

Baylor University

Faculty Senate Newsletter

April, 1998

The 1997-98 Faculty Senate officers and membership are as follows:

Chair: J. Christopher Buddo
(Music)

Chair-elect: Daniel B. McGee
(Arts and Sciences)

Secretary: Elizabeth Youngdale
(Law)

Publicity: Jay Losey
(Arts and Sciences)

Arts and Sciences:

Dawn Adams
Linda Adams
Robert "Bob" Baird
Jeter Basden
Anne-Marie Bowery
Nancy Chinn
William M. Jensen
Phillip Johnson
David L. Longfellow
Howard Rolf
Sara Stone
Joan E. Supplee
Charles A. Weaver
Joe Yelderman

Truett Seminary:
A.J. "Chip" Conyers

Business:

Gary Carini
Charles E. Davis
Elizabeth B. Davis
Karen Johnson
James M. Tipton
G.W. Willis

Education:

Weldon Beckner
Deborah Johnston
Jim Wiley

Engineering and Computer Science:

Donald Farris

Libraries:

Kathy Hillman

Music:

Jerry Gordon

Nursing:

Sandra Genrich

Notes from Chris Buddo, Faculty Senate Chair:

As the Senate wraps up its work for another academic year, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve, thank you for your support of the Senate's work, and express my appreciation to Senate officers Dan McGee, Jay Losey, and Beth Youngdale. I would also like to thank the other members of the executive committee: Jeter Basden, Karen Johnson, and Deborah Johnston. All of these people have made important contributions to the Senate and to the University as a whole. To all of the '97-'98 Senators: I am grateful for your dedication and willingness to serve your colleagues and Baylor University. Thank you for your fine work!

Senate elections for 1998-99 are now complete. Senators who have been newly elected for a first term (1998-2001) are:

Jane Abbott-Kirk Music
Rosalie Beck Arts and Sciences
Mark Dunn Business
Buddy Gilchrest Education
Ray Wilson Arts and Sciences
David Young Arts and Sciences

Senators who have been re-elected for a second term (1998-2001) are:

Linda Adams Arts and Sciences
Robert Baird Arts and Sciences
Karen Johnson Business
Sara Stone Arts and Sciences

Congratulations to these and thanks to all who stood for election. Thanks also go to our retiring Senators Dawn Adams, Jeter Basden, Jerry Gordon, Howard Rolf, James Wiley, and G. W. K. Willis for the contributions they have made over the years.

Chris Buddo, Chair
Faculty Senate



Administration Matters:
President Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

I want to focus my comments in this issue of the Faculty Senate newsletter on the issues of enrollment and student quality. I know these are matters of particular interest and importance to faculty, and I share your desire to think carefully about the optimum size of Baylor's student body and the academic quality and ethnic diversity of the students we recruit and enroll.

While the Board of Regents has authorized an increase in Baylor's undergraduate enrollment to as many as 11,000 students, this action should not be considered a mandate. We will increase numbers only within our goals of strengthening our academic standards. One of the best ways to maintain high academic standards is, of course, at the point of entry.

Last fall we not only had a record enrollment, but we were fortunate to see further progress in the academic quality of our entering freshman class as well. The mean SAT score for the Class of 2001 increased by 20 points over the previous entering freshman class—from 1130 to 1150. We also saw a 23 percent increase in the number of freshman National Merit Finalists enrolled. Our goal is to see that mean SAT score increase another 20 points next fall to 1170.

Applications for the 1998 fall freshman class are ahead of last year's totals. As of early April, the University had received more than 7,200 applications for admission, compared with 6,700 at this point last year. Even more encouraging is the fact that both test scores and class rank for this cohort are higher than last year's applicants.

Increasing the ethnic diversity of our student population is another important enrollment objective. Last fall our overall minority student enrollment showed a slight increase over the previous year, but our freshman numbers were about even with the fall of 1996. This outcome represents no small challenge in the aftermath of the Hopwood decision. While some state institutions responded to the new ground rules for minority admissions by going for a quick fix—admitting the top 10 percent of high school graduates regardless of test scores—we have continued to focus on attracting minority students by recruiting in areas where we have had success in the past. Without question it is a more challenging environment for attracting minority students, but I believe Baylor can and will make progress in expanding the diversity of our student body.

