

MINUTES #177

MARCH 12, 1997

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 12, 1997 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with President John Howe presiding. Senators present were Bremer, Corbett, Couch, DeBell, Dornier, Dowell, Dunham, Dunne, Elbow, Fedler, Floyd, Fox, George, P. Goebel, U. Goebel, Held, Hensley, Herring, Hufford, Khan, Lan, Liman, Mann, Meek, Miller, Morrow, Nguyen, Olivarez, Opp, Rainger, Reckner, Reed, River, Sarkar, Schaller, Stinespring, Stout, V. Thompson, Tock, Urban and Whisnant. Senators Casadonte, Coulter, Jackson, Myers, and L. Thompson were absent because of University business. Senators Coombs, Robert, and Welton were absent.

I. President Howe called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and recognized the following guests: John Burns, Interim Provost; Virginia Sowell, Associate Provost; Herman Phillips, Director of Academic Computing Services; Robert M. Sweazy, Senior Associate Vice President for Research; Jim Brunjes, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; A. William Gustafson, College of Human Sciences, Kathleen Hennessey, College of Business Administration; Alison Myhra, School of Law; Jerry Jurica, Atmospheric Science; Kristin Ketcham, Michelle Hughes, Yasser Khan, and Randy Steele, Student Association; Christy Everett and Mary Hudspeth, journalism students; Matt Henry, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, and Charles Melton and Ginger Pope, University Daily.

Professor Clarke Cochran, Political Science, served as Parliamentarian.

II. Minutes of the February 12, 1997 meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Remarks from Invited Guests

Herman Phillips, Director of Academic Computing Services, spoke responding to a Senate Resolution on PPP accounts which was passed last January. Accounts have been made available to retired faculty. To establish an account, contact the ATLC receptionist. Retired faculty should be informed of this benefit. President Howe expressed appreciation for the quick response to the Senate's request.

Robert Sweazy, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Chair of the Athletic Council, said he had intended to discuss athletic revenue, but was requested by the chair of the budget committee not to comment on this matter. Likewise, a Senate committee will report on the functioning of the

Athletic Council, so this item is also off the agenda. He noted that a reception was held for the 38% of student athletes who have a GPA of 3.00 or higher. Sweazy reviewed the NCAA rules governing certification for admission from high school and for continuing participation after admission to a university and discussed the specific rules that led to Texas Tech's recent forfeiture of Big 12 conference basketball games for the 1996-97 season. He noted that student athletes who complete their eligibility at TTU graduate at a rate in excess of 70%. He said that the problem for student athletes isn't generally ability, but motivation and commitment and support services. Better support services must be provided.

In the past, the Athletic Council has made specific recommendations with reference to student athletics. However, the Athletic Council is an advisory body and its advice is accepted or ignored depending on the attitude of the president. Receptivity of the president to the Athletic Council recommendations determines its level of activity. Sweazy's comments were followed by questions from several of the Senators present.

The Student Government initiative regarding faculty teaching evaluations was presented by three representatives from the Student Association, Ms. Michelle Hughes, Ms. Kristin Ketcham, and Mr. Yasser Khan. A resolution passed in the most recent Student Senate meeting calls for publication of the statistical summaries of course evaluations each semester. As part of this resolution, the Student Senate has also called for creation of a committee to be made up of students and faculty to revise the current course evaluations. The form of publication of the evaluations and procedures for their distribution have not been established.

The Student Senate resolution prompted questions from a number of Senators present.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senate Symposium on K-12 education will take place on April 17, 1997.

The Senate will meet in a special meeting at 4 p.m., April 2, 1997 to hear a presentation on the proposed University Master Plan and proposed strategic goals for future development.

Representatives of the Office of Employee Benefits report that two new dentists have been added to the insurance pool. This brings the total number of dentists in the Lubbock area to 4. Efforts continue to add more dentists to the pool.

Senate Bill 148, which mandates a standardized state-wide curriculum, has been voted out of committee in both the Senate and the House. Under provisions of this bill, a committee would be established to create state-wide standard general education curricula that would be required for

all state-supported institutions of higher education. This measure has clear implications for the ability of Texas Tech University and other universities in Texas to control their own curricula. The text of this bill is available in the Faculty Senate office and also on the Texas State Senate web page (<http://www.capitol.senate.tx.us>).

Senate Bill 149, which mandates periodic post-tenure reviews of faculty in state institutions of higher education has been passed out of committee in the Senate and is under review in the House. The text is available on the Faculty Senate tenure page (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate/forum.htm>).

