

FACULTY SENATE YEAR-END SUMMARY  
JUNE 1996 TO MAY 1997

I. Senate Actions Pending:

II. Summary of Senate Meetings

The summary that follows contains a meeting-by-meeting highlights from Faculty Senate meetings from September 1996 to April 1997. Speakers from each meeting are noted, and approved actions or resolutions are record. In many cases the actions or resolutions have been paraphrased or condensed for brevity sake. Complete texts of the resolutions are available on the Senate web page (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>) or in the Faculty Office.

Meeting #171 - September 11, 1996

Guest Speaker - Chancellor Montford addressed the Senate regarding the responsibilities of the Chancellor's position and goals of his administration.

Senate Actions

An ad-hoc Committee on Faculty Service on University Committees was established.

Meeting #172 - October 9, 1996

Guest Speakers

President Donald Haragan addressed the Senate on current issues facing Texas Tech University and higher education. Dr. David Schmidly, newly appointed Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies introduced himself to the Senate and summarized the current state of graduate education at Texas Tech University.

Senate Actions

The Senate endorsed the final report of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee on recommendations for the "Structure of the Committee to Administer and Oversee the Employee Benefit Fund Scholarship" which was forwarded to President Haragan's office.

To express its appreciation to Dr. Alfonso Scandrett, Associate Athletic Director for his open and collaborative relationship with the Senate and his efforts related to athletics and academics, the Senate sent a resolution to Dr. Scandrett, Gerald Myers, Interim Athletic Director, President Donald Haragan, and Chancellor John Montford.

Meeting #173 - November 13, 1996

Guest Speaker

Interim Provost John Burns addressed the Senate on his views of shared governance between Administration and the Senate. He announced the creation of a University-wide Teaching Academy. He also addressed issues relating to the proposed closure of the Engineering Technology program, faculty workload, status of the Athletic Director search, post-tenure review, and the possibility of creating a Texas Tech System

#### Senate Actions

The Senate endorsed the recommendations of Study Committee B on Advertising at Graduation in the Lubbock Coliseum as well as future recommendations for advertising at the United Spirit Arena. The recommendations were forwarded to Provost Burns for consideration.

The Senate finalized acceptance of a new Faculty Grievance Policy recommendations which were initiated by the Administration in May 1996. The process was simplified and considered pro-faculty.

Study Committee B was assigned the task of investigating Texas Tech's compliance with NCAA regulations regarding athletics and academic, as well as examining the performance of the Athletic Council.

Study Committee C was assigned the task of revising the Senate Constitution in response to the new administrative structure at Texas Tech.

#### Meeting #174 - December 4 , 1996

##### Senate Actions

The Senate Bylaws were amended to 1) clearly delineate who serves on the Agenda Committee, 2) to implement a new system for naming Senate liaisons on university committees and councils; 3) to eliminate non-existent university councils from the Bylaws; 4) to allow the Senate to disestablish standing and ad hoc committees as appropriate; 5) to allow the Senate to vote to submit proposed Bylaws changes to the full Senate by means of a mail ballot which would be overseen by the Agenda Committee.

In response to the unexpected merger of Engineering Technology with other Engineering Departments the Senate passed the following resolution. Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate requests that the Administration reach an understanding with the faculty and students involved and the Faculty Senate before closing or reorganizing any academic unit on campus." The resolution was forwarded to President Haragan.

The Senate expressed its appreciation to Chancellor Montford for having classroom clocks re-installed.

#### Meeting #175 - January 15, 1997

##### Senate Actions

The Senate adopted a report by Study Committee A outlining suggested procedures for selecting a new chancellor/president and administrative appointees in light of the new administrative structure at Texas Tech. The report was sent to Chancellor Montford's Office.

In response to requests made by faculty on the availability of PPP Computer Accounts for Retired Personnel the Senate resolved: The Senate recommends to the Associate Vice President for Computing and Information Technology, Thomas Newman, that PPP accounts for Texas Tech retired be approved.

Regarding the University Master Plan the Senate resolved that:

The Faculty Senate believes faculty should have input on the Master Plan, Therefore, an open session or sessions on the University Master Plan should be held during the regular school year so such input can be obtained.

