

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
TUESDAY, January 20, 1998  
CASHION 303, 3:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

The Faculty Senate convened at 3:30 p.m. in Cashion, room 303, Hankamer School of Business, with Chair Chris Buddo presiding.

Present: D. Adams, L. Adams, Baird, Basden, Beckner, Bowery, Buddo, Carini, Chinn, C. Davis, E. Davis, Farris, Genrich, Gordon, Hillman, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Supplee, Stone, Tipton, Weaver, Wiley, Willis, Yelderman, Youngdale

Absent: Conyers, Rolf

### **I. Invocation**

Jeter Basden gave the invocation.

### **II. Approval of December 16 Minutes**

The minutes of the December 16, 1997 meeting were approved as amended.

### **III. Presentation on proposed Honors College (Steve Green)**

The Task Force on Creating a Scholarly Culture at Baylor was charged with evaluating the academic enhancement programs of the university (the Honors Program and the University Scholars Program) and making recommendations for their improvement of these programs. The conclusion of the task force was that the best way to create a scholarly culture at Baylor would be the establishment of a well-funded and appropriately administered Honors College. The Honors College would administer the currently existing honors programs (Honors and University Scholars), in addition to reaching out to the rest of campus with scholarly or intellectual programs or activities.

In evaluating the scholarly culture at Baylor, the task force identified administrative and cultural issues that needed to be addressed.

#### **Administrative**

Currently, the Honors Program and the University Scholars Program are funded by "hidden" budgets. The programs themselves do not compensate faculty members for time spent teaching or advising, so the different departments bear the financial burden for faculty members who teach Honors sections or oversee these. The programs are growing, and there is an increased need for thesis advisors at a time when faculty members are feeling the pressure to increase scholarly output.

The creation of an Honors College would allow reimbursement of faculty for the time and effort they already contribute to the Honors Programs. The Honors College would be an administrative unit--faculty members would not have permanent assignments to the Honors College. The Honors College would, essentially, "rent" faculty members from their academic unit for the honors sections that are taught. The Honors College would also take on the funding of certain programs that are currently funded by the departments. One example of this would be the presentation-discussion by Dr. Dan McGee entitled "The Ethical Issues in Cloning: New Science, Old Sins" which was sponsored by the Honors Program, but open to all students. A significant gift to endow the Honors College would free up funds now being used by departments to support the Honors Programs for other uses.

## **Cultural**

Another issue that would be addressed by an Honors College would be improving the scholarly culture at Baylor. The attitude among students in the Honors Program seems to be that the work is drudgery, but that it must be done to graduate with "honors." The vision is to stimulate excitement about learning. The charge of the Honors College would be to create cultural experiences--sponsor symposia, encourage discussion among students. The Honors College would provide facilities and compensation to encourage such intellectual dialog.

Why an Honors College (as opposed to a well-funded honors program)?

Fundraising for an Honors College will probably be an easier proposition because it allows for a naming opportunity. Additionally, there is concern in some quarters that an increased emphasis on scholarship may result in professors closing their doors to concentrate on research and writing. An Honors College would emphasize the importance of community in an academic, cultural environment.

## **Questions and Answers:**

Q: How would this program mesh with BIC? Wasn't BIC designed to enhance the academic environment?

A: The Honors College would be more outward reaching to students that are not involved in the honors program. BIC is not an honors program and it doesn't have the resources or the inclination to be outward reaching.

Q: How isolated will this program and its students be? Will the students in the Honors College be taking more classes with only honors students?

A: The number of hours required for honors classes will not go up. In fact, the hours may go down, but they would be all "gold" hours. It is anticipated that the structure of the honors program would remain the same, but the "green" sections would be reduced or eliminated.

Q: Would there be an Honors Dorm?

A: The task force thought the dorm was low on the priority list because the student focus groups were not particularly high on the idea. Any concern for creating a social environment for the students in the Honors College would be met through programs that the Honors College would sponsor.

Q: If the Honors College is supposed to encourage academic dialog or culture on campus, for honors and non-honors students alike, what about using a more inclusive name to make the non-honors students feel comfortable?

A: In terms of funding the Honors College, making the umbrella term broader, would probably make it harder to raise the money necessary to get the program going.

Q: In response to the earlier question, if there is going to be an Honors College, we should not make the mistake of admitting everyone.

A: The task force did not envision making the Honors Program open to everyone, but rather having the Honors College and its programs open and outreaching.

Q: Will compensating the faculty for their time and effort be enough to spur the students on to become intellectually engaged?

A: It is kind of a chicken and the egg problem. The hope is compensating faculty members and academic units for their contributions, will encourage increased participation in the program. As more faculty members are engaged in the program and with the students, more students will have rewarding experiences with their theses and this will trickle down to other students in the program.

Q: What is the real distinction between the Honors College and the Honors Program as it exists now? It sounds like we are just making a few changes in the Program and calling it a College.

A: That isn't an inaccurate description of what is being proposed. But the thought is that this might provide a way to generate some good, permanent funding for the programs.

#### **IV. Dismissal Policy update, Dan McGee**

McGee is scheduled to meet with Bill Underwood Friday, January 23d. Underwood should have a draft of the Dismissal Policy. McGee also handed out a copy of the procedural guidelines which are currently being used by the Tenure Committee when they are hearing dismissal cases.

#### **V. Items from Council of Deans/Provost Schmeltekopf**

##### **A. Thanksgiving break follow-up**

General findings in a study of a variety of departments across campus, confirm that, while attendance was generally good on Monday, the later it was on Tuesday, the worse attendance was.

## **VI. Committee/Liaison Reports**

### **A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment--Dan McGee, Chair**

McGee reported that there is a draft of a new Statement on Scholarly Expectations. Bob Baird took over discussion of the draft that comes to the Senate by unanimous vote from the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment. The administration was responsive to the concern expressed by the committee, and rewrote the statement in more general terms. It now says that the University would like to see more scholarly activity and dissemination of that product, while recognizing that resources will need to be expended to realize this goal. There is also recognition that the details of what scholarly product looks like will have to come at the department level.

Following Baird's report there was general discussion about the new Statement. After some questions about the underlying intent of the Administration, Baird restated that the new document was viewed by the Administration as an attempt to clarify the University's position on scholarly activity. There is no doubt that the desire is there to provide the release time needed, but whether the resources are available will be the issue. There was concern expressed that perception has become reality--that the belief that publication will be the deciding factor in questions of promotion or tenure has already been entrenched.

Longfellow moved for adoption. Wiley seconded. The motion carried and the Statement was adopted.

McGee added that the Committee was grateful to Dr. Schmeltekopf for his endorsement of the revised statement and to Baird for working closely with the Administration on this document.

### **B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management--Howard Rolf, Chair**

No report.

### **C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities--Joe Yelderman, Chair**

The new building that was to be named the Biology Building is now to be called the Sciences Building and will eventually house the Environmental

Studies Program. The Strecker Museum building project will be done in stages. The Opera Warehouse Rehearsal building is going to be destroyed to build a parking garage.

**D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services--Gary Carini,  
Chair**

No report.

**E. Staff Council Liaison--Linda Adams**

No report.

**VII. Other Items or Announcements**

The Faculty Forum has been moved to Feb. 19th at 3:30 in Kaiser Auditorium. The new format has been approved by the President.

For the rest of the semester, the meeting place for the Senate will alternate between Cashion, room 303 and the Conference Room, Blume Conference Center, Hankamer School of Business.

Conference Room--Feb. 17 and April 21

Cashion, room 303--March 17 and May 12.

All business being completed, Senate Chair Buddo declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Youngdale, Secretary