

## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

May 6, 2003, 3:30 p.m., in Cashion 303

### **Present:**

Senators Abbott-Kirk, Baldrige, Beck, Benesh, Bowery, Brown, Cannon, Connally, Cooper, Matthew Cordon (for Auld), Cox, Dunn, Gilbreath, Hanks, Haynes, Jacobson, Longfellow, McGlashan, McManness, Ngan, Norman, Patton, Robinson, Rust, Sharp, Spain, Stanley, Tatum, Weaver (Chair), Williams, Wilson, Young.

### **Absent with notification:**

Senators Lehr, Pinney, Walbesser.

### **Present for all or part of the proceedings:**

Newly elected Senators Robert C. Cloud, Georgia Green, Dan McGee, Rita Purdy, Susan Wallace.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.
- II. Professor Linda Cobbs as its chair presented the Report of the Committee on Committees for the academic year 2003-2004. Based on a motion by Senator Longfellow, seconded by Senator Cooper, the Senate voted unanimously to approve the report while empowering the Senate's Executive Committee to make modifications in committee assignments as necessary over the summer. The Senate thanked Professor Cobbs for her and her committee's superb work with a round of applause.
- III. The chair welcomed as guests newly elected Senators who will take up their terms at the beginning of the 2003-2004 academic year.
- IV. The minutes of the April meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved.
- V. **Old Business**

**A: Nominating Committee Report.** The Senate voted unanimously for the proposed slate of Senate officers and committee assignments for the 2003-2004 academic year.

**B: Law School Special Election.** Senator Rust certified that Professor Matthew Cordon of the Law School has been unanimously elected to serve out Senator Marianne Auld's term (2001-2004) on the Faculty Senate.

**C: Medical Benefits Task Force.** A report will be presented in the fall.

**D: "New Faculty Senate Framework."** A committee consisting of seven former Senate chairs will be convened to discuss the suggestions presented recently by Senator Gilbreath and to offer any recommendations that may result from these discussions.

**E: Liaison to Staff Council.** The Senate is still looking for a volunteer among its ranks to serve as liaison to the Staff Council.

## VI. Committee/Liaison Reports

### **A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment**

(Senator McGlashan, chair): Senator McGlashan proposed an extensive "Senate Statement on the Implementation of the Great Texts Curriculum Requirements." After rewording certain passages in the document, the Senate voted unanimously (upon a motion by Senator Gilbreath, seconded by Senator Stanley) to approve the statement and to forward it to the Provost and the Council of Deans. At the same time the Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment was charged

"to examine recent curriculum changes in the School of Music, especially within its BME degree program, and to certify that appropriate procedures were followed in changing the core curriculum."

**B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management** (Senator Cannon, chair): The profile of the incoming freshman class appears similar to last year's. Projections are that minority enrollment will be up slightly and that the gender gap in favor of female students will widen further (63.3 to 36.7 percent). Officials remain confident of bringing in 2,800 freshmen without sacrificing mean test scores. The freshmen class may contain again a substantial number of "challenge" students.

**C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities** (Senator Beck, chair): The committee met recently with Rick Creel and received an update on present and future construction and renovation projects around the campus. Plans call for the creation of a pedestrian campus within ten years by building additional parking garages and by using existing parking lots for buildings or green space. The Bear Trail will be restructured around the Science Building. Given the expected disruption of normal campus life, the committee recommended in a motion seconded by Senator Bowery that

"the Faculty Senate ask the *Lariat* to publish a weekly update on parking lot closures, renovations and new construction on campus. The article may be nothing more than a bulleted list, but it should run on the same day of the week in the same location in the paper each week."

The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services** (Senator Wilson, chair): A survey of students who chose not to enroll for the second semester of their freshman year revealed these chief reasons for withdrawal from Baylor: (1) students felt unpopular at Baylor; (2) no involvement in organizations; (3) low GPA. Lack of contact with faculty was not an issue.

The committee, upon a student initiative, is recommending to Lois Ferguson that in the future 8 AM finals be moved to 9 AM.

Baylor is expanding and restructuring its summer orientation procedures with a variety of activities between June and August, both in Waco and at other locations. Some activities are designed to assess better the students' overall strengths and aptitudes.

Welcome Week will run Thursday through Sunday and include a session which alerts students to the rising tide of plagiarism and how to avoid being caught in it.

#### **E. Liaison Reports**

**A: Athletic Council** (Senator Dunn): The most promising strategy to reduce the deficit of the athletic program is to fill football stadium seats and gain more television time. Cooperation at Baylor between the Athletic Department and the faculty for the benefit of student-athletes is exemplary in comparison to other BIG 12 schools. All physical facilities are paid for or fully pledged. Baylor did win five out of seventeen possible championships last year. There is absolutely no expectation that Baylor will leave the BIG 12 for financial or other reasons.

**B: Staff Council** (Senator Abbott-Kirk): Will file her report electronically.

**C: Personnel Benefits and Compensation** (Senators Ngan/Williams): No report.

#### **VII. New Business**

**A: Monthly Lunches with Provost.** Provost-designate Dr. David L. Jeffrey has agreed to lunch informally once a month with about six to ten Senators to discuss current issues of concern.

**B: Lecturer Interviews.** Upon an initiative by the regents, Baylor has extended its formal administrative interview process to include lecturers on one-year contracts. Dr. Jeffrey has indicated that there was no intention of "weeding out" questionable candidates and that only one individual's appointment may be reconsidered based on these interviews. Senator Tatum pointed out that a number of lecturer contracts for the coming academic year have not yet been issued--a situation which appears to violate Faculty Handbook guidelines.

**C: Unfinished Business.** Senator Weaver as Chair of the Senate has written a letter to both the outgoing and incoming Provost to remind them of pending or ongoing Senate initiatives that would require action or administration responses over the summer or in the 2003-2004 academic year. A copy of the letter was distributed earlier to all Senators by e-mail.

**D: Recognitions.** Senator Weaver as outgoing Chair of the Senate received a plaque in recognition of his exemplary leadership, while several retiring Senators were honored with certificates for their service to their fellow faculty members and Baylor University.

**E. Other Business.**

Senator Gilbreath reported that many of his colleagues in the Business School express concern over newly instituted publication expectations. They appear to emphasize quantity over quality and seem unusually prescriptive. Senator Gilbreath has composed another essay on this particular issue and is asking for feedback.

The Senate will convey its condolences to the family of Dr. Carlos Manzanares whose son Christopher died recently under tragic circumstances, and to the family of Dr. Gardner Gately who passed away unexpectedly.

**VII.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust  
Secretary