Meeting #176 - February 12, 1997

Guest Speakers

President Haragan reported that a University Committee to revise the TTU Grievance Procedure was created. President Haragan also updated the Senate on continuing efforts related to the employee scholarship fund, new recruiting offices that have opened in Houston and Dallas, and legislative issues important to Texas Tech. Coach Spike Dykes addressed the Senate on issues relating to academics and the football team.

Senate Actions

Relating to the state-wide issue of dual credit courses for both high school and college credit the Senate passed a resolution originating from the Academic Programs Committee:

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University recommends that the administration do whatever possible to effect the repeal of H. B. 1336, or at a minimum effect modification so as to:

- a. require that junior colleges provide special designations on all transcripts for courses classified as "dual credit," as well as,
- b. permit senior colleges and universities to establish criteria, such as the Advanced Placement examinations, that will enable them to assess a student's performance as well as determine the acceptability, and thus, the transferability of a "dual credit" course.

The Senate signed "proclamations" originating from the Budget Study Committee to thank both Chancellor Montford and President Haragan for their efforts to raise faculty salaries.

The Budget Study Committee found that only two local dentists were participating in TTU's Dental HMO and that TTU employees were having to travel out of town for dental surgeries, therefore the Senate resolved: The Faculty Senate requests our Dental HMO be modified so that more Lubbock-area dentists can be recruited to participate.

The Budget Study Committee recommended a resolution in response subscription declines to scholarly journals at the TTU Library which was endorsed by the Senate.

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate requests that the TTU Administration find a means for funding the Library's journal subscriptions in a way that will match the rate of inflation.

Meeting #177 - March 12, 1997

Guest Speakers

Herman Phillips, Director of Academic Computing Services reported that the Senate's request to allow retired TTU faculty to maintain PPP Computing Accounts was granted. Dr. Robert Sweazy, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Chairman of the Athletic Council reported on recent functioning of the Athletic Council and discussed NCAA rules that led to Texas Tech's forfeiture of Big XII men's basketball games.

#### Senate Actions

Study Committee B submitted a report with 10 recommendations regarding the operation and organization of the Athletic Council. The report and the recommendations contained within were accepted by the Senate.

#### Meeting #178 - April 2, 1997

This meeting was a special call meeting to serve as a forum for the presentation of the University Master Plan to the Senate and visitors in attendance.

#### Guest Speakers

Chancellor Montford prefaced the Master Plan presentation by outlining a three pronged process envisioned to make Texas Tech University competitive with its two major competitors Texas A & M University and the University of Texas. Additionally Montford discussed how capital improvement projects will be funded. Doug Mann and Richard Mecias, representatives from the architectural firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum gave the developmental history of the Master Plan, and presented the four major goals of the plan that had been approved by the Regents. An extensive discussion followed the plan's presentation.

#### Senate Actions

The Senate announced the results of its survey on the possibility of re-establishing a Faculty Club. Ninety-one percent of the respondents felt that Texas Tech should have a Faculty Club.

The Senate passed a resolution regarding the Master Plan.

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate requests a delay in the finalization of the master plan and its submission to the Board of Regents until all academic units are satisfied that they have had adequate input. This process of consultation should be continued, if necessary, through the early fall semester on 1997.

In order to facilitate the previous resolution,

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate requests that college deans provide department chairs with sufficient information on the master plan to evaluate the plan, and that each college compile a critique of the master plan based on departmental input.

#### Meeting #179 - April 9, 1997

#### Guest Speakers

Coach Gerald Myers, Athletic Director commented on academic affairs within the Athletic Department in view of continuing athlete certification and academic problems.

#### Senate Actions

The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee suggested five changes to OP 32.32 on Performance Evaluations of Faculty in particular Section 5 on Development Procedures. The five changes were endorsed by the Senate and sent to President Haragan's office. A second motion requesting an administrative response to the changes in OP 32.32 by April 30, 1997. The request was made so the changes could be discussed at the last Faculty Senate meeting and so that the information could be used in preparation for a forum.

Based on suggestions from the Academic Affairs Committee the Senate passed two resolutions about adding with plus/minus grading to GPA calculations.

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University recommends that the Administration place into effect the use of the plus or minus grades, to appear on the students' transcripts and be incorporated in the calculation of the students' grade point average at the earliest time possible, subject to the approval of the Student Senate.

