MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, February 1, 1995 at 2:30 P.M. in Conference Room 4, Davis Hall. Chair John Beehler presided.

ATTENDANCE:


A moment of silence was observed in memory of Associate Professor James Baerwaldt, Psychology, who passed away recently.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 16, 1994 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

Senator Birmingham is ill and the chair asked that the members of the Senate remember her in their thoughts and prayers.

Chair Beehler has been appointed to serve on the search committee for a new Vice President for Business Affairs.

After much discussion, the P&T Document Rewrite Committee has disbanded and put the matter back into the hands of the faculty. In an effort to obtain broad faculty representation, the committee requested that the Committee on Committees institute a process for electing one representative from each of the nine colleges, schools, or units to an Ad Hoc Committee charged to develop the document stating the University of Texas at Arlington promotion and tenure guidelines, policies and procedures by December 31, 1995.

A major effort is being made in Austin to obtain increased funding for education. A document from the Chancellor's office was handed out. Included are texts of speeches made by Chancellor Cunningham and others to the legislature stressing, among other things, the importance of increased funding for education and the adverse effects if funding for ORP were cut.

The Chair reported on the November meeting of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. State auditors made a presentation to the group and indicated that UTA may not have to give back the full $3 million that the state said UTA owed for overestimating its student population. Legislative initiatives being worked on are a teaching effectiveness survey, and reports by each institution on developments on their respective campuses. Faculty Senate ByLaws must become part of the Handbook of Operating Procedures. All UT System institutions will submit a review of academic administrators document and a program abandonment document to the system.

The Staff Advisory Council has designated February 12-19 as Kindness Week.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

The President feels that he is being assassinated unfairly by a conspiracy and the press and welcomes the opportunity to talk
Amacher's #1 goal is to work to achieve more resources for the academic side. However he has had a few other goals since he first came to the campus.

1. Development of the Continuing Education Program--The Continuing Education program can generate a lot of revenue. The metropolex has a $500,000,000 market for non credit Continuing Education courses per year.
2. Housing--Housing must be available before students are recruited from long distance cities.
3. Development--The number one effort has to be with the legislature. Entertainment and cultivation of people in order to get them involved with the university is critical and will continue. The President has traveled to Washington, D.C. and to Austin to meet with representatives and alums and will continue to do so. He plans to be in Austin at least half of the time in the next sixty days. Athletics play an important role. He has increased spending about $600,000 in two areas, the first in gender equity which is a separate thing from meeting Title IX requirements. The second area of expenditures in athletics is to give the seven men and seven women sports a chance to win. They were brought up to NCAA standards, e.g. in the number of coaches and scholarships in each sport. That was a one-time investment.

The President feels that timing is everything and that this is the wrong time, the wrong place, for the wrong reasons, and with no facts to call for a general faculty meeting and a vote of confidence. The facts will be known when the audit has taken place. Circulating a petition to call for a meeting at this time would endanger the work with the legislature to improve funding, endanger the reaccreditation effort and endanger development and alumni projects. He acknowledged that if what people are saying is true he will be fired and if he is fired, UTA will be dead in the water. He reiterated that the confrontation is hurting the University. He feels that he has done nothing amoral, immoral, or inappropriate. The President said that he has a plan, is doing what needs to be done and is not going to resign.

REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

The Provost had no remarks and yielded his time to President Amacher and the Faculty Senate agenda.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST:

The President was asked if he would be willing to call a meeting without going through the planned procedure of voting on a petition to hold a general faculty meeting. He responded that he would hold a meeting after the audit takes place and the facts are known.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Liaison
The committee is working on plans to develop an appeal process for grade changes.

The Academic Liaison and Budget Liaison Committees presented a joint resolution that was agreed upon before the committee members had knowledge of the managerial audit.

Senator Hissong, on behalf of the Academic Liaison committee, introduced the resolution, which was seconded, that the Faculty Senate circulate a petition among the faculty requesting, pursuant to The Handbook of Operating Procedures, Section 3-207, that President Ryan Amacher convene a general faculty meeting no later than Wednesday, March 8, to be presided over by the chair of the Faculty Senate, in order that the faculty may present to the president and the provost its concerns about financial and academic plans, policies, and procedures and that a vote of confidence may be taken by the members.

A discussion followed. Since the audit will take three months, some senators felt that the meeting should take place before the faculty leave for summer. Others felt it should take place soon so the faculty can get the facts and lay the matter to rest.
One senator felt that the Faculty Senate should set goals and means as to how the body thinks the university should be moving, using commencement and athletics as examples.

A question arose as to what would constitute a quorum, should a faculty meeting be held. It was felt by some that many faculty would not attend a meeting, but others felt the faculty would come.

Senator Weed offered an amendment to the motion --instead of a vote of confidence taken at the meeting, the amendment proposed that all tenured and tenure-track faculty vote by ballot. The amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Discussion was held and a suggestion was made to place the marked ballots and a signed sheet in separate envelopes to preserve anonymity and to maintain internal control of the balloting.

