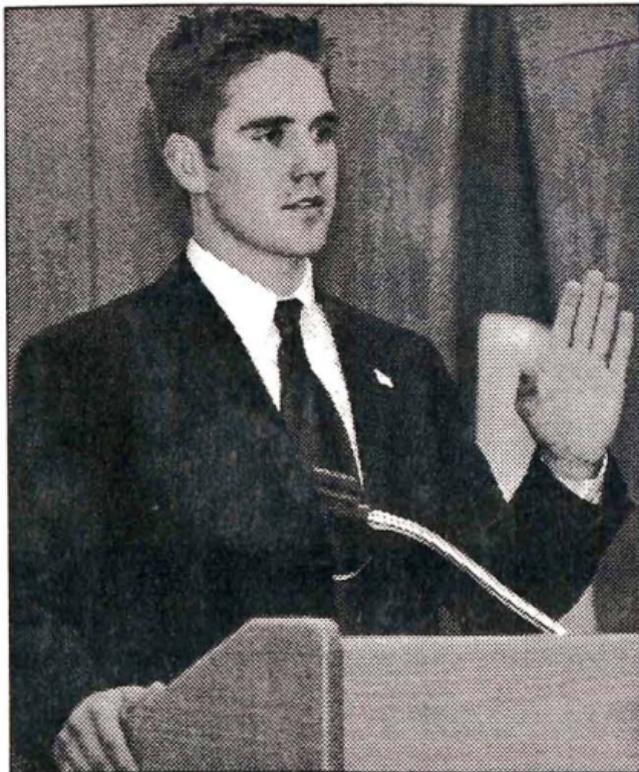


Student Senate makes fashion statement, appreciates robe color change

CHANNON CAIN, EXTERNAL vice president for the Texas Tech Student Government Association, speaks to the Student Senate on Thursday evening about the annual Red Raider tradition Take a Kid to the Game. CRAIG SWANSON Staff Photographer



SHOWING GRATITUDE: Senators honor former dean and talk attendance policy.

By Pam Smith/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech student senators voted Thursday night to thank the administration for listening to their concerns about the color of graduation robes.

According to Senate Resolution 37.15, "the Student Senate conveys its sincerest gratitude to the administration, and more specifically the Provost's office, for hearing the students' requests and reinstating black

robes for commencement exercises."

Senate President Kelli Stumbo said she is accepting of the change.

"A lot of the senators are really excited about this change," she said. "This means a lot to the SGA that the administration was willing to listen to students' concerns and make the change."

Originally, students graduating in Fall 2001 were slated to wear red graduation robes after someone in former Chancellor John Montford's office suggested the change be made. Red robes were used for a special graduation ceremony in August 2000 for 1970 Tech graduates who were unable to have a commencement ceremony due to a tornado that hit Lubbock. Last week, members of the

SGA were able to reverse the decision and have the black robes reinstated.

Senator-at-Large Jason Sharp said he thought a resolution thanking the administration was appropriate because of the quick action taken by the administration.

"Basically at our last meeting, we asked them to change the color of the robes back," he said. "A miracle happened and they managed to get them changed this quickly."

Members of the Senate also voted to applaud Frank Newton for his accomplishments as the dean of the School of Law. Newton announced his resignation earlier this month saying he was leaving the school to become the executive director of the Class Settlement Charity Foundation, which dis-

tributes computers to low-income students. His resignation is effective Dec. 31.

"Our dean is leaving after 16 years of being our dean, which is half the life of our school," said Dylan Drummond, a School of Law senator. "We are going to miss him."

According to Senate Resolution 37.14, Senate members wanted to recognize Newton for the accomplishments he has achieved in the school during the 16 years he was there. Some of his accomplishments include the only 100-percent bar passage rate in Texas in the 1990s, the development of a \$1.5 million annual Tech Law School Student Scholarship Program, activating nine endowed pro-

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fessorships of law and developing the first law chair at the school.

During this time, Newton has served as the president of the State Bar of Texas; he was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court twice to serve as chair of a statewide taskforce and was selected by Texas Lawyer magazine as one of the 102 most influential Texas lawyers of the 20th century.

During the meeting, senators also settled an issue on attendance at committee meetings. At the last meeting, senators voted down a resolution applying the attendance policy of regular bi-monthly senate meetings to committee meetings.

In a general address, Sharp discussed what the Rules and Administration Committee decided on how to interpret a pre-existing rule in the Senate concerning absences from committee meetings.

"What was decided was that the committee chairs could adopt their own attendance policy for their meetings," Stumbo said. "In the next committee meeting, the chairs will discuss what that attendance policy should be, and then everyone in the committee will sign a copy of the policy saying that they adhere to it."

Once the policy has been signed, absences incurred from committee meetings can be counted toward impeachment charges. Currently, a senator can be impeached after reaching two unexcused absences from Senate meetings or after four total absences.

Stumbo said once each committee has implemented the attendance policies, senators should adhere to them because they will be enforced.

"This policy was endorsed by every committee chair and should be taken very seriously," she said. "I understand everyone here is very involved, but we also have a duty to represent the student body."