

Faculty Senate Minutes
11 September 2012, Cashion 110
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: All present, with Professor Jim Huggins substituting for Professor Baker.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation: Gaynor Yancey
- III. Approval of Minutes from the 8 May 2012 Meeting: Unanimous
- IV. Remarks from Judge Kenneth Winston Starr, President

Chairman Still introduced Judge Starr, noting the stability he had brought to Baylor since he arrived on campus and expressing his personal gratitude for his effectiveness and consideration for others.

Judge Starr:

Judge Starr opened with a remembrance of the deaths of 9/11/2001. He mentioned especially the 40 children aboard one of the flights, heading for Los Angeles on a National Geographic-sponsored program. Evil is present, he noted: combatting evil is one of the tasks we undertake.

He went on to note the new program, Veterans at Baylor, and expressed his support for the organization.

He then noted that a college which shares our aspirations had bought a full-page ad in the *New York Times* in order to note the college's status as Standard and Poor registrants. Judge Starr noted that while we share that status (at a higher rating, actually), we would never use our resources to take out such ads.

The integrated course(s) between MCC and Baylor were his new topic: the students pay MCC prices for a minimum of 9 hours at MCC fees, while they take a minimum of three hours at Baylor—for which they pay Baylor fees (some currently-enrolled students are taking more hours, for which they also pay Baylor fees). A student can stay in the program for one, or two, years. After that, he/she will either take a degree at MCC or, if the student's combined GPA from both schools is satisfactory to Baylor Admissions, he/she may apply to Baylor's full-time program as transfer students.

Judge Starr added that Baylor's Student Government has passed an "educational affordability act," which basically calls to University attention the students' concerns about Baylor tuition and fees.

Judge Starr added to this report that \$62.5 Million is currently the sum in the President's Scholarship Initiative. He is hopeful of meeting the overall goal of the Initiative by the time of the program's projected completion.

Judge Starr next reported his recent meeting with a regional college association with which Baylor is intimately associated; in the meeting, affordability was a major issue—as was “Guns on Campus,” where Baylor's attitude is basically “No!”

He added that we are at 35% minority students now, and growing. Moreover, 95% of our students are to some degree supported by scholarship monies.

Judge Starr reported briefly on four more items:

1. Every construction project on campus is on time and on budget. He expressed a quiet pride in the stewardship reflected in that fact. \$385 million of construction is currently in progress on the campus; we're on schedule for East Village, which he anticipates being finished by next August. 700 students will be housed there—and the cafeteria will be finished by August, as well.
2. MARRS McLean is being asphalt-reduced at this point; FlintCo is the company in charge, and they, too, are on schedule at getting rid of the asphalt.
3. Sewer construction is likewise on target, as is the construction of the indoor tennis facility.
4. The moving of the Business School is moving ahead apace; it seems that the funding of the Stadium is impelling people to support the Business School project, too.

The President invited questions, and one senator asked if Judge and Mrs. Starr felt lonely with everyone else moved away from their location in “Fort Faculty.” “YES!” he replied. “I returned from China, and the next-door family was gone. . . . It is lonely.”

Judge Starr closed by saying that the new buildings are good things, but it is what is INSIDE the buildings that count: the students, the faculty, the guest speakers, the people.

(Following the President's visit, Robbie Rogers took the Faculty Senate photograph.)

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[Returning to the Minutes of the Meeting]:

- V. Chair Todd Still stated the Faculty Senate's Welcome to new and newly-elected Senators, who are:
Michael Parrish, *Bob Baldrige, Ann McGlashan, *Hope Johnston, Ron Morgan, *Stan Madden, *Mitch Neubert, Margaret Woody, *Tim McKinney, Lori Spies. (Rufus Spain, Retired Professors; Sue Koehler, Staff Council) (*=Re-elected Senators serving a second three-year term)

VI. Old Business (Chair Todd Still noted that he was switching the order of business to the front of the agenda, so that Fac. Senators would be able to be present for all of the Fac. Senate's business).

A. Master Teacher Policy: It's back on the table, Chairman Still told us; the question from the administration has to do with the nomination process: "Would a nomination which does not result in designation seriously 'hurt the feelings' of the nominated but not selected faculty member?" Chair Still suggested that Dr. James Bennighof be asked to attend a Fac. Senate meeting to take part in a dialogue on this issue.

B. CVS Caremark "Step Therapy" Prescription Drug Program (PDP): Chair Still noted that people are still noting their grievances with the CVA-Caremark PDP. Mr. Amos sent out a letter at the end of August 2012; it seems that the Caremark Co. has been making telephone calls aggressively pursuing their goals in a "slamming" procedure. Dr. Still will request that Mr. Richard Amos, Director of Compensation and Benefits, visit the Senate to discuss this matter further. He also noted that at the present time there is not a Senator on the "Advisory Committee," and he will seek to work with this Committee to rectify the matter.

An important issue, noted Dr. Still: we would like for the Fac. Senate to have a voice, and a vote. He added that if any Senator has had an experience with Caremark, Dr. Still would appreciate that being brought to his attention.

C. Task Force on Transfer Credit: Wes Noll responded to Dr. Still's query to say that the work of the task force is essentially finished. Former Senator Jay Losey asked that the Senate direct any questions about the report of the task force to Dr. Noll (the report is attached to the recent notification of today's meeting coming to us via email). Dr. Still noted his appreciation of the task force's work.