The retooling that has taken place over the past 18 months in the student recruitment, admissions, and student financial aid offices is paying dividends in the quantity and quality of student applicants. For the first time in many years we have the decision-making tools in place to react to competitive threats and to take advantage of market opportunities to find exceptional students. While we

will not know for sure until the 12th class day next fall, this is shaping up to be a banner year in admissions.

Thank you for your help in creating a positive and challenging educational environment that allows us to attract the brightest students to Baylor.

Publicity notes:

Dates of Senate meetings for 1997-98:

The May 12th meeting is scheduled for the **Cashion Building, Room 303**. Refreshments will be served at 3:15 p.m. in the Bloom Conference Center. The meeting will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

All academic areas of Baylor schools have elected members on the Senate. Thirty-two members serve staggered, three-year terms. No more than two faculty members may serve from a single department. Members may serve two consecutive three-year terms, after which they cannot be re-elected for one year.

Beth Youngdale, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, provides the following election results.

Elections were held for senators in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Hankamer School of Business, the School of Education and the School of Music. The Libraries, the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences, the Law School, and Truett Seminary did not have vacancies that needed to be filled.

The results of the election are listed below in alphabetical order.

<u>SENATOR</u>	<u>ACADEMIC UNIT</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Newly Elected Senators		
Jane Abbott-Kirk	Music	98-01
Linda Adams	Arts and Sciences	98-01*
Robert "Bob" Baird	Arts and Sciences	98-01*
Rosalie Beck	Arts and Sciences	98-01
Mark Dunn	Business	98-01
Buddy Gilchrest	Education	98-01
Karen Johnson	Business	98-01*
Sara Stone	Arts and Sciences	98-01*
Ray Wilson	Arts and Sciences	98-01
David Young	Arts and Sciences	98-01

Returning Senators

Weldon Beckner	Education	97-99
Anne-Marie Bowery	Arts and Sciences	97-00
J. Christopher Buddo	Music	97-00*
Gary Carini	Business	97-00
Nancy Chinn	Arts and Sciences	96-99
A.J. "Chip" Conyers	Truett Seminary	96-99*
Charles Davis	Business	97-00
Elizabeth Davis	Business	96-99
Donald Farris	Engineering and Computer Science	96-99*
Sandra Genrich	Nursing	97-00
Kathy Hillman	Libraries	96-99*
William Jensen	Arts and Sciences	97-00*
Philip Johnson	Arts and Sciences	97-00*
Deborah Johnston	Education	97-00
David Longfellow	Arts and Sciences	97-00*
Jay Losey	Arts and Sciences	96-99
Daniel McGee	Arts and Sciences	97-00*
Joan Supplee	Arts and Sciences	97-00*
James Tipton	Business	97-99
Charles Weaver	Arts and Sciences	97-00
Joe Yelderman	Arts and Sciences	96-99
Elizabeth Youngdale	Law	96-99*

*Denotes second consecutive term

I encourage you to contact any senator and let him/her know your views. We represent you, but cannot present your views on pressing matters unless you communicate with us. One possibility is through e-mail. All senators have e-mail addresses and would like to hear from you.

Marilyn McKinney sends the following good news: **Baylor University Staff Council** has completed the Spring Service Project for 1998. Money was donated by staff and faculty for the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children. The goal set by the Council was \$2,400; a total of \$3,525 has been collected from staff and faculty. The money will be used to renovate a Child Therapy Room for \$3,254 with the remaining \$271 to be used to purchase mini-blinds. A plaque will be mounted by at the door of the Child Therapy Room that will read *"The door to this room was opened with generous donations by the staff and faculty of Baylor University."*

The members of Staff Council wish to express our gratitude to everyone who participated in this very worthy cause.

John Thorburn, Classics, has been extremely helpful in updating the Faculty Senate website. You can access it at the following address: <http://www.baylor.edu/~Fac_Senate/senatehome.html>.

The Faculty Senate would like to thank John publicly for his contribution.

I would like to thank **Leigh Ann Marshall**, CCIS, for her expertise in preparing this attractive newsletter. She used pagemaker to create a "book-like" format and used Designer Club clipart to create the border.

Jay Losey, Publicity