

Minutes
Faculty Senate
November 28, 1989

Present:

D. Andrist, P. Armitstead, W. Brown, M. Busch, R. Cannon, N. Keathley, D. Kopplin, J. Lusk, L. Lyon, B. Patterson, A. Richards, R. Riley, S. Rosenbaum, D. Vitanza, D. Wivagg, L. Chonko, W. Ghee, M. Hart, D. Jennings, T. Maness, J. Rose, A. Baker, N. Goodloe, D. Rogers, T. Featherston, J. Gordon, E. Farren, A. Sharp.

Absent:

D. Hardcastle, J. Bennighof, H. Elzinga.

The meeting began at 3:30 in Blume Conference Center. Anita Baker opened with a prayer.

Corrections to the minutes of October 17, 1989: Jerry Gordon and Nancy Goodloe were present at the meeting; otherwise, minutes were approved.

Reports:

(1) Dr. Patterson: Because of a conflict, Basil Thomson is unable to attend to discuss with the senate his memorandum to the faculty of October 6, 1989, urging faculty not to discuss two complex lawsuits and hearings Baylor is presently involved in. Dr. Patterson reported a conversation with Mr. Thomson in which Mr. Thomson said he saw no conflict between his memorandum and established University policy about faculty speaking as private persons rather than as representatives of the University. Consensus of members was that they would welcome Mr. Thomson to discuss this matter at the next Senate meeting.

(2) Dr. Patterson: The Council of Deans recommend evaluations of all academic departments by three outside evaluators; individual departments may suggest names. These evaluations will be funded by the University for the purpose of strengthening departments.

(3) Dr. Patterson: Senators are urged to attend the President's Faculty Forum and to remind departmental colleagues. (Wednesday, November 29, at 3:30 in the Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.)

(4) Dr. Armitstead, representative to the Strategic Planning Council: The Strategic Planning Council are studying Freshman seminars in relation to the student retention problem. At their last meeting the Council heard from Cecil Edwards and Lorita Manning about activities of the Health Center and the School of Education relevant to retention of students

Advisory Committee Reports:

(1) The Physical Facilities Committee (Jennings): The committee decided on the placement of a memorial to students who have died while attending Baylor.

(2) Student Life and Services Committee (Baker): The committee responded to issues referred by the 1988-89 Faculty Senate concerning (a) Faculty-Student Interaction, (b) Baylor-Foreign Mission Board Apprenticeships, and (c) Funding for Extra-Curricular Student Intellectual/Academic Groups not having Financial Resources of Social Groups. In addition, the committee agreed to support a Coordinating Council for male campus social and service organizations, and agreed conditionally to encourage the administration to open certain rooms on campus for student use. A copy of the committee's report is attached. The committee also adopted a resolution urging the administration to place a high priority on renovating and expanding the Student Health Center. A copy of the resolution is attached.

(3) Academic Freedom and Responsibility (Rosenbaum): The committee are trying to resolve a concern about proper reporting procedure: do they report to the Senate, or to the President and Academic Vice-President? This question arises because of conflict in written documents that characterize the committee's reporting responsibility. They are also having conversations about the administrative decision not to allow a Communication Studies class to show the film, The Last Temptation of Christ.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

(1) Freshman Retention Committee (Chonko): The committee noted that Baylor does not communicate well with potential students. The University needs a contact plan.

(2) Lecturers Representation (Farren): The issue of representation by lecturers is complicated by the facts that (a) Senate membership is constitutionally limited to tenured faculty, and (b) lecturers are excluded from most university committees. Concerns have been expressed about

evaluation of lecturers; are there guidelines? (M. Hart remarked that the School of Business does have a formal evaluation procedure for lecturers.)

(3) Athletics (Chonko): A central question for the committee is what the Senate committee might seek to accomplish that the University/Trustee committee would not. (Senate representatives on the University/Trustee committee are Mariana Busch and Richard Riley, Busch on the Title IX subcommittee and Riley on the mission subcommittee.)

The Senate Newsletter: Maxine Hart reported that the first issue will be out before the end of the semester.

Honorary Degree: Dr. Patterson reported that Dr. Reynolds sought Faculty Senate approval to award a degree to Paul W. Powell. Discussion about the Senate's role in the Honorary Degree award process ensued. Dr. Patterson noted that such nominations originate in the Honorary Degrees Committee. It was moved and seconded that the Senate accept the nomination to award an honorary degree to Paul W. Powell. The motion passed.

The Senate Committee to Study Departmental Chairs: Paul Armitstead reported that he has talked with Cliff Williams who chairs the University committee. The University committee have focussed on revising an old document on the function of a chairperson; they are seeking guidelines from other universities on the role of chairperson. Williams has expressed hope that the Senate committee will review the work of the University committee. The Senate committee have adopted the following additional goals: (a) to determine how chairs are chosen; (b) to determine what processes lead to the confirmation and ratification of chairs; and (c) to determine how faculty should evaluate chairpersons.

Announcement: T. Maness is a member of a newly created convocation committee. The goal of the committee is to consider the idea of gathering the entire University community together in a convocation initiating the academic year. Maness distributed to Senate members a survey about this idea for which members will serve as a pilot study prior to the committee seeking reactions from the entire faculty.

Resolutions:

(1) Rosenbaum sought to reintroduce last year's resolution concerning a tuition grant program. Dr. Patterson felt there was no need for a resolution on this issue, but that a simple reminder to Dr. Reynolds would be sufficient action.

(2) Baker introduced for adoption by the Senate a resolution from the Student Life and Services Advisory Committee on expanding the Student Health Center.

Resolution: The Faculty Senate encourage the administration of Baylor University to place a high priority on the renovation and expansion of the Student Health Center and that all attempts be made to expedite the construction as quickly as funds become available so that the physical and psychological needs of the student body may be met more adequately in the days and years ahead

Having been moved and seconded, the motion passed. She remarked that the expansion would include a new wing for psychological services and expansion of the examining area.

Questions:

(1) How can parking be adequate to accommodate a new facility for the School of Music? Dr. Patterson suggested this question be directed to Dr. Reynolds during his next Faculty Forum.

(2) How can grade inflation be dealt with more adequately? Dr. Patterson said he would raise this issue at the next meeting of the Council of Deans. It was noted that detailed information about this problem should be readily available through the Office of University Research. It was further noted that it would be difficult to address this problem adequately.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Rosenbaum, Secretary