

## Minutes #185

### MINUTES #185 - FACULTY SENATE

January 14, 1998

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 3:15 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University Center with President Edward V. George presiding. Senators present were Baker, Boal, Boylan, Bremer, Burkett, Casadonte, Corbett, Couch, Crawford, Dornier, Elbow, El-Hindi, Fox, Herring, Hufford, Josephson, Khan, Lan, Loudon, Meaney, Meek, Miller, Olivarez, Perez, Ponticell, Reed, River, Robert, Schaller, Stinespring, Stombler, Stout, L. Thompson, Tsai and White. Senators Floyd and Liman were absent because of University business. Senators Coombs, Giaccardo, Gomez, McComb, Myers, Oler, Reckner, Sarkar, D. Thompson and Van Cleave were absent.

#### I. Recognition of Guests

President George called the meeting to order and introduced the following guests: John Montford, Chancellor, John E. Opperman, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance; John Burns, Provost;

James E. Brink, Assistant Provost and Vice President for Environmental Management; Claudia Sorsby, Assistant Director, News and Publications; John Howe, Associate Professor, History; Ginger Pope, University Daily; and members of the television media.

Professor Brian McGee, Communication Studies, served as Parliamentarian.

II. Memorial: President George presented a memorial to Dr. Virginia Sowell, who was killed in an automobile accident on December 26, 1997. Provost Burns reminded the Senate that Virginia Sowell donated the drapes the Senate uses to cover the tables.

III. Approval of Minutes for Meeting #184. Minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Chancellor Montford addressed the Senate to invite all Faculty to the 75th Anniversary Gala on February 6th, 1998. He encouraged each Senator and faculty to attend and support this event. This event will be the anchor point of the new \$300 million capital campaign. The date is significant as it marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the bill that brought about the creation of Texas Tech University. Net proceeds from the event will go to endow scholarships at the University.

#### V. Unfinished Business:

Ballot of the Bylaw change: As noted in the minutes of the last senate meeting, all senators were mailed a ballot about the proposed bylaw change. This change referred to the addition of the requirement that the liaison to the Graduate Council be a member of the Graduate Faculty. Vote on the change in the bylaw passed unanimously.

Comments on the Board of Regents Action of December 11, 1997: The Board generally passed the arrangements for recruitment, admission and retention previously discussed. There was some discussion about how to implement courses such as IS1100 and XL and this matter was left to the discretion of the President. Senator Elbow asked President George if the Regents had commented on the Board's recommendation that faculty be held accountable for recruitment activities. President George responded that our concerns were expressed to the Board and no mention was made by the Board.

Budget Study Committee report on the Bookstore: Senator Miller provided an overview of the report. The full report can be found on the Senate webpage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>). Senator Boal commented that implicit in the report is that the bookstore should serve faculty and students; however this may not be the case, thus there is a need to clarify this with the administration. Senator Boal also expressed the need for the administration to determine the purpose of the bookstore. He expressed the opinion that Wallace's is attempting to gain profits and not serve the public, students and faculty. Senator Elbow asked what justification there is to having a bookstore on campus, since this is a business on campus that is using a University building on University land, in competition (some say unfair competition) with other bookstores. Senator Elbow suggested that the Bookstore Advisory committee come up with a mission statement for the bookstore. Several Senators expressed concern about where the profits from the bookstore are going. According to the report of the Budget committee the profits contributed to Athletics from the bookstore have risen from \$47,072 in 1993 to \$310,425 in 1997. Senator Couch commented as to why this figure is not 0 since a previous report to the Faculty Senate by the administration said that bookstore profits to Athletics would be reduced each year and would be 0 by 1997. Senator Couch suggested that the Senate is owed some explanation as to why this did not occur. Senators commented as to why faculty should trust a new plan to reduce profits if the old plan was not followed. The following recommendations were passed by the Senate: 1. That at least one member of the bookstore Advisory Committee have capability in accounting or finance. 2. That TTU institute a regular periodic audit of the bookstore to insure that the amounts of money returned to TTU as required by the contract with Wallace's are accurate. 3. That Wallace's conduct a performance audit or performance review that includes participation of the Bookstore Advisory Committee. 4. That TTU administrators solicit and incorporate the advice and recommendations of the Bookstore Advisory Committee and Faculty Senate to develop a mission statement for the bookstore as a basis for issuing a new RFP for bookstore operation, renewing the current contract, choosing a new contractor, or writing a new contract. 5. That an expanded contract be written at the conclusion of the current contract to incorporate specific performance criteria and to make provision for effective monitoring of contractor performance in the provision of bookstore services to its clients (such monitoring should include but not be limited to financial and service audits). 6. That ALL bookstore revenues to TTU be used to support the academic mission of Texas Tech University, in particular to support the maintenance and expansion of the TTU library's academic holdings.

