

Annual Report for 1999-2000

#199, September 8, 1999

Invited Guests: Russell Hughes, Director of Special Events for Development spoke about the schedule of opening events for the new United Spirit Arena. Jim Crowson, Deputy Chancellor stated that the Master Plan. Gene West, Vice President of Operations spoke on the parking situation and the Board of Regents meeting.

Committee Reports: Election Committee. Recommend a change in the by-laws to correct the problems and confusion surrounding elections. Work Load Committee. Senator Schaller, chair of the committee, stated that the committee had worked hard on the question of faculty workload.

New Business: Senator Boal asked the Senate to pass a resolution concerning the search for a new President of TTU.

President Reed made the following committee assignments. Academic Programs, conveyor Hyundo Shin, will consider the questions of a campus wide computer upgrade and how changes in registration will effect academic regulations. Budget Study, conveyor Lewis Held, parking and master plan. Faculty Status and Welfare, conveyor Mallory Boylan, University calendar and student evaluation forms. Senate Study Committee A, conveyor Lance Drager, status of graduate faculty, and the Faculty Club situation. Senate Study Committee B, Genaro Perez, conveyor, the drop policy and efforts of TTU to become a Research I institution. Senate Study Committee C, Sue Couch, conveyor, term limits for Deans and Chairs and peer evaluation & Collegiality/Citizenship.

#200, October 13, 1999

Invited Guests: Donald R. Haragan, President of Texas Tech University spoke to the Senate on the university's goals for the upcoming years.

New Business: Ad hoc committee on Election procedures presented it's recommendation on their charge. After a brief outline by Senator Burkett, one of the committee members, the special rules of order listed

Ad hoc committee studying the Workload Policy, chaired by Senator Walt Schaller, presented his committee's resolution on the Workload Policy.

Old Business: Budget Study Committee, chaired by Senator Held, presented his committee's resolution. After a vote to suspend the rules was passed, the motion to accept the Budget Study Committee's resolution on Parking Feasibility Study was also passed.

Study Committee B, chaired by Genaro Perez, spoke about the drop policy and handed out the comments from Rob Stewart, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Presidential Criteria.

#201, November 17, 1999

Invited Guests: Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Technology Transfer, David J. Schmidly on the topic "Achieving 'Top Tier' Research Status: A Goal for Texas Tech."

New Business: An Ad Hoc Committee was formed of Senators Cooper, Rylander, and Becker to study a resolution supporting Intellectual Freedom in Academic Libraries. The committee will report next month.

Senate Study Committee B reported on the new Drop Policy. Senators G. Perez, Boylan, and Iber spoke concerning the report. The committee offered two recommendations and recommendation I was amended and passed.

Old Business: Lewis Held represented the Budget Study Committee and he passed out two handouts. The handouts Held passed out had to do with the parking situation. Held stated that the two resolutions in the handout were worked up by a joint committee of student, staff, and faculty senators. After lengthy discussion both resolutions were passed. They are:

After some discussion both resolutions were passed as read.

Senator G. Perez offered his congratulations to Senator Held for his continuous fine work on the parking situation.

#202, December 8, 1999

Invited Guest: Edward Whitfill, Director of Wallace's Bookstore, Texas Tech University.

New Business: At the Agenda meeting the following committee assignments were assigned.

Study Committee A (Senator Iber, chair) will study the minority student recruitment and retention "situation."

Study Committee B (Senator G. Perez, chair) will continue to study the Drop Policy. There is some confusion as to the resolution passed last month concerning drops and the late drop date now allowed at TTU.

Senator Newcomb wishes the committee to look into the confusion concerning the last day a course can be dropped in which the student receives a "withdrew passing" (WP).

The very efficient Study Committee B also will look into the "Intellectual Property Rights Policy" that Provost Burns wants the Faculty Senate to consider.

Old Business: A childcare center is being studied with the help of Senators Reeves and Giaccardo. Right now research is being performed. The staff, students, and faculty senators are working together on this project.

#203, January 12, 2000

Senators Boylan and Spallholz requested the senate look into the problem of grade inflation. The Academic Program Committee was given the problem for study.

