

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
MINUTES #195 - FACULTY SENATE
FEBRUARY 10, 1999**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 10, 1999 in the Senate Room in the University Center with Tim Floyd, president, presiding. Senators present were Sukant, Loudon, Shin, Borst, Dornier, Drager, Dunham, Hartwell, Held, Lodhi, Newcomb, G. Perez, Reckner, Reed, Robert, Stein, Stinespring, Stomblor, Tuman, Whitlark, Boal, Bremer, White, Gomez, Hartmeister, Ponticell, Burkett, Liman, Thompson, Hoover, Khan, Spallholz, Floyd, Cochran, Boylan, Couch, Farley, Meaney, Olivarez, Pigott and Becker. Senators Herring, Trost and Lan were absent because of University business. Senators Thorvilson, Baker, McComb, A. Perez, Rylander, Oler, Sarkar and Crawford.

I. Call To Order was announced by President Timothy W. Floyd at 3:15 p.m.

II. Recognition of Guests –Chancellor John T. Montford; John Burns, Provost; Liz Hall, Assistant Provost; Jim Heavner, Faculty Executive Committee TTUHSC; Arthur Elliot, Professor; Jim Brink, Vice Provost; Robert Ewalt, Vice President for Student Affairs; Kerry Billingsley, Chair of the Faculty/Staff Benefits and Retirement Committee.

III. Approval of Minutes #194.

The minutes of meeting of January 13, 1999, were approved with the following correction. Senator Lan, previously reported as absent, was present.

IV. Presentations --

Chancellor John T. Montford addressed the Senate. He began by stating that the progress of the University was reasonably good. He accepted full responsibility for the financial aid episode which occurred at the beginning of the semester, vowing it must not happen again. He added that he is determined to make this campus “user friendly” and to use the *tech* in Texas Tech to achieve improvements.

Chancellor Montford went on to recall the three goals which were established when he arrived on campus: a) elevation of Texas Tech to Tier I research status; 2) documentation and development of a campus master plan; 3) attainment of a respectable endowment.

In connection with attaining Tier I status, he also mentioned the need for some relief of the faculty/student ratio and more time for research. He observed that our university probably has the largest student/faculty ratio in the state of Texas. Chancellor Montford stated that we should do better. However, he cautioned, that there is no need to forsake excellence in teaching for excellence in research.

He also addressed the problem of PUF equity formula funds which affects the University of Texas system and, to some extent, Texas A&M.. UT-Austin gets most of those funds. Other UT campuses, such as El Paso, are trying to achieve greater equity and parity. As a consequence, we have come together with the University of Houston to co-sponsor legislation to get more money on an “access and accessibility” basis. That could mean nearly a \$ billion in new money as an add-on for higher education.

He also suggested that the University ought to be a larger player in Washington for grant money. He pledged his best support to continue raising endowment moneys.

Chancellor Montford said that the master plan is coming together, although there is no major science research laboratory yet. The College of Fine Arts will be part of the

campus growth someday. The new English/Philosophy/Education will be getting a lot of attention because it represents the most expensive building in Higher Education per square foot in Texas. He observed, however, that it is designed to endure for one hundred years.

Relative to the capital campaign, Chancellor Montford said that he has been overwhelmed by the responses. Such fund raising, though, requires "vigilance in perpetuity." His goal is to reach a \$300 million threshold.

During the time allotted for questions, several senators addressed a number of issues. Senator Newcomb inquired about the proposed addition of 100 new faculty members, asking specifically if they would all be in technical areas. Chancellor Montford indicated that a priority to the legislature has been made for a 5% across the board pay increase for faculty as well as for staff. He would leave it up to President Haragan to make the decisions about the fields of study in which new faculty would be hired.

Senator Spallholz asked about the completion date for the new United Spirit Arena. Chancellor Montford is confident that it will be completed by August and will be ready for the next basketball season and for graduation in December. He added that he will not allow safety to be compromised so delays are inevitable. The Chancellor also offered to arrange a tour of the facilities for the Senate.

Senator Boal inquired about the designation of "Flagship" status as we reach Tier I Research status. The Chancellor indicated that such a change would require action from the legislature or a new constitution. It is an issue of "colonizing" or becoming a "partner with" other campuses. He did not foresee hostile take-overs.

Senator Dornier asked about the \$40-50 million to upgrade Jones Stadium. Chancellor Montford conceded that a number of problems needed to be fixed within the existing structure. He observed that often people who give money for athletics don't generally give to academics. All the improvements are to be financed by private donations and by revenue bonds.

There was also some comments about the trees shown on the master plan and those which might be lost to new construction. Chancellor Montford expressed his hope that 10,000 new trees would be planted throughout the campus and that as many of the old ones as economically feasible would be moved and saved.

In closing, Chancellor Montford urged senators with further questions to contact him by e-mail him or call him.

Dr. Robert Ewalt, Vice-President for Student Affairs, also addressed the Senate on the matter of the NCAA Self Study process. He indicated that four major areas are under study: 1) fiscal integrity; 2) academic integrity; 3) rules compliance; and 4) equity compliance. The final report is being assembled now and he will announce an open forum on either February 24 or 25 during which the reports of the sub-committees will be presented.

