

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes
8 Nov 2016
109 Rogers Engineering & Computer Science Bldg • 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Allman, Dwight; Baldrige, R.S.; Beal, Ron; Bolen, Bradley; Burgess, Cynthia; Burleson, Debra; Cook, Garrett; Cordon, Matt; Dixon, Andrea; Edwards, Elise; Ellor, James; Farwell, Beth; Faucher, Mary Ann; Hultquist, Beth; Hurtt, Kathy; Johnston, Hope W.; Long, Mark; Macgregor, Jason; McGlashan, Ann; Mencken, Kimberly; Morgan, Ron; Neilson, Bill; Newberry, Byron; Ostlund, Sandor; Parrish, Michael; Pounders, Steven; Raines, Brian; Robinson, Eric; Schubert, Keith; Sielaff, Steven; Souza-Fuertes, Lizbeth; Stone, Sara; Stroope, Michael; Supplee, Joan; Tsang, Jo-Ann; Umstead, Randall; Walden, Dan; Walter, Janelle; Wilcox, Walter; Wood, Randy M.; Woody, Margaret; and Staff Council Representative Lori McNamara

Members Absent: All senators present

I. Call to Order

Senate Chair Byron Newberry called the meeting to order at 3:32.

II. Invocation

Senator Randy Wood offered an invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes: October 2016

Senator Robert Baldrige made a motion to approve the minutes for the Senate meeting of Oct 11, 2016; Senator Ron Beal seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV. Chair's Report

a. Council of Deans Meeting

Senate Chair Newberry began with a report on points of discussion during the most recent meeting of the Council of Deans. The council discussed areas of focus for the Provost's Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Initiatives, such as hospitality, data science, and population health. The Council also discussed three key measures for the recruitment of new faculty: mission fit, diversity, and quality.

b. Presentation to the Baylor Board of Regents

The Senate Chair reported briefly on an October 13th presentation he gave to a committee of the Board of Regents, in which he shared the concerns of faculty regarding the most recent allegations against Baylor's management of its Title IX office.

c. Presidential Search and Listening Sessions

Senators Andrea Dixon and Bill Neilson, the faculty representatives on the Presidential Search Committee, reported that 130 hours of listening sessions had been conducted including 119 sessions with Deans, Department Chairs, Program Directors, Center Directors, Faculty and Staff, eight sessions in the community and thirteen sessions with students. Senators Dixon and Neilson shared the findings of these sessions with the Presidential Search Committee and Heidrick-Struggles, the search firm. The feedback from the sessions was organized in six key dimensions, and these will be fully incorporated into the presidential search.

d. Meeting with the Student Regents

Senate Chair Newberry and Chair Elect Ann McGlashan met with the Student Regents on October 31st. The Student Regents shared ideas that may be presented to the Faculty Senate at a later date.

e. The Sexual Assault Crisis at Baylor

The Senate Chair and Chair Elect met with President David Garland to express faculty concerns with the tone of the new Baylor website launched to respond to the latest media allegations about the sexual assault crisis at Baylor. Their concerns were heard and resulted in changes to the site.

Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Reagan Ramsower met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on the afternoon of November 1st to provide advance information about the "60 Minutes Sports" interview that aired later that evening.

During the same week, the Chronicles of Higher Education requested a statement on the ongoing crises from Senate Chair Newberry. He responded with a letter that he also shared in a Faculty Senate Newsletter distributed to all Baylor faculty on November 3rd.

The Senate Executive Committee, in communication with the Provost, has been brainstorming a series of meetings to take place between

faculty, the university president, and representative regents between now and Christmas for the purpose of improving communication. The faculty would ask questions of the regents and administration.

V. Discussion of Faculty Responses to Ongoing Crisis

The senate discussed the proposal of the Senate Executive Committee to conduct a series of meetings between regents and administrators. Among the topics discussed were questions to be asked at such meetings, the format of the meetings, how effective such meetings would be in instigating reform, and whether further actions should be taken by the senate, in addition to the meetings.

Based on the concerns raised during this discussion, Senator Joan Supplee made the following motion:

That the Senate Executive Committee compose a document outlining major concerns which the Faculty Senate require the Baylor Board of Regents to address, including the need for faculty voices to be heard by the board in the long term.

Senator Brian Raines seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

An ad hoc meeting was planned for available Senators on the afternoon of November 15th to discuss the progress of the executive committee's document and the planning of meetings with regents and administrators. *

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Sarah Stone and seconded by Senator Dwight Allman. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04.

* During the subsequent informational meeting on November 15th, continuing plans for the Faculty Senate hosted meetings with regents and administrators were shared, and senators discussed a draft of the Senate Executive Committee document composed in response to the November 8th motion above.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Pounders
Recording Secretary