

Summary of 1997-1998 Senate Meetings

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary

June 1997-May 1998

I. Summary of Senate Meetings

The following summary contains meeting-by-meeting highlights from Faculty Senate meetings from September 1997 to May 1998. The summary is organized around activities that occurred at each Senate meeting, including a summary from invited guests, and actions taken or resolutions approved. Some Senate resolutions have been paraphrased or condensed for brevity's sake. The complete minutes and entire text of actions can be found on the Senate homepage (<http://www.ttu.edu/~senate>) or in the Senate office.

Meeting #181- September 10, 1997

Guest Speakers. Chancellor Montford addressed the Senate and reported on the Strategic Plan, the Master Plan, and the Capital Campaign. President Haragan addressed the Senate and reported on the accomplishments of the University.

Senate Actions. The Senate approved the proposal from the Strategic Plan Review Committee which expressed support for the goal of enhancing Tech's performance and national standing, encouraged the Chancellor's Office to complete a more systematic, comprehensive strategic plan document and allow campus review before presenting it to the Regents, and send to the Chancellor's Office concerns related to various areas of the University including library and diversity.

Meeting #182- October 8, 1997

Guest Speakers. Dr. Gary Bell, Director of the Honors Program, addressed the Senate and provided information about the Honors Program and the benefits of establishing an Honors College. Dr. Jerry Jurica reported on actions of the Athletic Council over the last six months. Teresa Drewell and members from HOK reported on the progress of the Master Plan.

Senate Actions. The Senate approved, in principle, the report from Study Committee C regarding the Board of Regents report on admission standards. Senators were encouraged to read the report to be discussed at the next Senate meeting.

The Senate unanimously accepted the resolution regarding Horn Professors "That a Horn professor be added to the ordinary commencement platform party and that a Horn Professor designated to fulfill this function be chosen by the Horn Professors as a committee."

Meeting #183- November 5, 1997

Guest Speakers. Cathy Allen, Special Assistant for Cultural Diversity, addressed the Senate to report what her office will be doing. She stated that her department is charged with working with University departments to improve recruitment and retention of under-

represented groups. Jim Burkhalter, Director of Housing Services, addressed the Senate to update Senators on matters concerning the bookstore. President Haragan addressed the Senate about his response to the Board of Regents recommendations on admission standards. Dr. Jim Brink addressed the Senate about the structure of the new office for Enrollment Management.

Senate Actions. The Senate voted to accept six of the thirteen recommendations from Study Committee C regarding the Regents Admission Standards. The recommendations accepted were: support for greater number of scholarships; support for guidelines for transfer students; opposition to using the "18th factor"; rejection the goal of achieving a 50% refection rate in the next five years, support for assured admission for students who were in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and opposition to setting an enrollment cap of 3520 for new freshman from high school.

The Senate accepted the report from Study Committee B that approves the Master Plan as a "work in progress".

Meeting #184- December 10, 1997

Guest Speaker. There were no guest speakers at this meeting.

Senate Actions. Since the recommendations from Study committee C addressed some but not all of the Board of Regents recommendations regarding recruiting, admission, and retention, the Senate discussed each section of the Board's recommendations (BOR November 7, 1997 report can be found on the Senate webpage). The following is a very brief summary of the Senate's response, the complete minutes can be found on the Senate webpage. Section 1 regarding adopting goals for the University; the Senate expressed concern about how the Board proposes to achieve these specific goals. Section 2 regarding the review process; Senators conveyed the message that criteria for such assessment need to be stated. Section 3 regarding provisional admission; the Senate passed several recommendations; Recommendation 1.1 "The University expend all efforts to study why students leave TTU and then, without sacrificing quality, focus upon improving the graduation rate of students who are admitted to TTU rather than on "raising the bars for admission"; Recommendation 1.2 "All freshman with a Fall semester GPA below 2.0 be required to take an XL style course in the Spring semester"; Recommendation 1.3 "All provisional admissions be required to take XL 0201 during their first semester at TTU"; Recommendation 1.4 "Provisionally admitted students be required to earn a GPA of at least 2.5 in six hours of required basic courses taken at TTU, or a GPA of at least 2.0 in twelve hours of required basic courses taken at TTU, or at least a 2.5 GPA in twelve hours of required basic courses taken at another institution." Recommendation 3 "That IS1100 not be made mandatory for all new freshman from high school. Any student who wishes to take the Freshman Seminar should be guaranteed admission to IS1100." Section 4 regarding admission process for transfer students; the Senate expressed the need to study why students leave and why they stay to increase the numbers for those staying. Section 5a regarding scholarships; the Senate passed the following recommendation "Merit scholarships should not be awarded solely on the basis of SAT score". Section 5b regarding the Honors Program; the Senate tabled the recommendations to allow further study. Section 5c regarding academic recruiting; the Senate accepted a recommendations to remove section (7) (c) and (5) from the Boards recommendations. Senators expressed concern about section (5)(d)(5)(D) which states

that each new student should be assigned a faculty mentor who "will be available to provide personalized counseling and guidance".

Meeting #185- January 14, 1998

Guest Speakers. Chancellor Montford addressed the Senate to invite all faculty to the 75th Anniversary Gala on February 6, 1998.

Vice-Chancellor Opperman reported that the status of the Faculty Staff Benefit Scholarship Fund has not changed since Fall.

Senate Actions. The Senate approved by ballot vote an amendment to the Bylaws. The end of Section 6 should now read " The senate liaison to the Graduate Council shall be a member of the Graduate Faculty."

