felt that the decision to increase admission standard was correct; while it takes time for the image of an institution to change, the message was out.

Honors Program: Originally the search for a director of the proposed university-wide honors program had been limited to internal candidates. Many faculty, however, requested that an external search be conducted, and the administration has decided to do that. Clarke Cochran is directing the search, which we hope to have "up and running" by next fall.

Graduate vs. Undergraduate funding: Legislative concerns that undergraduate education is underfunded have generated fear that money will be diverted from graduate education to improve undergraduate education. Haragan hopes to get out the message that both are underfunded. Currently the Coordinating Board is considering limiting state funding for post-baccalaureate education to 80 hours per graduate student. At TTU, the average credit hours for the doctorate is well above 100 and probably should stay at this level to assure quality education. The average years to the doctorate varies by discipline (from 4 to 8 or more years). It is also difficult to compare the funding of graduate education in Texas with that in other states because no other state uses a similar funding scheme.

Strategic Planning: Senator Newcomb asked about the status of strategic planning and about the role of elected faculty participation in the process. Haragan responded that he expected the colleges to do the planning at this stage. The strategic planning committee will set goals.

and targets for the colleges, probably in the area of student/faculty ratios, and the colleges will decide how to reach these goals. In the last year, 16 degree programs have been eliminated (not including those merged with others). He didn't know of any other programs slated for elimination, but there were still problems with student/faculty ratios and efficiency. These could be dealt with at the college level. Haragan would encourage elected faculty participation where it was feasible, but he would not mandate the mechanics of choice. When pressed about the role of the faculty, Haragan reiterated that the deans could decide how to involve the faculty. They would be given maximum flexibility in reaching the goals set by the strategic planning committee.

Haragan noted that the faculty would have an opportunity to evaluate college administrations, including the deans. This year the faculty of all colleges except Arts & Science and Architecture will be asked to evaluate the administration. An evaluation form designed by the deans will be sent to all faculty. These forms will be returned anonymously to Haragan, who will evaluate them and have the comments typed out; the original forms will then be destroyed. Haragan is seeking an honest assessment in order to improve the administration. Arts and Sciences and Architecture (which have the newest deans) will be evaluated next year. Later a regular schedule for evaluations will be established.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Newcomb's office hours in the Senate office will be MW 1:30-3pm.

Forms to apply for Kellogg Fellowships are available in the Senate office. Kellogg Fellowships provide funds for faculty who are only 2-12 years past their degree to study outside their own field.

VII. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Provost's Council-- Benjamin Newcomb (report distributed to Senators and on file in the Senate office).

Senator Weber directed the Senate's attention to the proposed change in the name of the College of Home Economics to the College of Human Sciences. The change is due to be presented to the Regents at their October meeting. There are departments of human sciences, he noted, that are not in the College of Home Economics. Haragan responded that the new name had been chosen by the College of Home Economics to better represent what went on in the college; the proposal reflected changes taking place on the national level and had his support and the support of the coordinating board. He also said that departments such as Psychology and HPER had been consulted about the change. Senator Weber asked to go on record in opposition to the change. He had heard nothing about the proposed change, doubted that most people in his department knew about it, and felt that a majority would oppose it. A motion to send the proposed name change to committee for study was adopted without dissent. President Newcomb will assign the matter to one of the Senate's standing committees.

Academic Council--Candace Haigler (report distributed to Senators and on file in the Senate office).

Senator Haigler brought to the attention of the Senate the policy that all vacancies in classified personnel positions must be filled at the minimum level. This could affect research grants by preventing the hiring of the best qualified person. It was moved and seconded that a Senate committee

study the impact of this policy and the possibility of amending it to allow flexibility in such hiring decisions. The motion passed with no dissent; President Newcomb will assign the matter to one of the Senate's standing committees.

Graduate Council--M. Catherine Miller (report distributed to Senators and on file in the Senate office).

VIII. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES OF FACULTY SENATE

Committee on Committees--in the absence of Senator Dunne, who was ill, Senator Wagner presented the report. The report was accepted without dissent. (Report distributed to Senators and on file in the Senate office.)

IX. OLD BUSINESS

At the 6 May 1992 meeting, Senator Dagistany requested that the study committee report on faculty service be placed on the fall agenda for further consideration. However, no discussion was offered at this time.

The Athletic Department had responded to the Senate's request that it clarify the graduation rate statistics reported last spring. The Athletic Department had adjusted the graduation rate of athletes to account for those who had transferred or withdrawn from the university in good standing; the graduation rate of other TTU students was not so adjusted. The Athletic Department now reports the graduation rates for athletes and all students when discounted for those leaving in good standing to be as follows:

	all students	athletes
Graduation within 5 years:	43%	43.2%
Graduation within 6 years:	51%	57.7%

Senator Newcomb noted that an article in the July 22, 1992 Chronicle of Higher Education has warned about the inaccuracies and problems inherent in using such discounted graduation rates.

X. NEW BUSINESS

It was accepted without dissent that the meeting dates of the Senate be adjusted to fit the University calendar. The first meeting of Spring 1992 will be Wednesday, 20 January 1993; the last meeting will be Wednesday, 5 May 1993.

Senate liaisons to the Development Council, Research Council, University Center Board, Student Association, and Intellectual Property Rights Committee need to be appointed. Those interested in filling these vacancies were asked to call the Senate Office to volunteer.

A complaint had been raised with President Newcomb concerning department chairs who were assigned to teach and to receive administrative compensation during both summer sessions. This practice deprives others of the opportunity of summer teaching. Senator Cismaru moved that this issue be given to a committee for investigation. The motion was adopted with no discussion and no dissent.

Parking problems: Entry Stations are now unmanned after 3:30, and some faculty have reported that students are taking parking spaces. This is especially a problem for those in Home Economics and Education due to the location of the parking lots and the frequency of afternoon classes. As

part of the 5% cut, the administration has terminated one team of people who had previously manned entry stations. In addition, the University has not been towing cars due to a doubling of costs; instead it is applying boots to illegally parked cars so that they can not be moved until receiving a ticket from a police officer. Provost Haragan suggested that faculty park in another space since late in the afternoon there were usually empty spaces in the affected lot. It was moved and adopted that a Senate senate committee investigate the problem of interlopers in the more popular parking lots.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Catherine Miller

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Secretary 1992-93

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Items for the Senate agenda should be submitted before
AGENDA COMMITTEE meetings on October 5, November 2,
November 30, 1992 and January 11, 1993.