Be it resolved that: A system be followed in determining the value of each plus or minus, such that a plus or minus is equal to .33 points with no additional points being allowed for an A+, resulting in the following grade values: A+ 4.00, A 4.00, A- 3.67, B+ 3.33, B 3.00, B- 2.67, C+ 2.33, C 2.00, C- 1.67, D+ 1.33, D 1.00, F 0.00.

Meeting #180 - April 30, 1997

Guest Speakers

John Opperman, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs and Chairman of the Faculty/Staff Scholarship Committee reported on the status of the Faculty/Staff Scholarship Fund created from the Self-Insurance Pool. Chancellor John Montford presented the Strategic Plan Proposal for the University.

Senate Actions

The Senate adopted the following resolution in relation to the Strategic Plan Proposal.

Be it resolved: 1) That the Faculty Senate send this statement to one of its committees or an ad hoc committee, requesting a report on specific changes to be ready for the September meeting if possible; 2) That this statement also be sent for comment to the Student Senate and the Senate bodies at TTUHSC; 3) That this statement be sent for detailed comment to the TTU Provost's Council, to be examined in the light of the documents produced by the Provost's Retreat on the future of the University; 4) That this statement be sent to other bodies whose input the Chancellor and the President deem appropriate; and 5) That, on the basis of the comments secured by the steps noted above, a revised version be drafted, one that might be ready for campus approval prior to the start of the capital campaign in late October of 1997.

The Academic Programs Committee offered a resolution regarding courses offered for credit at TTU outside of a college structure.

Be it resolved that: All courses offered for credit at Texas Tech University must undergo an approval process that incorporates faculty review and input consistent with the guidelines of individual Colleges. Any course that is interdisciplinary in nature and that is not suitable to be reviewed under established process and procedures of a specific college must be reviewed by 1) an appropriate committee that the Academic Council designates; or 2) a separate academic unit established by the Academic Council that would house all interdisciplinary courses and have an established faculty-based review process.

The Budget Study Committee offered the following resolution that was accepted by the Senate relating to the use of Bookstore profits.  
Be it resolved that: Bookstore Profits should be dedicated to academic purposes, including the purchase of books and journals for the Library.

The Budget Study Committee offered the following resolution regarding the use of Faculty Salary Funds for Administrator Salaries.  
Be it resolved that: Administrators who are not teaching classes should not be paid from Faculty Salary accounts. If, however, these administrators continue to receive funds from these accounts, that a uniform standard should be applied to administrators and faculty in evaluating teaching load credit.

Senator Stinespring requested that a study be conducted to examine the possibility of students evaluating all courses including laboratory and studio courses that are not currently evaluated by students.

The senate approved the two following resolution dealing with administration of academic affairs and financial accounting of administrative costs.  
Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate President assign an appropriate committee to inquire into the University's methods of managing academic affairs, with the intent of making recommendations for the improvement of academic administrative systems that will facilitate scholarly work.

Be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate President appoint a special investigative team to inquire into the University's methods of accounting for institutional expenses, with the intent of making recommendations for the improvement of financial administrative systems that will facilitate scholarly work and reduce administrative costs.

### III. Senate Business Outside Regular Meetings

#### Electronic Senate

A Senate Web page (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>) and a Senate email address ([fdadm@ttacs.ttu.edu](mailto:fdadm@ttacs.ttu.edu)) were established.

#### Professional Meetings Related to Senate Business

Vice President Elbow attended, October 9, 1997, a tenure conference sponsored by the Tenure Issues Task Force part of community-wide forum program at the University of Houston.

President Howe attended the October 18-19, 1996 meeting of the Council on Faculty Governance in Austin, TX.

President Howe attended the December 1-2, 1996 Big XII Conference of Senate Presidents.

President Howe attended the January American Association of Colleges and Universities January in San Diego, CA

Secretary Thompson attended the February 20-21, 1997 meeting of the Council on Faculty Governance in Austin, TX.

Public Forum

The Faculty Senate co-sponsored with the College of Education a public forum on the Lubbock Independent School District and Texas Tech University: A Winning Collaborative Partnership April 17, 1997.

Tours

International Cultural Center November 25, 1996 and the Southwest and Special Collections Library January 29, 1997.

Submitted by

---

Leslie D. Thompson