The Senate accepted the following recommendations from the Budget Study Committees report on the Bookstore: 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. 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 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. 6. That ALL bookstore revenues to TTU be used to support the academic mission of TTU.

The Senate accepted the following resolution from Study Committee A's report on using teacher evaluations, "Be it resolved that statistical summaries of the student evaluation of course and instructor forms be made available to TTU students..." The complete resolution can be found on the Senate webpage.

Meeting #186- February 11, 1998

Guest Speakers. Dr. Michael Shronrock, Dean of Students, addressed the Senate regarding problems that have occurred involving Greek organizations associate with the University.

The managers from the three main bookstores serving the University were invited to the Senate meeting to address any questions Senators might have about the bookstores.

Senate Actions. An ad-hoc committee of the Senate proposed a policy regarding Senate memorials. The complete policy can be found on the Senate webpage. The policy was accepted by the Senate.

The Faculty Status and Welfare committee submitted a report regarding the Honors College. Senators expressed concern about the creation of a separate Honors faculty.

Meeting #187- March 11, 1998

Guest Speakers. President Haragan addressed the Senate to express his support for a new Honors College. President Haragan suggested that the Senate should establish a committee to provide recommendations related to the guidelines for running such a college, particularly regarding faculty advancement and faculty rewards. President Haragan took this opportunity to address the Senate about several other issues of interest,

the establishment of a College of Fine Arts, the need at Texas Tech for additional faculty, and his interest in developing our "study abroad program".

Jim Brunjes, Vice-President for Fiscal Affairs addressed the Senate regarding HEAF fund disposition.

Senate Actions. The Senate approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to study the Honors College.

Study Committee A proposed the following resolution regarding the Hensley motions from last year, "Unless it is an item of immediate, pressing urgency for the University, the Faculty Senate requests that a summary of any items for general consideration by the Faculty Senate from Administration and Staff members at TTU be provided for inclusion in the regular agenda mailing to the Faculty Senate for faculty review, at least one week before the relevant Senate meeting; or that items be submitted electronically for posting on the Faculty Senate webpage in a timely fashion prior to its discussion at a Senate meeting". The resolution passed.

Meeting #188- April 8, 1998

Guest Speaker. Dr. David Schmidly, Vice-President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, addressed the Senate concerning the needs of TTU in its progress toward the next stage of development as a research institution.

Senate Actions. Study Committee A proposed the following resolution concerning sexual harassment training, "(1) That all freshman and transfer students admitted to TTU receive training in the legal, social, and ethical aspects of the sexual harassment and assault, discrimination, and drug abuse by the end of their first semester; (2) that this training be administered and supervised by a TTU agency such as the Office of the Dean of Students; (3) that the training be accomplished in such a way that delivery of the training is verifiable on an individual basis". The resolution passed 18 for 14 against.

Study Committee A proposed a second resolution concerning notification from Administration. The resolution reads "The Faculty Senate welcomes its role in the shared governance of the University. As such, the Senate recommends that a calendar or list of proposed major development and operation events and milestones be prepared at least each academic year with updates incorporating significant changes and that the calendar or list be available in paper form and placed on the University webpage" The resolution passed.

The Senate approved the creation of an ad-hoc committee to form a new OP to conform to Senate Bill 149 and review the existing OP 32.32 and revisions previously accepted by the Senate.

Meeting #189- May 6, 1998

Guest Speaker. There were no guest speakers at this meeting.

Senate Actions. Study Committee A provided a resolution regarding privatization. The complete resolution can be found on the webpage. In part, it reads, "Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate expresses its opposition to efforts to privatize University services provided by University employees, and that we call on the administration to closely scrutinize efforts to 'contract out' services in order to ensure a high level of service and to

protect the jobs and benefits of those dedicated employees who are now under threat of privatization. We recommend that in the future, any efforts to privatize University services be done only in consultation with the Faculty Senate and any appropriate University committees and employees."

The Senate approved the ad-hoc committee's resolution regarding the draft of Post Tenure Review Policy (OP 32.31) and the Faculty Evaluation Policy (Revised OP 32.32). These documents will go forward to the President, Chancellor and Board of Regents (See the Senate webpage for the complete documents).

The Senate approved the recommendation for the formation of a "Faculty Senate Former Presidents Advisory Council". All former Faculty Senate Presidents will be invited to take part on this council and to attend all Senate meetings.

II. Senate Actions Pending

Examination of criteria by which courses are designated as fulfilling multicultural requirements. This is in response to a Senator's inquiry and was sent to Senate liaisons of Academic Council (Senator Olivarez) and General Education Committee (Senator Casadonte). From meeting #184-December, 1997.

III. Senate Business outside regular meetings

Professional Meetings Related to Senate Business

1. President George attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meetings in Austin, Tx. October 17-18, 1997 and Feb. 20-21, 1998.

2. President George and Secretary Dornier attended the American Association of Higher Education annual meeting on Faculty Roles and Rewards in Orlando, FL. January 29-February 1, 1998.

Public Forum

President George and Secretary Dornier participated in four meetings with faculty, staff, Hispanic University students, and members of the Lubbock Hispanic community to explore ideas and strategies for making TTU more inclusive. A similar undertaking for the same purpose, coordinated by Alwyn Barr, has resulted in two gatherings of African American students and community members with TTU faculty and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanie Dornier, Secretary 1997-98