D. Plus/Minus Grades and Electronic Course Evaluations: Nothing new to report. Senators Hurt and Tsang are members of the committee, along with the "Academic Freedom" committee; David Hurt and Joanne Tsang will cheerfully receive queries on this issue of plus/minus grades.

Electronic Course Evaluations: if the Fac. Senate has any input, Dr. Still suggested, we should send the queries/input to one of these two.

E. Romantic and Sexual Conduct Policy: the policy has been revised, as has the policy on fellowships during research leaves (BUPP 746).

VII. New Business

- A. Committee on Committees Report, 2012-2013: Todd reported on behalf of the Senate representative: the committee rosters are final “with only a few exceptions.” Dr. Still asked if we could approve this report, given only a few positions to be filled. Motion made and seconded that the report be approved by the Senate: the motion passed. It was noted that the Senate had made several appointment requests/recommendations, which were accepted. Dr. Still added that we are working toward a one-year appointment for the Athletic Committee, given Frieda’s rotating off of the committee. Gaynor Yancey is the Senate appointment on the “Faculty Removal” committee.
- B. Calendar Committee Report, 2012-2017: Dr. Still reported a concern of Dr. Bennighof’s: the calendar as circulated (and we have a copy), but there is a problem which Dr. Bennighof wishes us to know of: the new calendar will “decreas[e] summer terms and mini-mesters by two classes each—and, the May mini-mester will begin *before* spring graduation, the Thursday before Spring Commencement, and conclude prior to the beginning of Summer 1. Dr. Bennighof feels that this is fine if the faculty approves—but it ought not come as a surprise.

Dr. Still’s query: Does the Fac. Senate approve of deleting two classes each from the May minimester and summer term I as well, and with the Minimester beginning before graduation in the spring?

One Senator noted that this will make the two summer terms of unequal lengths. Several Senators noted not only the inequity of distribution of contact time, but the fact that two days will be equivalent to about a full week of contact time.

Sue Koehler, Staff representative, was a member of the committee: Class days for first and second sessions are the same, she reported: Dr. Still noted that there is, then, a serious misunderstanding between the provost’s office and the committee on the calendar. Ms. Koehler agreed that there was a misunderstanding. Dr. Still added that Dr. Bennighof’s concern is simply the number of days: minimester two days less, and summer 1 and minimester both two days fewer.

Dr. Still: the Fac. Senate seems to be uncomfortable at the idea of reducing the number of contact hours/days, and will ask Dr. Bennighof to visit us to clarify this issue.

One senator asked the point of cutting the two days: the issue is the overlap with the summer terms, and between the summer terms. Dr. Bennighof has

said that the change involves cutting two days from each (!) of the summer terms. In short, there is definite confusion on the issue, apparently at all levels.

Query: What number of students is involved? And . . .
What does SACS require of us for contact hours?

Dr. Still concluded, after several queries, that we can ask Dr. Bennighof to visit us to discuss the calendar and to discuss the policy origination process, esp. with respect to the “Romance and Sexual Conduct” policy and the “Master Teacher” policy—both of which seem to be devoid of faculty input.

C. Recommendation Regarding Removal of Faculty from the Classroom: Dr. Still noted these concerns:

- We need a statement regarding suspension from a faculty member’s teaching responsibilities, something like the below:

The Faculty Senate would like to recommend to the Office of the Provost that something akin to the following statement be added to the Faculty Dismissal Policy (BU-PP: 705): "Prior to suspending a faculty member of assigned duties, pending an ultimate determination of the faculty member's status through a hearing, when logistically possible and legally advisable, the Provost shall consult with the Academic Freedom and Responsibility Committee. Suspension of the faculty member during the proceedings should only occur if immediate harm to the faculty member or others is threatened by the faculty member's continuance. Unless legal considerations forbid, any such suspension should be with pay."

- The Senate’s concern: there is no policy in place, and there ought to be. And it ought to involve the Academic Freedom and Responsibility Committee. Discussion followed; Dr. Still cut off the discussion after several minutes, saying that he would discuss the issue with the Provost’s office.

VIII. Reports

A. Chair Report (Dr. Still) : Counsel of Deans and Chair Report: Dr. Still presented the Fac. Senate agenda for the year; the value of service and its role in the annual review was sympathetically received as a concern.

Deans’ Evaluations: beginning this fall, each dean will be evaluated. The instruments are now in the hands of the Executive Committee for review and feedback, with (about) ten days’

consideration-time remaining. Dr. Still will send the schedule to the Senate members.

- B. Academic Freedom (Hurtt): A constituent has reported that he has received an email from a faculty member to the effect that the constituent's department has instituted a faculty search without any faculty input. The Senate agreed that this is an issue of Academic Freedom.
- C. Enrollment Management (Patton): 3257 Freshman, 455 transfer students: the numbers incoming this fall semester. 45 MCC students in the process.
- D. Staff Counsel (Patton): Dr. Patton reported on successful Staff Counsel initiatives, and added that Faculty members would do well to contribute to their fund initiatives.
- E. Student Life (Wood): No report.
- F. Liaison Reports: No reports at present.

The meeting adjourned a few minutes after 5 pm.

Submitted by Faculty Senate Secretary Tom Hanks