Senator Held inquired if formation of the proposed Socrates Professorship could be discussed as new business. President Reed agreed and allowed Senator Laverie, a member of the Excessive Council of the Teaching Academy, which is developing the Socrates Professorship, to speak. Senator Laverie stated the following changes had been made to the selection process. They are 1) increased faculty input into the entire process, 2) other people besides Deans will be able to nominate candidates, and 3) use of sample indicators, such as student evaluation forms will be used. Revised copies of the recommendations will be

sent the Faculty Senate office in about a week and the Senate will discuss the changes in its February meeting.

The Texas state Attorney General, Dan Morales, has ruled that letters written in the tenure and promotion process are not confidential because the process is now considered part of the Open Meeting Act.

Old Business: The Ad Hoc Committee on Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries reported. After some discussion the Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of a resolution supporting Intellectual Freedom for Academic Libraries.

Confusion concerning the "Drop Policy" resolution was expressed. A "Drop Policy" resolution was voted on and passed in the December meeting. The resolution stated that the old drop policy should be followed, (not a proposed new one) so the old drop dates should be used.

The search for a new president of TTU continues. TTU hired the firm of Hydrant and Struggles from Chicago to assist in hiring of a new president

Assistant Provost Hall announced that the Grievance Policy is being rewritten. The rewritten policy will be "run by" the senate for consideration. Most of the senate's recommendations concerning the Work Load Policy were followed by the Provost office. Provost Burns will respond in writing to the senate concerning the Work Load Policy.

Senator Reeves spoke on behalf of the committee looking into the feasibility of a child care center on Tech's campus.

#204, February 9, 2000

Senator J. Perez reported for the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee concerning the new Student Evaluation Forms, which were handed out before the meeting, along with the old forms. Perez stated that the committee had worked hard, for two years, on the new form and had gotten input from the Student Senate, office of the Provost, other universities, and the Tech Faculty Senate.

At this time President Reed ended the discussion and stated that a vote on the form will be held during the March meeting. Questions and comments about the new form should be sent to J. Perez or the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee.

Old Business: Senator Held spoke for the Budget Study Committee concerning the Socrates Award. He stated the committee has dropped consideration of the award since the monetary rewards for the award are so small. He did have four resolutions, concerning the award, which hoped the Faculty Senate to consider. Held's resolutions will be considered by the Agenda Committee and given to the proper study committee.

Senator Held asked if questions concerning the Drop Policy resolution could be addressed as Old Business. President Reed stated that the Drop Policy resolution would be considered as an announcement.

Vice President, Gene West will come and speak during the March meeting on the issue of parking. He requested that questions be sent to him at least two weeks in advance so that he can better prepare his answers.

Senator Hartwell asked why Gene West was coming to speak on the issue of parking when parking was “a done deal.” Apparently there are several issues, which still need clarification, including towing, and undersized parking lots.

At this time the Faculty Senate voted by a 2/3 majority to go into closed session. During closed session no votes were taken.

After the closed session Senator Couch announced that sometime in the coming two weeks, Tech faculty will receive a questionnaire from the steering committee evaluating teaching effectiveness. The steering committee is an outgrowth of a Kellogg Foundation Grant. The Kellogg Foundation hopes to evaluate and improve university teaching in the United States. Couch encouraged all senators fill out the questionnaire and she asked the senators to encourage their colleagues to do likewise.

#205, March 8, 2000

New Business: The first order of business was the election of new officers.

The meeting was then turned back to VP Dunham who asked Study Committee A to report. Senator Iber, chair of the committee, reported that there was no interest in a Faculty Club at this time. Iber also reported on the committee’s work on the Graduate Faculty appeals process. The committee expressed concerns regarding the following five areas: 1) length of time allowed for faculty members to file an appeal; 2) selection process of the Ad Hoc Committee, which will review appeals; 3) length of time for the Ad Hoc Committee to complete its work; 4) definition of the term “new evidence,” which can be presented to the Ad Hoc Committee; and 5) the right to another appeal if the Ad Hoc Committee agrees with the initial decision.