Chair Beehler informed the Senate that the audit will be both financial and managerial and will cover operational items such as decision-making policies, procedures, goals, and objectives.

Senator Frye offered an amendment to call for the vote of confidence at the meeting. The motion to amend failed with 10 ayes and 32 nays.

A discussion was then held on the original motion as amended by Senator Weed. The motion was that the Faculty Senate circulate a petition among the faculty requesting, pursuant to The Handbook of Operating Procedures, Section 3-207, that President Ryan Amacher convene a general faculty meeting no later than Wednesday, March 8, to be presided over by the chair of the faculty Senate, in order that the faculty may present to the president and the provost its concerns about financial and academic plans, policies, and procedures. A vote of confidence on the administration will be taken by ballot sent to all eligible faculty members the day following the meeting.

Voting faculty is defined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures as full time faculty, professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors with two consecutive years of full-time service.

Professor Herrmann, who is not a member of the Faculty Senate, was allowed to speak. He said that a meeting would differ from an audit because an audit cannot conclude what we as faculty want the university to be. The meeting would be a place to air concerns that will probably not be covered in the audit.

Senator Dunn urged the Senate to wait to hold a meeting until after the audit is finished. The ball is in the court of the UT system and the system must take responsibility for the movement to have any effect. He read a statement attributed to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall when writing a dissent to a case in which tenure was denied to a faculty member. The facts were not out and the faculty member was not given sufficient opportunity to state his case. Justice Marshall wrote, "In my judgement there is no basic division of interest between the citizenry on the one hand and the officialdom on the other. Both should be interested in the quest for procedural safeguards."

More discussion followed. There was a question as to whether the Provost and President should be considered individually rather than as a package. Those speaking to the issue voiced support for voting on them separately. Some senators voiced the opinion that the audit should be held before the meeting. Some felt that the faculty members who do not attend the meeting would be voting without data. One senator observed that the motion on the floor is to give the faculty an opportunity to request a meeting by signing a petition.

A motion was made and seconded to end debate. The motion passed with 25 ayes and 11 nays.

The amended motion was accepted with 28 ayes, 13 nays, and 1 abstention.

Senator Porter made the motion that if a general faculty meeting is convened by President Amacher, the ballots go out to the voting faculty the day after the meeting and be returned to the Faculty Senate Chair within five working days. President Amacher made an appeal for fairness and common decency and asked the Senate to wait for the audit report before having a meeting. The motion regarding the timing of the vote passed with 15 ayes and 10 nays.

A faculty member who is not a member of the Senate suggested that questions for the meeting be written questions submitted
to the President and Provost ahead of time. Chair Beehler is setting up some ground rules and suggested that the petitions be returned to him within 5 working days after they are received. He will give the petitions to President Amacher. Beehler also noted that written questions should be submitted to him in writing four days before the faculty meeting and that the amount of time spent on each question should be restricted.

Ethics
Chairman Fairbanks asked for feedback on the ethics document "Ethical Principles, Faculty Responsibilities and Unacceptable Faculty Conduct."

Operating Procedures
Chairman Dunn reported that the committee has considered proposals of the Staff Council. A motion was made, seconded and passed endorsing the efforts of the Staff Council to amend their rules to expedite their functions.

Special Projects
Senator McDowell reported that names of three candidates for Professor Emeritus have been received. A report with recommendations will be sent to the President around February 8th.

Student Services Liaison
Chairman Moore reported that the document they are working on that would be available to students is not a faculty evaluation but more of a class description.

A recommendation to allow the Student Congress President to be an ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and the Student Services Liaison Committee will be put on the agenda for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Research and Development
Senator Ryan reported that the committee is looking into a newsletter and is working to create a policy for development leaves.

Equity
The committee will be circulating draft copies of a university grievance procedure to the Faculty Senate members for comments and will seek feedback from the system as well.

Tenure and Academic Freedom and Responsibilities
There was no report due to the disbanding of the P&T document committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Senator Jordan reported on the October meeting in Austin of the Committee on Financial Governance Organizations (COFGO). The meeting was attended by representatives of the 36 state universities or institutions. The theme of the meeting was the erosion of public money for universities. More state money goes to prisons than to higher education. The committee discussed how to involve more faculty in enhancing public support for education, possibly by selling bumper stickers with a catchy phrase such as "Support Education, not Prisons."

NEW BUSINESS:
A tri-cameral committee to set up a written procedure to review Academic Administrators will be composed of three representatives from the Faculty Senate, three from the Undergraduate Assembly and 3 from the Graduate Assembly. Representatives elected from the Faculty Senate are Senators Walker, Payne, and Korzenowski.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Governance final report was presented by Senator Petry. Since the report involves a change in bylaws, the report will be voted on at the next meeting. The committee decided to stay with the same system with modifications. Changes affecting the Faculty Senate as well as general changes were presented and discussed. A question was posed as to whether or not the committee for evaluating higher administration replaces the long-range planning committee. That question will be responded to at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

[Signature]

Michael K. Moore  
Senate Secretary