

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
October 12, 2010 • Room 203, Cashion  
3:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Senators Baker, Erich; Baker, Lori; Baldrige, R. S.; Beal, Ron; Beard, DeAnna Toten; Beck, Rosalie; Beckwith, Frank; Blackwell, Frieda; Cannon, Raymond; Claybrook, Doug; Cunningham, Scott; Hanks, Tom; Harvey, Barry; Hurtt, David; Paschal, John; Johnsen, Susan; Jordan, Mary Ann; Long, Michael; Longfellow, David; Losey, Jay; McKinney, Tim; Madden, Stan; Myers, Dennis; Nunley, Patricia; Odegaard, Tom; Patteson, Rita; Patton, Jim; Sharp, Pat; Shoaf, Mary Margaret; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Walter, Janelle; Young, David for Richard Duhrkopf

**Members Absent:** Senator Neubert, Mitchell

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

**II. Invocation**

Senator Beck offered an invocation.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the September 14, 2010 meeting.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Election of new Senators

Frank Beckwith, Tom Odegaard, and Janelle Walter were unanimously elected to one-year Senate terms and were seated for the meeting.

B. Master Teacher Designation

David Pennington, Chair of the *ad hoc* Committee for Qualities of Master Teacher, presented a document to the Senate regarding appointments to Master Teacher and moved that it be approved pending minor modifications. Taking a straw vote, the Senate expressed its unanimous support and expressed its profound appreciation for the work of the Committee.

C. Faculty Senate Special Elections

Dennis Myers, Chair of the *ad hoc* Committee on Faculty Senate Special Elections, moved that the Senate approve the following two recommendations:

Recommendation #1:

Reference: Faculty Senate Constitution; Article II. Composition, Section 2, Paragraph 6

Amend the referenced paragraph as follows:

Delete: Special elections for vacancies will be called only when no one on the ballot of the previous election is willing to serve or when there is a tie for a runner-up position and all candidates are eligible.

Recommendation: Special elections for vacancies will be called when there is a tie for a runner-up position and all candidates are eligible. When no one on the ballot of the previous election is willing to serve, the Chair, in consultation with the Senators from the academic unit where the vacancy exists, shall nominate a candidate to the Faculty Senate to serve until the next annual election. The candidate must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate. At the annual election, a Senator elected by the academic unit shall fill the balance of the unexpired term of the vacated seat.

Recommendation #2:

Reference: Faculty Senate Constitution; Article II. Composition, Section 2.

Recommendation: Move Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate Constitution, with the recommended amendment to the Special Elections paragraph, to Article I, Section 1 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws. Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate Constitution shall become Article I, Section 1 of the Senate By-Laws with the remaining sections renumbered accordingly.

The Senate will vote on these recommendations at its November meeting. At that time, the Senate will also take up the issue of electronic voting.

#### D. Promotion Policy

Chair Cannon reported that a number of faculty members responded to his email regarding promotion to Full Professor.

### V. Committee/Liaison Reports

- A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Myers)—No report
- B. Academic Freedom (Longfellow)—No report
- C. Enrollment Management (Beck)—Senator Beck reported that it was indicated the University will need to enroll 3,052 incoming freshman in 2011-12 to stay in the black. She also informed the Senate that two retention studies had been conducted, one for the entering class of 2007-08 and another according to majors. Senator Beck asked the Senate if it would like for these reports to be posted on the Senate Website. The Senate indicated that it would. Senator Beck also noted that she would be visiting with Sinda Vanderpool regarding retention and would report back to the Senate.

A Senator reported that forty-one Chinese students enrolled at Baylor this fall and that many of them dropped and added courses so that they could be enrolled in the same classes. Furthermore, this Senator indicated that the majority of these students opted to take 18 hours and are presently overwhelmed.

Senator Beck reported that one-third of the Chinese students eligible for this program opted to enroll at Baylor. She also noted that in the future these students would all be enrolled in ESL and that there would be a limit of twenty students.

- D. Student Life (Stone)—No report
- E. Liaison Reports
  - i. Council of Deans (Cannon)—Three issues: 1. Space constraints. Presently, there is a push to use facilities at off-peak times and to match class size with classroom space. There is also an effort to track usage within academic departments. 2. Strategic planning. University Regents are to meet during Homecoming Weekend. During their meeting, they will finalize their work regarding upcoming strategic planning. There will be a strategic themes committee, who will do their work during the spring semester of 2011. A draft will be put forth in October 2011. The strategic plan will address five majors area: undergraduate students, graduate professional students, scholarly productivity and academic endeavors, Christian commitment, and community. 3. Problems in hiring. At what stage do you tell a potential hire about the depth of Baylor’s religious commitment? What constitutes discrimination at/by a private institution? The Senate entered into conversation regarding these questions.
  - ii. Athletic Council (Blackwell)—No report.
  - iii. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (Madden)—Senator Madden reported that Human Resources plans to make the following recommendations to the Executive Council for the 2011-12 academic year: 1. A 5% increase in health coverage for active Faculty and an 8% increase for retired Faculty. 2. No increase for dental coverage. 3. Office visit co-pay to increase from \$25 to \$30. 4. No maximum amount for hospice care; 60 visits for home-health care and physical therapy. 5. That there be information sessions.
  - iv. Personnel Policies (Nunley)—No report. Should Senators have concerns, they should contact Senator Nunley or Senator Beal.
  - v. Admission (Harvey and Jordan)—Meeting on October 14.
  - vi. Staff Council (Patton)—Paulette Edwards reported that Matt Penny indicated that Faculty/Staff may park in student spaces but not in visitor spaces. Students are not meant to park in faculty/ staff spaces. There is now an on-line appeal process for parking violations. The shuttle service is up and running. Zip cars are now in use. They may be leased by the hour or day. Parking is “wide open” for zip cars. Temporary parking passes can be issued for visitors.

Martha Lou Scott visited the Staff Council meeting and informed the Council that a number of students are experiencing depression. Faculty and Staff should report any irregular behavior through the Student Services website. Telephone numbers for personnel who deal with such matters were distributed to the Senate.

The Staff continues to raise money for student scholarships. The Faculty/Staff Christmas Dinner will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Baylor internet filter**

Before Patty Orr visits with the Senate next month, Chair Cannon wanted the Senate to identify concerns. She wants to discuss Malware with the Senate. Chair Cannon and Senator Patton had a meeting with Patty Orr and had a wide-ranging conversation. Baylor employs a company called Websense to screen contents. A number of Senators expressed concern that Patty Orr, who is not an Academic Vice President, should make decisions regarding faculty.

### **B. Transfer credit for online courses**

The Chair of the English Department, Diana Vitanza, has requested that the Senate study the issue of transfer credit for online courses. It appears that certain transfer courses are given credit at Baylor as a matter of course. What if such a course is taught on-line? Chair Cannon wants to form a committee comprised of individuals from concerned departments. After hearing their concerns, the Chair would like to form a Faculty-Administrative committee to set a policy regarding transfer credit for online courses. Senator Patton moved that the Chair proceed with the plan he outlined. Senator Baldrige seconded. The Senate unanimously affirmed the motion.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 5:15 p.m.