Study Committee A report on using Teacher evaluations: Senator Casadonte reported that this report arose from a Student Senate proposal to make teacher evaluations available to students. The full report is available on the Senate webpage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>). Senator Casadonte reported two questions were addressed; 1. How would a particular instructor compare to other instructors teaching the same course? 2. What is the overall effectiveness of the instructor? According to legal counsel anyone requesting information about student ratings of teacher effectiveness is legally entitled to receive this information. The following resolution was passed by the Faculty Senate: Be it resolved that statistical summaries of the "student evaluation of course and instructor" forms be made available to Texas Tech students. These summaries shall be placed in the library, in advisement offices, and in the student government office for use by the students in the course selection process. Composite scores (where available) for the past six years for individual faculty as well as average scores for individual course shall be distributed, with the specific nature of the data presentation to be determined by the Office of Institutional Research, TLTC, Teaching Academy Executive Committee and any other appropriate groups in consultation with the Provost's Office and appropriate Faculty Senate and Student Senate Committees. No student comments will be made available. Participation by the faculty will be mandatory, and the O.P. concerning these evaluations will be modified to reflect this requirement. Subsequently, a revised course evaluation form shall be devised in consultation with representatives from the Student Senate, the Faculty Senate, the Provost's Office, and the Office of Institutional Research in order to produce a form which provides greater constructive information for the faculty for course and teaching improvement and more relevant information for the students to aid them in course selection.

VI. Invited Presentations. Vice-Chancellor John Opperman reported on the status of the Faculty Staff Benefit Scholarship Fund. He reported that the status has not changed since Fall when he reported to the Senate. Vice-Chancellor Opperman reported that a task force has been set up to provide guidelines for the Scholarship fund. This task force does not provide oversight. Benefits and Retirement has been asked to serve as an oversight group. Several issues have been raised regarding the scholarship, including: 1. The level of the award. 2. Possibly decreasing the required GPA to increase the number of awards. 3. Including the Health Sciences Center Regional campuses. 4. Perhaps limiting the award to students working toward a degree. 5. The need to advertise the program.

## VII. New Business

Committee on Committees nominated Jon Hufford as the Faculty Senate liaison to the Distance Learning Committee. The nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate.

Graduate Council: Senator Dornier commented on the handout provided to all Senators from the Graduate School concerning "Strengthening Graduate Student Quality". Senators are encouraged to contact the Graduate School with any comments they have regarding the report.

Americas Award: Senator Elbow summarized a new award being proposed by a committee made up of Gary Edson, Gary Elbow, Janet Perez, Phil Dennis, Harley Oberhelman, and John Burns. This award, designating an Outstanding Contributor to Education in the Americas, will be bestowed on a living individual citizen, resident, or group organized within a country in the Americas (i.e., North America, Caribbean, or South America) for distinguished contributions to education in the broadest sense, with special reference to improving quality of life in the Americas. There is currently no funding for this award, but the committee is hoping to find financial supporters for it. Senators were invited to forward comments to the proposing committee.

## VIII. Announcements

1. Post-tenure review: The Board of Regents is scheduled to finalize arrangements for post tenure review at its meeting Friday, March 6. This will be the time for consideration of the draft agreed upon by the Administration and the faculty and passed by the Senate October 8, 1997. See details on the Senate Website (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>).

2. Special Non-Tenure Acquiring Appointments: Faculty Handbook (8/96 ed.), Appendix A, Section III.C., provides that holders of non-tenure acquiring faculty appointments "can only be dismissed for adequate cause" after six years. The Section further states that "Appointment [to the ranks under discussion] can be continued beyond six years only by majority vote of the tenured faculty of the academic unit (department, college, or school) in which the position is placed, and subject to the approval of the responsible dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs and research..." The administration takes this provision to mean that after six years of employment a faculty member must be either terminated or tenured. Provost Burns and A&S Dean Winer are requesting an indication of faculty opinion regarding this question. Are we satisfied with the current arrangement? This matter will be assigned to a Senate Study Committee.

3. Computer Upgrading. In response to a Senator's inquiry, the Senate Academic Programs Study Committee, chaired by Senator Sandra River, will study the feasibility of regular rotation of computer upgrades for faculty, and seek information on the current schedule for hardwiring academic buildings.

4. The University and Fraternities. In the wake of recent incidents of alleged violations of law by Fraternity members, Dean of Students Michael Shonrock has accepted an invitation to speak to the Faculty Senate February 11, 1998 regarding the University's relationship with Fraternities.

Dr. Gwen Sorell wishes us to know that she has agreed, at the request of Greg Elkins, Associate Dean of Students, to serve on a search committee to fill a vacancy in the Dean of Student's office for someone to deal with fraternities and sororities.

5. Disposition of HEAF funds. Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Jim Brunjes has accepted an invitation to speak to the Faculty Senate March 11, 1998 concerning the use of HEAF funds and its possible connections to implementation of the Master Plan.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lanie Dornier

Secretary 1997-98