Senate Secretary Leslie Thompson attended the CoFGO meeting in Austin on February 20-21. Her written report was distributed at the Senate meeting and is available in the Faculty Senate Office.

V. COMMITTEE, COUNCIL, AND LIAISON REPORTS

The Elections Committee was asked to supervise the election of Faculty Senate officers for the 1997-98 academic year. The new officers are: President, Edward V. George, CMLL; Vice President, Arturo Olivarez, Education; and Secretary, Lanie Dornier, HPER. The new officers will assume their duties on May 11, the day following Spring Semester commencement.

Academic Programs Committee - Senator Paul Goebel, Chair, introduced a resolution on plus-minus grading. This resolution, if implemented, would reflect plus and minus grades in student grade point averages. The proposed scale is: A+=4.33, A=4.00, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.00, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.0, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.00, D-=0.67 and F=0.00. Following discussion, Senator George moved to divide the motion. He requested separate votes on the issue of including plus-minus grading in the GPA and on the issue of what should be the highest grade allowed under such a system. The motion passed.

Senator Elbow moved to table both items pending additional committee discussion. The motion passed.

Academic Status and Welfare Committee - Senator Charlotte Dunham, Chair, submitted a report that recommended revisions to OP. 32.32, which governs annual faculty performance reviews. Senator Held moved that the three recommended changes be considered as separate items. The motion passed.

a. Addition of a new item (3.f), to read "All units should have a procedure established whereby a committee of peers will be available to arbitrate disagreement between an individual faculty member and the chairperson/coordinator regarding an annual review at the faculty member's request. If the arbitration is not successful, a copy of the committee's recommendation should become part of the annual evaluation."

b. Item 5a should be revised as follows: " written program of development, for a reasonable time but no more than two years, will be established in consultation with the chairperson and the faculty member. Each academic unit will develop additional procedures for involving other faculty in the formulation of a written program of development when requested by the faculty member involved" (new wording underlined).

c. Item 5b should be revised as follows: "The faculty member and the chairperson/coordinator will continue to provide reports at the end of each semester summarizing progress toward development objectives." After some discussion of how the peer committee would be selected by an administrative unit, Senator Elbow moved to refer item a back to the committee for a specific recommendation on the matter. The motion passed. Senator Ulrich Goebel moved to table item b until the committee returns with a recommendation on item a. The motion passed. Senator Floyd moved to table item c until the committee returns with a recommendation on item a.

Discussion continued following passage of the motion to table, which included several recommendations to the committee for changes in the wording of their report. Senator Stinespring noted the desirability of changing the language regarding "unsatisfactory" performance to "pattern of incompetent performance". President Howe responded that Senate Bill 149 (Post-Tenure Review) uses the word "unsatisfactory", and that a change runs the risk of making OP 32.32 non-compliant if SB149 gets through the legislature.

Senate Study Committee B - Senator Edward George, Chair, brought to the floor the committee's report on the Athletic Council. Included in this report were 10 recommendations regarding the organization and operation of the Athletic Council.

1. The Athletic Council, while clearly a recommending body, shall be formally recognized as one of the channels of institutional control over the athletic program.
2. The Athletic Council members shall be chosen by the President from the list of nominees provided by the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees.
3. The membership of the Athletic Council shall be expanded to eleven from its present total of nine, with two faculty members added.
4. Council members shall serve a maximum of two three-year consecutive terms. They may again be reappointed after a three year hiatus.
5. The Chair of the Council shall be someone other than the Faculty Representative to the NCAA.
6. There shall be three ex-officio nonvoting members of the Council:
 - a Faculty Senate liaison; the Faculty Representative to the NCAA; and the Athletic Director.
7. The Athletic Council shall meet monthly during the long session

semesters. The Council shall adopt regulations and by-laws regarding its internal functioning, and such rules and regulations shall provide for regularly scheduled meetings and the keeping of full minutes concerning all of its actions.

8. The Chair of the Athletic Council shall report to the Faculty Senate at least once each semester.

9. The Administration and the Athletic Council shall consider detailing the charge of the Council to assure that the Council is continually monitoring matters such as academic performance of athletes and compliance with Big 12 and NCAA regulations.

10. We call upon the Athletic Council to seek ways of making the Council a means of regular contact between faculty and coaches, such as by inviting one coach per meeting or other measures.

After some discussion, the Senate voted to accept the committee report, along with its specific recommendations regarding the Athletic Committee.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Given the lateness of the hour, President Howe asked for permission to defer consideration of the three items of business from the Budget Study Committee that were tabled at the February meeting until the April 9 meeting of the Senate.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Senate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Elbow, for Leslie Thompson