

95/96

**FACULTY SENATE SUMMARY**  
August 22, 1996

Highlights of the 1995/1996 year for the Faculty Senate:

Senate actions, still pending:

The Senate approved in concept the proposal by Senator Elbow to streamline the current faculty grievance procedure. A final proposal is to be resubmitted to the Senate in Fall 1996.

The Senate by consensus resolved that its officers should nominate an ad hoc committee, broadly representative of the University, whose purpose would be to issue a formal report on the role of faculty committees in TTU governance and on how that role can be improved.

An amended resolution from Study Committee A indicates that "The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University recognizes the need of involving administrators, Senators, and at-large community appointees (including students) in discussion of timely and important issues affecting education, and asks that the Senate officers formulate some structure by which this can be brought about, and bring such suggestions back to the Senate floor, through an appropriate committee for approval.

The Faculty Senate Faculty Performance Assessment Committee (made a standing committee March 1995) remains authorized to continue its investigation of how the general principles of productivity assessment contained in its 1995 report are implemented in TTU practice.

The Senate approved a resolution by Senator Westfall to establish a "Wall of Fame" celebrating the accomplishments of members of the TTU community.

Senate Resolutions:

On the status of faculty salaries, the Senate endorsed a resolution to be sent to President Lawless stating that:

1. The Faculty Senate fully supports the goal of President Lawless to make Texas Tech University the number one choice in higher education among the public institutions in the state by the year 2005.
2. The current salary inequity between Texas Tech and other leading state universities is an impediment to this goal.
3. We therefore urge that faculty salaries at Texas Tech be raised to a level that is consistent with this goal.

Concerning the President's proposal to reschedule all classes, Senator Held provided a detailed chronicle of the class rescheduling issue and annotations to the chronicle.

The Senate requested a response from President Lawless, asking:

1. How did the Administration fail to communicate and to utilize the normal consultative processes in this instance?
2. What specific steps can be taken to prevent future actions of this kind and to facilitate a more effective working relationship between the Administration and the Faculty Senate and Student Senate?

A second resolution was a request that President Lawless:

1. demonstrate a need for an across-the-board plan,
2. present evidence that the plan will maintain or increase enrollments during a formula funding year, and
3. seek advice, suggestions and support from
  - a. the chairs who must implement the policy, and
  - b. the elected representatives of faculty and students who will be directly affected by the policy.

Incidents of racial and cultural intolerance on campus resulted in the Senate approving the following resolution:

Be it resolved that:

1. The Faculty Senate condemns in the strongest terms the use of threats of violence and abusive language or behavior directed at any individual or group, including racial, ethnic, national minorities, women, and individuals of diverse sexual orientation, and that
2. we call on the Administration to condemn publicly the actions of any individual or group that contribute to the prevailing hostile atmosphere, and that
3. we invite the leaders of affected campus organizations to make formal presentations to the Faculty Senate, informing this body of the specific problems they and their members have experienced, and suggest remedies to be presented to the Administration for strengthening and enforcement of the existing codes of conduct.

The Senate reviewed the Provost's new guidelines for tenure and promotion procedures. Among the changes recommended by resolutions were requirements for outside letters of support, a resolution that "the department or unit leader in consultation with the candidate provide a summary of teaching effectiveness to be included in the tenure and promotion packet that is forwarded to the provost"; and the omission of a sentence concerning outside appraisal of candidate's scholarly activities "if the candidate's field is one in which no colleague at Texas Tech University has expertise."

Senator Pearson moved the following recommended change in language in the Faculty Handbook, which was unanimously accepted:

Faculty members and staff may seek and campaign for elective office so long as this is done on their own time and that university resources are not used. It is understood that such campaigning would not interfere with the proper discharge of the faculty or staff members' university duties. Persons elected or appointed to political or political party office or other community service position on federal, state or local boards or commissions may be required by the Board of Regents to take leave of absence without pay for the duration of their term of service.

On the issue of faculty productivity, a resolution regarding the recognition of research in the defining of "productivity" was submitted to the Executive Vice President and Provost. Concerning a proposed attempt to classify service to the University according to a set formula, the final recommendation passed by the Senate was: "The committee recommends that the guidelines for a detailed classification scheme ranking service be eliminated from the policy."

Senator Paul Goebel provided a report recommending that all faculty, full or part-time instructors, adjuncts, etc. be made aware of the issues of sexual harassment and the awareness be made through training videos currently available. The Senate approved the recommendation by acclamation.

Senator Miller recommended that the administration consider a banner for faculty at commencement to be carried by some faculty senate member. The recommendation was passed.

Senator Dunham provided a motion concerning the surplus self-insurance funds:

**Resolved** "the Faculty Senate requests that the excess funds from the self-insurance fund be returned directly to the employees. Any funds not so returned may be used as scholarships so long as one-half of the funds are designated to be distributed to employees and the faculty on the basis of need and one-half distributed on the basis of merit. The money should be handled by a faculty/staff committee with members representing the Financial Aid office, the Faculty Senate, and staff. Matters of eligibility should be determined by the designated committee."

The Bylaws of the Faculty Senate were amended to read:

Not later than its March meeting each year the Faculty Senate shall elect a President, Vice President and Secretary from its membership to serve for a term of

one year beginning on the first day following the end of the spring semester. The new officers-elect shall then attend the immediately succeeding April and May meetings of the Agenda Committee in a non-voting capacity.

Nominees must have at least one full year remaining of their Senate terms at the time of their nomination.

(Underlined portions were the approved additions to the Bylaws.)

The Senate unanimously **resolved**:

"The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University calls upon the President of Texas Tech University to communicate in a timely manner with the Senate and/or the Senate's officers on all important University matters, and

The Faculty Senate at Texas Tech University calls upon the President of Texas Tech University to address the Faculty Senate at its first meeting each semester and to attend and/or address other meetings of the Senate as appropriate either directly or by way of appropriate designees."

Presentations by Senate Visitors:

Provost Donald Haragan offered regular reports to the Senate concerning the state of the university.

Rosslyn Smith, Director, and William M. Marcy, Co-Chair of the Teaching, Learning, Technology Center Advisory Committee, introduced the Teaching, Learning, Technology Center.

Lady Falls Brown, Director, explained the work of the University Writing Center.

Director Gary Bell described the Honors Program.

Curt Bourne, President, Student Association, spoke in an effort to establish a better communication between the student body and faculty.

Don Cosby, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, provided a report on the status of the insurance money paid during FYs 90-92 when TTU was self-insured.

Dr. Robert Ewalt discussed current issues regarding student enrollment and retention. A major topic was the student information system.

Melody Weiler, Chair of the Faculty Forum, gave a summary of the development of this committee, and its charge and actions since development.

Troy Johnson, Director of Graduate Admissions, provided update on the changes to admission types effective Fall 1995 and background as to why the changes were developed.

Thomas Newman, Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology, responded briefly to questions concerning HEAF fund allocation.

Gene Medley, Director of Admissions and Records, presented a report on future plans for registration procedures.


Dr. Alfonso Scandrett reported on the significant academic progress made by athletes over the last four years.

Dr. John Burns reported on the self-insurance reserve and the Regents' hesitation to return the money to any individuals.

Dr. Edward Anderson, Associate Director of the Teaching Learning and Technology Center (TLTC) reported on the progress of the Center and on possible opportunities presented by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF).

Ms. Kerry Billingsley, Director of Quality Services, outlined the functions of her office.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Clifford B. Fedler  
Secretary 1995-96