



Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 11, 2001

Cashion 303

MINUTES

Present: Abbott-Kirk, Baldrige, Beck, Bowery, Cannon, Cooper, Cox, Curtis, Dunn, Farris, Gilbreath, Gray, Jacobson, Longfellow, Losey, McGlashan, McManness, Patton, Riley, Robinson, Rust, Sharp, Stanley, Weaver, Williams, Wilson, Sinai Wood (for Sparkman), Yelderman, Young

Absent with notification: Auld, Hanks, Haynes, Ngan, Sparkman

I. Call to Order & Announcements.

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. The minutes of the November meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved.

II. Old Business

A: Plus/minus grading. The Council of Deans has voiced no major concerns about the proposal. Student government opposes it.

B: Senate Cheating Resolution. The document has been approved by President Sloan. The Provost will set up an implementation committee to be chaired by Dr. Bob Baird.

C: Honor Council Appeals. The Vice President for Student Life will continue to have jurisdiction over Honor Council appeals.

D: Seminary query. Responding to senators' questions from the November meeting, the chair reported that the inscription above Truett Seminary ("The night cometh. . .") was chosen during the fundraising phase for the seminary.

E: Part-time Faculty Proposals. When the proposals were presented to the Council of Deans, the Dean of the Law School voiced a number of concerns. Deans have been asked to convey their concerns to the Senate chair, so the Senate can decide whether to resubmit some or all of the recommendations.

F: Small-group meetings with President Sloan. Three meetings have been set up for the spring semester. Senators for whom the assigned dates and times are inconvenient have the option of switching places with a Senator in another group.

G: Ad hoc Committee Name. The ad hoc committee inquiring into pay equity for older professors will be known as the Faculty Equity Committee.

III. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment (Senator Cox, chair):

1. The committee continues to deliberate over the issue of post-tenure faculty development, especially over appropriate diction in the document.
2. Regarding "academic professionals" in the library system, the Dean of Libraries will offer a detailed proposal by January. The Faculty Senate will have an opportunity to study and comment on the initiative before its implementation.
3. Senators discussed the recent decision by the administration to turn down a presumably fully qualified and unanimously recommended person for a tenure-track position in the School of Business. The Senate's Executive Committee and the ad hoc Faculty Hiring Committee (Senator Stanley, chair) will work together to develop strategies designed to obtain information that may help clarify the rationale behind hiring decisions on part of the administration. In the absence of specific details about such decisions, both statistical and anecdotal evidence will be collected and considered to illuminate the issue.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Senator Cannon, chair): Recruitment for the 2002 freshmen class is on target. Apparently the move to a flat tuition rate is not affecting recruitment efforts.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Senator Yelderman, chair): Groundbreaking for the new science building is scheduled for this coming summer.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Senator Wilson, chair): No report.

E. Liaison Reports

A: Academic Council (Senator Dunn, chair): No report.

B: Staff Council (Senator Abbott-Kirk, chair): No report.

C: Personnel Benefits and Compensation (Senator Curtis, chair): No report.

IV. New Business

A: Academic Calendar. An extra study day (Tuesday, May 7) has been added so that Monday, May 6, will be the last class day of the spring semester 2002. In future academic years, Spring Break will likely be one week later than is the practice currently.

B: Core Curriculum. The 6-hour religion requirement will be restructured to consist of a 3-hour "Survey of the Bible" course and a 3-hour course on "The Christian Tradition." A mandatory 6-hour sequence (two courses) on great texts of the Western tradition is in the planning stage.

C: Campus Security. Baylor has no recently updated procedures in place to deal with acts of terror or other campus emergencies. Chief Doak and Baylor's legal department are working to remedy this situation.

D: Research. The Council of Deans heard a report on University initiatives to encourage faculty scholarship.

E: Honors College. The Senate chair distributed a 7-page "Prospectus" for the new Honors College that is to be created in June 2002. The college will include the Honors Program, the University Scholars Program, the BIC, and the Great Texts Program.

F: Other New Business. Senator McGlashan inquired why lecturers are not allowed to participate in the new faculty development programs scheduled for the interval between the spring semester and the first summer session. The Senate chair will request an explanation from the administration.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary

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