

Minutes Faculty Senate

October 17, 1989

Present: Kopplin, Chonko, Hardcastle, Richards, Andrist, Cannon, Vitanza, Hart, Farren, Riley, Wivagg, Busch, Ghee, Jennings, Armitstead, Rose, Sharp, Rogers, Elzinga, Benninghoff, Gaston, Lyon, Patterson, and Featherston.

Absent: Keathley, Mantooh, Maness, Baker, Goodloe, Rosenbaum, and Gordon.

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. in Blume Conference Center. Dr. Patterson opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes were approved with one revision, that being the inclusion of Dr. Mantooh as present for the September 19 meeting.

The President's Faculty Forum was discussed, with Dr. Patterson reporting that the attendance was relatively small and he encouraged the Faculty Senate to attend subsequent meetings and to further encourage their colleagues to attend these meetings as well.

The health insurance policy was discussed with the conclusion being drawn that a letter of thanks would be sent by the Senate to Dr. Netherton for his seeking of our input in the resolution of the insurance policy.

Dr. Patterson informed the Senate that if there were any developments regarding the upcoming Alumni Association meeting that would require Faculty Senate action, we would be notified.

Dr. Armitstead reported the Strategic Planning Committee was currently studying summer seminars and their effect on retention rates.

The Faculty Advisory Committees chaired by Baker, Hart, Jennings, Lyon, and Rosenbaum had no reports at the current time.

Dr. Patterson announced that the Senate Publicity committee will be chaired by Dr. Hart and that her primary responsibility will be to develop a Faculty Senate newsletter communicating our activities to the faculty.

Dr. Armitstead, chair of the Department Chairman Evaluation committee, reported that some changes have occurred in the evaluation of the chair. These changes include direct evaluation of the chair by the faculty and direct communication by the faculty to the dean using various scales. These changes and the evaluation process in general will be investigated by this committee.

Dr. Sharp, the chair of the Tuition Exchange Programs for the Children of the Faculty Committee, was asked to make minor revisions in his current resolution regarding exactly how much tuition is being discussed and to resubmit to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Patterson informed the Senate that a committee studying the role of athletics at Baylor is in the process of being formed and the membership will be communicated to the overall membership of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Patterson discussed several ad hoc committee appointments, including a committee to study lecturers' representations on the Senate. That committee will be charged with determining how lecturers might have a voice in Senate activities.

Dr. Patterson announced that Drs. Ghee, Jennings, and Goodloe form an ad hoc committee to study a Baylor football game in Tokyo for December 6, 1992. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of that game. The discussion was concluded with Dr. Patterson asking the members of the Faculty Senate to contact members of the committee with any further thoughts.

Dr. Cannon reported that the Drop/Add committee was not yet ready to make any recommendations to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Featherston began discussion of Baylor's ad hoc Committee on Unmarried Pregnancy Policy by stating he felt the study was inappropriate given the current litigation and that he could not serve on that committee. After considerable discussion, it was determined that the committee would remain an ad hoc committee, but that it would attempt only to stay abreast with current developments and make no recommendations unless asked to do so by the administration. In an issue related to this policy, Dr. Andrist expressed concern about a memo distributed to the Baylor faculty by the General Counsel. Her concerns revolved around what were considered to be 1) the vagueness of the memo, and 2) the degree to which this memo might differ from established University policy. Again, after considerable discussion, it was resolved that a letter be sent to General Counsel asking for clarification of the memo. Specifically, Mr. Thompson will be asked 1) how the request in the memo differs from University policy, and 2) what issues involving litigation are involved. Dr. Andrist, Dr. Riley, and Dr. Rosenbaum were asked to compose the letter to be sent to Mr. Thompson and to submit that letter to the chair of the Faculty Senate so that he might forward it to the General Counsel.

Dr. Patterson recommended that Faculty Senate members be allowed to secure replacements when they are going to be absent from scheduled Faculty Senate meetings. These replacements would not have voting privileges but would be allowed to attend the meeting and report back to their colleagues about developments that occurred within the Faculty Senate. After brief discussion, it was recommended that Senate members be allowed to secure replacements when they are absent, provided those replacements could be promised cookies and juice for all future meetings.

In other business, it was asked when the committee appointments would be communicated to the Faculty Senate. The chair responded that he would mail the final and official committee membership list to all of the Faculty Senate as soon as those positions were determined.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Lyon
Acting Secretary

LL/jdf