Finally it was decided that Study Committee A will take its recommendations, in its present form, to the Graduate Council. During the April meeting of the Faculty Senate, Study Committee A will report on the Graduate Council’s decision and at that time Faculty Senate can take action if it so desires.

Next year’s officers will be as follows:

President- Charlotte Dunham; Vice President- Walt Schaller; Secretary- Fred Hartmeister.

Senator G. Perez, chair of Study Committee B reported on two issues, letters written on behalf of colleagues during the tenure process and Intellectual Property Rights.

Senator Cochran then spoke on behalf of the committee concerning the issue of the confidential letters. Cochran stated that the TTU General Counsel agrees with the Texas Attorney General’s opinion, in that letters written as part of the tenure process fall under the Texas Open Records Act. This means that OP 32.01 must be revised to “bring TTU on line” with other Texas Universities.

Senator Cochran next spoke on the proposed changes in OP 74.04 (Intellectual Property Rights). The revisions in the OP are driven by the fact the TTU now has an office of Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property.

New Business: Several new committee assignments were given out. The Status and Welfare Committee is to look into a proposed change in OP 32.05 concerning the grievance policy. The Academic Programs Committee has been given the Socrates Professorship Award for study.

#206, April 12, 2000

Invited Guest. Dr. Charles Zucker, Executive Director of the Texas Faculty Association).

Committee Reports:

Faculty Status & Welfare: Chair J. Perez reported on the status of the student evaluation form. On behalf of the committee, he proposed that approval of the form as a whole begin with the section consisting of the ten questions on the evaluation form being considered one-at-a-time for approval. Senator Couch then moved that further discussion of the student evaluation form be tabled indefinitely. Senator Hein seconded the motion. With a simple majority hand vote of 23-14 favoring the Couch motion, the issue was tabled indefinitely.

Study Committee A: Chair Stompler moved that the Senate approve the rewording of Texas Tech University's Equal Employment Opportunity policy statement to include domestic partners. Following a voice vote with one negative vote and no abstentions, the Senate resolved that the anti-discrimination EEO language be reworded to add "sexual orientation" to O.P. 10.11 and O.P. 40.01. The Senate's resolution will be forwarded to President Haragan.

Academic Programs: Chair Lakhani gave a report on the committee's preliminary study of grade inflation. President Reed stated that the grade inflation issue will be referred for further study by next year's Senate.

Senator Drager presented a brief review of the graduate faculty appeals process. He moved that language be added to the appeals procedure to clarify the possibility of using outside evaluators. Senator Boal seconded the motion, a quorum was ascertained, and a voice vote of those present favored suspension of Senate rules. The Senate then voted unanimously to recommend changing section 4(b) of the graduate faculty appeals process to read as follows (in part

Senator Trost inquired about the "tabled" status of the student evaluation form. President Reed stated that there will be action taken by next year's Senate to address the issue at that time. In conjunction with this issue, Senator Drager urged that further information be gathered and that the proposed form be pilot tested. Senator Held suggested getting the Teaching Academy involved.

#207, May 10, 2000

Invited Guest. Dr. William M. Marcy member of the Presidential Search Committee. Dr Marcy spoke on the "logistical concerns" of the search process.

Committee Reports: Chair Lodhi spoke for Study Committee C. He reported on the committee's work on term limits and collegiality. The Committee developed a campus-wide survey, but there was only a 27% return rate. From the survey the committee developed five recommendations. After Lodhi's comments there was a question and answer session concerning the committee's recommendations.

Senator Cochran spoke for Study Committee B concerning two reports, the first of which concerned the changing of OP 32.01 will bring Tech into compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The change in OP 32.01 impacts letters written in the tenure and promotion process, they are no longer confidential.

I. Draft Revision of O.P. 32.01

The Committee makes no recommendation concerning the revision to the O.P.

The Committee submits the following resolution:

The resolution was passed unanimously.

I. Draft Revision of O.P. 74.04

President Reed stated that she and Jim Hebner, her counter part at HSC, sent a letter to Dr. Schmidly requesting more time to consider changes in OP 74.04.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Senator Cochran offered a resolution congratulating the Faculty Senate Officers for 1999-2000. The senate voted in favor of the resolution.