

MINUTES #142, FACULTY SENATE
April 14, 1993

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, April 14, 1993, at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with Benjamin H. Newcomb presiding. Senators present were Benson, Bliese, Burnett, Cismaru, Couch, Coulter, Curzer, Dunn, Dunne, Dvoracek, Elbow, Fedler, Freeman, Haigler, Hensley, Higdon, Hopkins, Huffman, Kiecker, D. Mason, J. Mason, Meek, Miller, Morrow, Payne, Perl, Roy, Shroyer, Stoune, Strawderman, Trost, Troub, Urban, Wagner, Weber, Zanglein and Zartman. Senators Aranha, Bradley, Daghistany, Goebel, Jonish and Mitra were absent because of University business. Senators Dragga, and Green were absent.

President Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:20 and welcomed the following guests: Donald R. Haragan, Executive Vice President and Provost; Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Robert Sweazy, Vice Provost for Research; Steve Kauffman, News and Publications; Denise Jackson, Office of Development; Mary Ann Higdon, Library; Gerald Skoog, Chair, Faculty Status and Welfare Committee; Chris Loveless, Student Association President; Daniel Nathan, Philosophy; Sandra Pulley, University Daily, Julie Hemby, Lubbock Avalanche Journal and television cameramen and reporters.

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

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 March 1993 were approved as distributed.

II. ATHLETICS

A. Report of the Athletic Council and Athletic Department (distributed to Senators and on file in Senate Office) Cheryl Glover, academic coordinator of the athletic department, and Athletic Director T. Jones had prior commitments and were not present. Robert Sweazy, Chair of Athletic Council, and Ronn Reeger, Academic Program Assistant, were present. No formal oral presentation was given; consideration of the report proceeded through questions and answers.

Senator Newcomb opened the discussion by asking for a response to the Sports Illustrated report that only 14% of the football players entering TTU in 1983 and 1984 had graduated within six years, the lowest graduation rate among Division I schools still having football. Mr. Reeger responded that this figure could not be verified. Sweazy, however, explained that the 14% rate was a composite of the graduation rates of the 83/84 and 84/85 cohorts of football players. The rates for these cohorts were 21.1% and 8.7% respectively. He attributed this poor rate of academic success to the then football coach, who, in danger of losing his job, recruited any player he thought might improve this team's performance. Since that time, Sweazy argued, both TTU and the Southwest Conference had adopted changes which had resulted in higher graduation rates.

Discussion moved to current graduation rates as reported by the Athletic Department. Senator Newcomb pointed out that the graduation rate for male athletes had not improved from 92/93 to 93/94. The graduation rate for women athletes, however, had improved from 31% to 71%, and this success had increased the overall graduation rate for athletes. The

appropriateness of the information presented to the Senate was questioned, specifically statistics on the graduation rate of senior scholarship football players (37% in 91/92). Since this figure reflected only those who had played when seniors, not all who had entered with scholarships in 86/87, it could not be compared with information from other years. Mr. Reeger could not explain why this measure was chosen, did not know the graduation rates of the 86/87 cohort of football players, but said that the graduation rate of senior scholarship players was higher than that of the entering cohort. Senator Newcomb stated that he would request the appropriate figures, and Sweazy offered other information. According to Sweazy, the six-year graduation rate for scholarship football players entering in 85/86 was 35%. For those entering in 86/87, the five-year graduation rate, discounted for those "leaving in good standing," was 29%; the discounted six-year rate was approximately 36%. Sweazy was asked to clarify the meaning of "leaving in good standing" and if this term included any measure of progress toward a degree. Sweazy stated that to leave in good standing required only that a student be eligible for readmission, i.e. have a 2.0 GPA. However, to compete, the NCAA required athletes to meet certain other intermediate checkmarks. For example, athletes must take 12 hours per semester, pass 24 hours per year (75% of these in the long semesters), and declare a major and complete 25% of their degree requirements by the fifth semester. Many cannot meet these requirements, Sweazy noted, and are lost at the early hurdles, so athletes who complete their eligibility at TTU tend to have a graduation rate higher than that of all athletes who enter in a given year.

