

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes
Virtual Meeting
13 April 2021
3:30pm-5:00pm

Present: Sara Alexander, Dwight Allman, Cassy Burluson, Gia Chevis, Gerald Cleaver, Holly Collins, Matt Cordon, Derek Dodson, Nathan Elkins, Tisha Emerson, Christy Gantt, Brian Garner, Chris Hansen, Julie Holcomb, Beth Hultquist, Kristi Humphreys, Karon LeCompte, Michael Long, Elissa Madden, Horace Maxile, Joyce Nuner, Maxey Parrish, Sam Perry, Coretta Pittman, Tom Potts, Nicci Price, Barbara Purdum-Cassidy, Brian Raines, Angela Reed, Denyse Rodgers, Keith Schubert, Carol Schuetz, Jennings Sheffield, Ann Shoemaker, Kathryn Steely, Josh Strakos, Lynn Tatum, Mark Taylor, Ann Theriot.

Substitutions: Shelby Garner (for Renee Flippo)
Absent: Anzhong Wang

Guests: Carson Mencken, Faculty Athletic Representative, Student Athlete Center; Cori Pinkett, Aaron Tebo; Provost Nancy Brickhouse

- I. Call to Order—Chair Cordon, 3:30pm
- II. Invocation—Angela Reed
- III. Guest presentation—Carson Mencken, Chair of Sociology, Faculty Representative to Athletic Council, Student Athlete Center

Mencken introduced Cori Pinkett, Aaron Tebo—Student-Athlete Center for Excellence (SACE). Spoke about aims of SACE. Reported on academic success and Character Formation of student athletes.

Senator comment: expressed appreciation for the work of SACE with student athletes.

- IV. Guest: Provost Nancy Brickhouse—Faculty Regent Selection Process

Provost Brickhouse spoke about Faculty Regent Selection process; the Board of Regents selects the Faculty Regent, the Provost provides options. Shared PPT depicting language from the Board of Regents By-Laws regarding the Faculty Regent selection. Aim is for the Faculty Senate to have a meaningful voice in the selection process while allowing the Provost to fulfill obligations as described in the board's By-Laws. PPT described process to be followed and agreed-upon in consultation with Faculty Senate leadership and Executive Committee for the Faculty Regent selection. The hope is to have the new Faculty Regent in place by June 1, 2021. Provost would never want to put forward a Faculty Regent candidate that did not have the support of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Regent's responsibility is no different than that of any other regent on the Board of Regents with fiduciary responsibility to the university. It is important that the Faculty Regent be respected by the other members of the Board of Regents. Provost Brickhouse

mentioned that the Chair of the Faculty Senate reports to the Board of Regents on a regular basis. The Provost agrees with Faculty Senate Chair Cordon that we need to find a process that will be followed year to year, instead of revisiting the process for each selection.

Senator question: what the Provost considers to be the criteria for a Faculty Regent.

Provost Brickhouse: the experience the candidate has, the respect among faculty, diversity—the ability to speak to experiences or have a background that may not be present on the Board of Regents, academic as well as demographic; someone who will take the job seriously, it requires commitment; someone who has a big-picture view of the university, experience at the university beyond their own unit.

Senator comment: perceives tension between the qualities of the Faculty Regent and the fiduciary responsibilities of the Faculty Regent. Provost Brickhouse answered, that she doesn't see any conflict between qualities and responsibilities.

Senator comment: the alumni slate is chosen based on the number of nominations by members. Thinks current process is a good compromise and will support it.

V. Approval of Minutes—Senator Long

Senator Rodgers moved to approve the Minutes of the 13 March Faculty Senate meeting; Senator LeCompte seconded; motion passed.

VI. Reports

a. Executive Committee Meetings—Chair Cordon

Big item was meeting of EC officers with the Board of Regent leadership to discuss the LGBTQ+ student charter; had meaningful input at the meeting, deferred largely to the student representatives to give them the opportunity to speak; the Board of Regents plans to discuss the Gamma charter at the May meeting; meeting did not address the issue of employees of the university. Cordon requested continued dialog but no further meetings are scheduled at this time; no promises about further meetings.

Senator question: is there any discussion of the lawsuit in which Baylor is named?

Cordon: no, it was brought up by student representative at the end of the meeting; there was no discussion.