The final report will be mailed by 29 March. An on-site review committee is scheduled for June 7-10. Their report is expected by mid summer and we will have an opportunity to respond. Then, the NCAA is expected to send its certification sometime in early fall.

For those who wish, Texas Tech has a Website Link for the report. To access it, key in <http://www.texastech.edu/> and then go to: Texas Tech Academic Campus and click on it. Scroll down to the bottom of the page. On the left hand side there will be a box with the subheading: Current Events. Click on NCAA Self-Study.

Another way is to begin with Texas Tech's website at <http://www.texastech.edu/> and then go to: Texas Tech Academic Campus and click on it. Scroll down to Faculty &

Staff and click on it. At the top of the new menus will be ADMINISTRATION. Click on it and then click on **Division I Athletics Certification 1999**.

V. Committee Reports --

Senator Held presented the report from the Budget Study Committee on Employee/Dependent Scholarship Funds. **The following recommendations were passed unanimously:** The Faculty and Staff Senates should remain vigilant to ensure that: 1) Faculty/staff continue to be notified regularly (at least annually) about the availability of these funds; 2) amounts of awards should be increased so that the interest does not accrue unnecessarily, and 3) all interest on the principal must be spent as intended -- not diverted for any other purpose.

Kerry Billingsley, in her capacity as Chair of the Faculty/Staff Benefits and Retirement Committee, addressed the Senate about the increase funding for the awards and the number of recipients. With an annual mailing to some 7,000 people, there are some funding concerns. And if the mailings were to be more often, the funding concerns increase. Dr. Jim Heavner, Health Science Center, raised the issue of funding for those on the regional campuses. Ms. Billingsley responded that the money does need to come back to Texas Tech through Distance Learning (Continuing Education) or similar programs.

President Floyd asked for the committee on committees to present its recommendations for the nominating committee. In the absence of Senator Herring, Senator Newcomb presented Senators Olivárez, Meaney, and Stinespring. There were no further nominations from the floor. The voice vote in favor of those nominated was unanimous. Senator Stein addressed those on the nominating committee, suggesting that the position of secretary should not always go to women but rather, should rotate between men and women.

President Floyd asked the committee dealing with the faculty work load how their final report was progressing. Senator Couch indicated that it would be presented to the Provost's Office very soon.

President Floyd indicated that he had spoken recently with Board of Regents Chairman James Sowell. Mr. Sowell expressed the notion that the Regents would welcome an informal get-together with members of the Faculty Senate. Those interested are to contact President Floyd. Senator Held inquired if such a meeting, informal or not, was allowable under the SACs regulations. Provost Burns said that he would find out.

VI. New Business --

Senator Dunham asked about peer evaluation in connection with the Post Tenure Review Policy. Provost Burns responded, indicating that each unit will decide how to handle "peer" evaluations on teaching, research, and service.

Senator Newcomb asked about the report from the Graduate Council on Graduate Faculty membership. Senator Stinespring indicated that he was still receiving information but that it was suggesting a state of chaos exists on the subject throughout those schools he has contacted. Senator Loudon, who also serves on the Graduate Council, mentioned that only ten responses have been received to the survey Council member Professor Rude mailed to graduate advisers on campus. Senator Dornier commented that the survey she received implied that the issue was coming from the Senate when, in fact, it came through the Graduate Council following an initial inquiry made to that group by Dean Winer.

VII. Announcements --

Provost Burns announced that the Teaching Academy is recommending a procedure whereby a whole department could be recognized for teaching excellence. It is a \$25,000 award. He inquired if the Senate would like to see the recommendation and if the Senate is in favor of such a procedure. The Senate responded positively on both counts.

Vice-Provost Brink announced that the General Education committee has reconfigured the entire approach to the core curriculum since last he presented the information to the Senate. The Applied Science & Technology requirement is back as an "institutionally designed option." The requirement for Visual & Performing Arts remains 3 hours. The Humanities requirement remains at three hours.

Vice-Provost Brink went on to discuss the matter of accepting transfer hours in which a D has been earned. Texas Tech will not accept such courses if they are in a student's major, minor, or specializations.

The multicultural requirement still exists although it is outside the core. However, a great many courses do fulfill core requirements at the same time.

No discussion on the master plan parking is possible today, announced President Floyd, because we are still awaiting a detailed report from Vice Chancellor Mann.

President Floyd reminded the Senate that any business for the March meeting must come before the Agenda Committee by their next meeting which is Monday, 1 March.

Last minute discussions concerned the parking issue with several senators expressing concern that decisions will be made over the summer when the Senate does not meet.

Senator Held asked to be the liaison to the Student Senate because they are being asked to fund part of the new garage proposals. While in itself that is acceptable, there is not yet any clear indication of how many spaces students will be allotted in the parking garages.

VIII. There being no further business before the Senate, adjournment was announced by President Floyd at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy B. Reed
Secretary, 1998-1999