

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 7, 2004, at 3:30 PM in Rogers 109

Present: Senators Baldrige, Jane Abbott-Kirk (for Boyd), Brown, Chonko, Cloud, Connally, Cordon, Cox, Diaz-Granados, Garner, Green, Hanks, Lehr, Mathis, McGee, McGlashan, McManness, Miner, Ngan, Norman, O'Brien, Patton (Chair), Pennington, Pinney, Purdy, Robinson, Rosenbaum, Rust, Spain, Stanley, Sturgill, Vitanza, Wallace, Williams.

Absent with notification: Senator Boyd.

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:36 PM. Following the Chair's welcome Senator O'Brien offered the invocation.

II. The minutes of the Senate's November meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were approved without dissent (one abstention).

III. Announcements:

A. Referendum. The Chair distributed the certified results of the recent faculty referendum on President Sloan's leadership. A total of 490 faculty cast ballots (58.5 % of 838 eligible voters):

69 faculty (14.1 %) voted in favor of retaining President Sloan;
418 faculty (85.3 %) voted against retaining President Sloan;
3 faculty (0.6 %) cast blank or otherwise invalid ballots.

The Chair has communicated the results of the referendum to President Sloan and to Mr. Will Davis, Chairman of the Board of Regents.

All materials that could indicate whether and how a faculty member voted have been shredded. Upon a motion by Senator Hanks, seconded by Senator Cloud, the Senate voted unanimously also "to destroy all documents that were handled by the voting public." This means that the actual ballots will be shredded as well, inasmuch as fingerprints on them might reveal, upon forensic investigation, the identity of the voter. Remaining referendum-related materials will be given to the Texas Collection at Senator Brown's request.

Senator Robinson reported that donations received to finance the referendum far exceed its actual cost of \$1,096.43. Upon a motion by Senator Rust, seconded by Senator Baldrige, the Senate voted unanimously to transfer any excess funds to the Baylor chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Should the Baylor chapter refuse to accept the donation, the funds would go to the Waco chapter instead.

Senator Sturgill offered two motions to modify the language of the statement posted on the Senate website in conjunction with the referendum results. Senator Robinson seconded the motions. The first one, rejected on a voice, would have substituted the word "multiple" for "semi-official" in the second sentence of the second paragraph. The second motion, adopted on a voice vote, removed the word "unequivocally" from the opening sentence of the fourth paragraph.

B. A/B Vote Information. Upon inquiry the Provost has indicated he has no data on how individual departments voted with regard to their preferred model to replace the A/B faculty classification system. It seems impossible to reconstruct the overall vote tally. While several Senators stated they knew about existing departmental vote tallies, no further steps will be pursued in this matter.

IV. **Old Business.**

A. Faculty Evaluation Form. Senator Vitanza presented the latest version of the revised faculty evaluation form scheduled to take effect in January 2005 and approved by the Council of Deans. Refinements in its language include the substitution of "evaluation percentages" for "workload percentages; "assigned service" for "administrative service; and "non-assigned service" for "non-administrative service." While several Senators saw the desire for further clarification of the evaluation criteria and categories, most agreed that the proposed form represents an improvement over the one currently used. The Senate endorsed the new form on a voice vote with two abstentions.

V. **New Business.** After obtaining unanimous consent to discuss agenda items out of order, the Chair proceeded with the following New Business items:

A. Tenure Committee Appointment. Senator Ngan was chosen by acclamation to fill a current vacancy on the Tenure Committee.

B. Student Congress Resolution. The Chair presented to the Senate a proposed joint resolution sponsored by the Student Congress that faculty should not discuss general and Baylor-specific political matters in the classroom. While all Senators appeared to agree with the purpose of the resolution, it was pointed out that current guidelines already prohibit and discourage such discussion. In a subsequent voice vote, endorsement of the Student Congress resolution failed, with seven abstentions. Senator Rosenbaum will draft a substitute resolution to be presented at the January meeting.

Discussion on **all remaining agenda items was** postponed until the January meeting, except for the Athletic Council Report.

E. Athletic Council (Senator Connally): Baylor's graduation rate for athletes continues to pace the Big XII Conference. The Men's tennis team has found external funds for a trip to New Zealand over Christmas. The long-expected NCAA report will probably be issued in the spring.

F. Other Business. Senator Pennington voiced his apprehension over Baylor's policy that students complete financial arrangements by the third class day in the spring. He fears a repetition of last fall's unfortunate situation.-- Senator Green inquired where one may locate a copy of Baylor's financial exigency document.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary, Faculty Senate