Discussion turned to the academic performance of freshman scholarship athletes, especially those admitted after admission review or under special authority. (Special authority admissions are those who would be on probation when admitted; athletes with scholarships, however, are not listed as on probation regardless of their high school records). Senator Newcomb noted that special authority admissions had increased generally, but especially among scholarship athletes. In 1992/93 42 of 48 freshmen scholarship athletes had SAT's lower than the TTU average; in 1991/92, 30 of 42 had lower SAT scores. (Senator Fedler later suggested that the score differences at issue were not statistically significant.) In 92/93, 71% of the scholarship athletes who had been admitted after admission review had GPA's below 2.0; 56% of all freshman scholarship athletes had GPA's below 2.0. For 1991/92 the comparable figures were 56% and 29%, seeming to belie other comments about improved standards and academic progress. Reeger responded that the average GPA of all TTU freshmen had declined and suggested that the faculty should explain this decline. A query was raised about the many current football recruits who met neither TTU or NCAA standards for admission. Sweazy stated that the list included all who had signed letters of intent (usually before taking the SAT) and that those who did not meet NCAA standards could not participate in athletics in the Southwest Conference and would not be at TTU.

At this point Senator Weber moved that the Faculty Senate make a public apology to the Athletic Department for criticizing the academic progress of athletes in the resolution adopted during the March meeting. The resolution, he argued, was based on false information, while the Senate had received "true information" at this meeting. He also asked that the Senate state that it supported the Athletic Department for the academic progress that had been made and that it supported the athletic programs at TTU. The motion was seconded by Senator Dunne. Senator Cismaru

moved for a secret ballot, but this motion failed. The motion that the Senate apologize for its resolution failed by a vote of 11 yes, 22 no.

Discussion of the Athletic Department's report resumed following this vote. Newcomb pointed out that the percentage of all athletes with GPA's below 2.0 had increased from 24% in Fall 1991 to 27% in Fall 1992; the percentage of all TTU students with GPA's below 2.0 had remained steady at 18%. Professor Nathan commented that 32 of the 48 scholarship athletes appeared to have been admitted on probation, though because they had received scholarships they would not have been listed in this way. Senator Weber countered that other students receiving scholarships, including special scholarships for minority groups and for religious groups, would be treated similarly. Senator Haigler noted that the rules governing academic scholarships made it unlikely that many students receiving non-athletic scholarships would be in this category. Sweazy responded that the figures supplied to the Senate did not indicate how many athletes might have been admitted on probation; the figures were given in terms of core GPA (as required by the NCAA), while TTU admission standards were based on rank in class.

Questions then focused on the issue of scholarships. In fiscal 1992, the Athletic Department spent \$1.3 million on scholarships. Responding to inquiries, Sweazy explained that full athletic scholarships average about \$6000 per year for in-state students and are only given in "headcount" sports (football, men's and women's basketball, volley ball, and women's tennis). No academic scholarship appears to provide this level of support. While presidential scholars receive \$2000, Senator Payne commented that most academic scholarships are in the \$200 range and are given to students with a proven academic record at TTU. Provost Haragan suggested that since students could receive multiple academic scholarships some presidential scholars might receive amounts of aid similar to athletes. Those receiving athletic scholarships, Senator Dunne observed, could neither accept other scholarships nor work during the academic year; we were "paying them" for the long hours of the work that precluded other activities. Sweazy noted his agreement with Dunne's statement.