Senator question: was there any timeline mentioned? Cordon: no.

EC also discussed Faculty Regent selection process and the Distinguished Professor policy.

b. Provost's Office Meeting—Chair Cordon

Chair Cordon reported that he had discussed the proposed selection for the Faculty Regent. He also discussed the meeting with the leadership groups of the Board, Senior Administration, and Student Government.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. Faculty Regent Selection—Chair Cordon

Multiple options for the Faculty Regent selection have been considered. The Provost doesn't select the Faculty Regent, only the names to put forward; the Board selects the Faculty Regent. The aim is to devise a process that allows the Faculty Senate to have meaningful input into the process that also allows the Provost to fulfill her responsibilities. The Faculty Senate will present a "preferred list" of candidates to the Provost rather than a ranked list. The process eliminates much of the potential for conflict between the Faculty Senate and the Provost and addresses Faculty Senate concerns about confidentiality and sharing vote counts for candidates.

Senator question: confused as to why the Faculty Regent can only serve one term, while members of the Board of Regents can serve multiple terms. Cordon: we don't know; can ask Provost Brickhouse if the Faculty Senate can have an audience with the Board chair and pose that question.

Senator question: do we provide any data in addition to the slate of names? Cordon: The Provost has the same access to the candidate dossiers as members of the Senate; any discussion the Faculty Senate has at the May 4 meeting provides another avenue of input; there is no hidden information.

Chair-Elect Pittman: there is a slate of 13 nominees; immediately after today's meeting a Box invitation will be sent to all Senators; a Qualtrics poll will be created for Senators to indicate support for 8 candidates.

Senator comment: Senators must select 8, no less or more. Cordon: Qualtrics will be setup so that each Senator must select 8 candidates.

Cordon: Provost Brickhouse agrees that we can encode this process, rather than having to revisit the process from year to year.

b. Resolution on Collin College—Senator Tatum

Made motion to pass resolution in support of shared governance at Collin College. Similar resolutions passed and sent forward by other Texas colleges and universities. Keith Schubert seconded; motion passed. Text of the Resolution on Collin College available in the Faculty Senate Box folder.

c. Resolution on Student Food Security—Senator Strakos

Made motion that the Faculty Senate pass a resolution to support an MOU with the Development Office to create an endowed fund to support food security for low-income students. Denyse Rodgers seconded; motion passed. The text of the Resolution on Student Food Security is available in the Faculty Senate Box folder.

VIII. New Business

a. Resolution on Faculty Regent Umstead—Chair Cordon

The Executive Committee moves that the Faculty Senate adopt a resolution in support of and expressing thanks to Faculty Regent Randy Umstead; motion passed. The text of the Resolution on Faculty Regent Umstead is available in the Faculty Senate Box folder.

b. Resolution on Commission on Historic Campus Representations—Chair Cordon

The Executive Committee moves that the Faculty Senate adopt a resolution expressing thanks to and appreciation for the Commission on Historic Campus Representations; motion passed. The text of the Resolution on Commission on Historic Campus Representations is available in the Faculty Senate Box folder.

c. Nominating Committee for Senate Officers, 2021-2022

According to Faculty Senate By-Laws, the Senate is required to form a Faculty Senate Officer Nominating Committee: Senators Cordon, Pittman, Flippo, Maxile, Parrish, Strakos, Perry, and LeCompte will serve. Recommendation to be presented at the May 4 meeting.

d. Proposed BUPP on Distinguished Professor—Chair Cordon

The Executive Committee has concerns about the policy; in the past there has been no policy and the title has been used by the upper administration to bring faculty to campus with this title. Provost Brickhouse asked the Faculty Senate to review the policy. Cordon asked Senators to review the proposed policy for discussion at the May 4 meeting. Added to Agenda of May 4 meeting.

Senator comment: the proposed policy for Distinguished Professor has been brought up at the Council of Deans; the Council of Deans supports the policy. If it is to be adopted, Senators should give the policy a good read, in order to give the policy provisions the Faculty Senate can support.

Senator Cordon: reminder that the May 4 meeting begins at 2:00pm and is scheduled for 3 hrs.

IX. Adjournment

Senator LeCompte moved to adjourn; Senator Maxile seconded; motion passed.