MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Due to a general faculty meeting on March 8th, the Faculty Senate meeting was postponed from March 8th to March 22nd. The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, March 22nd, 1995, at 2:30 P.M. in Conference Room 4 of Davis Hall. Chair John Beehler presided.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 1, 1995 meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

Chair Beehler began his remarks by expressing his appreciation to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for their work in getting questions together for the President and Provost and for helping to plan the general faculty meeting.

The results of the confidence vote on Provost Taylor should be announced on Monday, March 27th. Executive Vice-Chancellor Duncan will be involved at UTA and plans to be on campus at least once a week for the next several weeks. The Chair remarked that for the first time faculty across the campus are united. This provides the opportunity for the faculty to be active in getting UTA to more forward toward the future. The faculty should delineate what qualities we desire in our leaders and our goals for UTA’s future.

Chair Beehler reported on the UT System Faculty Advisory Council (UTS-FAC) meeting in Austin and handed out a chart containing the names and features of the ten companies that made the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) list.

The UTS-FAC Teacher Effectiveness Survey is ongoing and has been distributed on campus. A question was raised as to the ethnic categories on the survey and Dr. Beehler said he would report the concern to the committee.

Chair Beehler then commented on the UTS-FAC discussion related to the Open Records Act. Faculty should be aware that personnel files, evaluations, letters of recommendation, and e-mail messages are open records and can be retrieved.

The UTS-FAC has suggested that UT System establish a home page on the World Wide Web. It would include documents from each institution and the UT System in general.

The Committee for the Advancement of Women proposed a tenure rollback for such things as time off for having a child or for the care of an elderly parent.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

President Amacher stated that evil exists on this campus and should not be tolerated in an academic environment. The students will be the victims. As for relationships with the legislature, Dr. Amacher stated that personal rapport with the politicians is necessary before work can be done.
REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

Provost Taylor pointed out that one casualty of the recent difficulties at UTA is the budget. The budget process is at least three weeks behind schedule and the summer budget is not yet completed.

Thirty-six faculty are up for tenure and/or promotion and the balloting will be done next Wednesday.

The commencement ceremony will be redesigned.

QUESTIONS for the President and Provost:

A question arose concerning a reference by Provost Taylor at the March 8 general faculty meeting concerning teaching loads. The Provost did not have an answer. He said that no policy changes have been made by the Office of the Provost, only practices or procedures have been changed. There is more than one procedure for any policy change and more than one approach to implement the procedures.

President Amacher commented that policies of previous administrators are no longer relevant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Liaison--no report

Budget Liaison--no report

Ethics--Input on the proposed ethics statement that was handed out at the previous meeting should be submitted by April 5th.

Operating Procedures--Modification or adjustments to the proposed revisions to the bylaws that were handed out at a previous meeting should be finished by the April meeting.

Special Projects--Several nominations have been received for the honor of Professor Emeritus.

Student Services Liaison--It was moved and seconded that the Student Congress President be made an ex officio non-voting member of the Faculty Senate and the Student Services Liaison Committee. Motion passed. Wording will be adjusted for the By-Laws.

Research and Development--The committee is trying to formulate a leave policy.

Equity--A copy of the grievance procedures will be out soon for feedback and discussion at the April meeting.

Tenure and Academic Freedom--no report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A nominating committee consisting of Senators Black, Bradshaw, Hissong, Jarboe, and Petry was appointed to take nominations for officers for next year and to present a slate of officers at the April meeting. It was moved and seconded that the representative to the Committee on Faculty Governance Organizations (COFGO) be elected at the same time as the other officers rather than in the Fall. Motion passed. Since the Faculty Senate Chair was elected for a two year term, officers to be elected are a Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and COFGO representative.
Due to subsequent events, Senator Rodnitzky requested removal of the agenda item which recommended that students who register for the Fall 1995 semester be allowed to vote a preference for either a single all-university commencement or the separate college commencements held before 1994.

The following resolution was submitted by Senator Rodnitzky: The Faculty Senate supports the funding of UTA student athletes and varsity teams as a traditional and appropriate UTA activity.

Senator Moore then offered an amendment to the resolution: The Faculty Senate supports funding for all forms of intercollegiate competition, the arts and humanities, attracting enriching speakers to campus, adequate physical plant support, nationally competitive salaries, nationally leading support for scholarly research, support for community outreach, and necessary support for each department, college, and unit as traditional and appropriate UTA activities.

After discussion, the resolution and the amendment were both tabled indefinitely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CONCERNS:

Chair Beehler entertained questions about the confidence vote. A question was asked regarding funding. Dr. Beehler stated that the letterhead, envelopes, and personal service time were donated by the accounting firm and the postage would be paid by the Faculty Senate. A resolution thanking the accounting firm for its generosity will be drafted by Secretary Michael Moore and presented at the April meeting.

A question was asked about funding for the written response to questions asked at the general faculty meeting that was mailed to each faculty member. Chair Beehler responded that he assumes the mailing was paid for by the Office of the Provost.

It was mentioned that the President and Provost have usually stayed for the entire Faculty Senate meeting. It is helpful if the administration is represented. An inquiry was made as to whether the President and Provost plan to continue to leave the meeting after their presentations. Chair Beehler responded that he had not been told.

When asked about campus security, Beehler replied that Executive Vice-Chancellor Duncan informed him that there is a strategy in place to take care of any potential unrest.

A question was raised regarding Provost Taylor's reference to a consultant whose report suggested racial impropriety at UTA. What impropriety has been reported and who is the consultant? Chair Beehler suggested that Casey Gonzales may know the results of the report and the auditors may know the name of the consultant.

The auditors are now into the traditional part (internal controls, etc.) of the auditing after first looking into various accusations.

Senator Moore asked the Senators to remind their students about Career Day on April 5th.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael K. Moore
Senate Secretary