B. Report of Study Committee B (amendments distributed to Senators and on file in Senate office)

Study Committee B submitted amendments to its December report on the AAUP Resolution on Athletics, and Senator Weber moved that the amended report be accepted by the Senate. He commented on the funding of athletics from institutional appropriations, arguing that without such funding TTU would be in violation of Title 9, which mandates support for women's athletics. Senator Haigler objected to the assumption that such monies went to women's athletics rather than to smaller men's sports and asked if the athletic department had been asked to make cuts in its expenditures like the rest of the university. The situation, Weber argued, was "historical." Prior to 1985, all women's sports had been funded through women's PE, thus entirely from program fees. When women's athletics were merged with the Athletic Department, Sweazy explained, the funding given to women's athletics (in 1986, \$882,810) was transferred to the Athletic Department, with the provision that such institutional appropriations would be cut by 10% of this amount each year. This had been done, and the subsidy of women's athletics would end by 1996. Haigler suggested that this money be given to the library.

Professor Nathan corrected an inaccuracy in the amendments to Committee B's report. The amended report attributed to the AAUP a statement that the Athletic Department received \$1.2 million from institutional funds and implied that this figure distorted the true situation. Nathan pointed out that this figure came from the committee's own December report.

Senator Elbow moved that the report of Committee B be tabled. The motion to table passed by a vote of 19 yes, 13 no.

C. Amendment of introductory clauses to Senate Resolution on Athletic Policy (March 10, 1993)

Senator Newcomb offered new "whereas" clauses to replace those in the Senate's March 10th Resolution on Athletics. This proposal was provoked by President Lawless's rejection of the whereas clauses as erroneous. Lawless has not commented on the substantive portions of the resolution. Newcomb proposed language that included specific statistics and referred to minutes of the Athletic Council which suggested that the Athletic Department was giving inadequate attention to the academic performance of athletes. It was moved and seconded that the revised clauses be substituted for those in the original resolution. Professor Sweazy objected that the new clauses were "untruthful" because they reflected past not current experiences. He also argued that the Athletic Department had implemented some recommendations for improving academic standards, such as increasing study hall hours and spending more time discussing academics with potential recruits. Noting that statistics were always subject to reinterpretation and that the focus should be on the substantive proposals of the resolution, Senator Haigler suggested replacing both the original and the substitute clauses with a single clause. This proposal passed with no dissent. The four whereas clauses in the March 10 resolution were replaced by the following clause:

Whereas the faculty believes that there is the need for continued efforts to insure that all athletes meet academic standards for admission and graduation rates reflective of the general student body of Texas Tech University,

III. REMARKS OF PROVOST HARAGAN

Provost Haragan was asked to address a number of concerns that the Senate had sent to him. He noted that he was reviewing the earlier report from the Senate's Faculty Status and Welfare Committee and that the Senate could expect a response and comments before the next meeting.

Multicultural Requirement: Haragan reported that he was responsible for the elimination an earlier recommendation from the General Education Committee that a multicultural requirement be adopted. Haragan still had doubts and was uncertain that one course could encourage an appreciation of cultural differences. Few universities, he noted, had such a requirement. At this point the administration has identified 25 or so courses already in the catalog that might be flagged to fill a multicultural requirement, and the General Education Committee has been asked to look at the issue. The General Education Committee will also consider the recommendation for reducing the number of required GE courses, although the coordinating board's model for general education contains five more hours than TTU's current 49.

Mission of the University: The Senate had recommended that a task force be created to consider the University's mission. Haragan reported that

both the Service Plus Committee and the Purpose and Effectiveness Committee for the SACS review had already proposed new mission statements. These two proposals had been discussed with President Lawless, and Professor Brink has been asked to talk to the Purpose and Effectiveness Committee and have it modify its proposed statement to accommodate the concerns of the Service Plus Committee. The resulting compromise statement will be submitted to the president and the regents for approval. No additional committee was needed.

Haragan expected to have a better handle on the budget situation in a month. The Senate and House bills were at conference committee, and though much could still happen, Haragan felt things looked better than they did six months ago. In addition, the actions already taken to cut expenses have helped prepare for any future cuts. The items still of concern are the status of performance measures, the funding of the 3% raise, the limit on the funding of doctoral hours, and the funding of the ORP.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Development Council noted that proposals for grants from local foundations (Helen DeVitt Jones Foundation, The CH Foundation and Southwestern Bell Foundation) may be submitted through the Development Office. The deadline for submitting applications is May 3.

V. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Provost Council--M. Catherine Miller

After briefly considering declaring a day of no classes to honor the women's basketball team's NCAA championship, the provost's council listened to presentations on library costs and on the current state of funding bills before the state legislature. Provost Haragan reported that strategic planning had been put on hold since budget projections did not seem as bad as earlier predicted, but he noted that "low productivity" programs were still being examined. Haragan proposed expanding the current advising center that serves Arts & Science undeclared majors to accommodate a broader spectrum of undecided students.

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

GPA's of students who have retaken courses in the past will be recomputed if the student petitions and indicates the class(es) that have been retaken. Petitions are required because the current recordkeeping system cannot recalculate GPA's automatically. Efforts are being made to provide for automatic recalculation as soon as possible.

Research Council--Fred P. Wagner, Jr. (report distributed to senators and on file in Senate office) There will be a campus briefing on the ATP/ARP program on May 7th at 8:30 for anyone interested in the program.

University Center Advisory Board--Thomas Trost

The University Center has resolved earlier problems concerning its food service contract with Housing and Dining, although it is unclear if the changes include the introduction of branded providers. A number of rooms at the UC are being remodeled, with funds coming from an increase in student fees, and a number of rooms are being renamed.

Library Committee

The Library Committee met with President Lawless, Provost Haragan and Vice Provost Ainsworth and began considering the resolution proposed at the last Senate meeting. A more definite report can be expected at the May 5th Senate meeting.

VI. REPORTS FROM AD HOC AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY SENATE
Environmental Impact Study Committee--John Bliese (report distributed to
senators and on file in the Senate office)

Study Committee C--Sunanda Mitra (report distributed at March meeting
and on file in Senate office)

Study Committee C recommended that the Fall grade report day be the Monday after commencement. The Senate unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Faculty Status & Welfare Committee--Gerald Skoog (report distributed to
senators and on file in Senate office)

The committee was charged to evaluate proposals for reorganizing the Senate submitted by Senator Hensley at the February meeting. The committee recommended against adopting these proposals. The committee argued that the Senate had shown itself able to consider issues such as teaching and research and did not need to set up a "shadow" administration. The committee did recommend that the Faculty Senate Budget Study Committee be more active in the budgeting process, including in the setting of budget priorities. The committee recommended that the Faculty Senate Budget Study Committee participate in the initial university budgeting process and function as an advisory committee to the provost in allocating funds among the units of the university. In addition it recommended that elected faculty committees be established in each college to advise the dean on budget matters, to work to develop preliminary budgets, and to advise on the final disposition of funds.

Senator Hensley felt that the Faculty Status & Welfare committee had missed the point of his proposals. His concern was that the Senate be proactive and able to hold the administration accountable for carrying out Senate recommendations. The faculty and the Senate needed to be organized to provide continuity and to create a collective body that could be leading the university rather than following the leadership of the administration. Senator Fedler chastised the Senate for spending so much time discussing athletics rather than its role in governance. Senator Elbow, who wrote the report of the Faculty Status & Welfare committee, defended its recommendations. The Senate, he argued, had been more proactive than Hensley acknowledged; its role, however, was limited by lack of access to crucial information. Access to the budget process would help remedy this. The model proposed by the committee, he noted, followed the model in place at UT Austin.

The Senate accepted this report and its recommendations with some dissenting votes.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Senate unanimously adopted the following resolution congratulating the women's basketball team:

The Texas Tech University Faculty Senate, representing the faculty of the University, extends its heartiest congratulations and warmest appreciation to the Texas Tech Women's Basketball Team on its triumphant attainment of the 1993 Division I national basketball championship. It is particularly gratifying to the faculty that these most highly talented student athletes also evince diligent attention to their studies and success in the classroom. We commend the coaching and support staffs for their achievement in training, guiding, and encouraging these outstanding student athletes.

X. The Senate adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Catherine Miller

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Secretary 1992/93