

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 10, 2004, 3:30 p.m., in Cashion 303

Present: Senators Abbott-Kirk, Baldrige, Beck, Brown, Cloud, Connally, Cordon, Cox (Chair), Dunn, Gilbreath, Hanks, Haynes, Lehr, Brian Marks (for Green), Mathis, McGee, McGlashan, McManness, Ngan, Norman, Patton, Pinney, Purdy, Robinson, Rust, Spain, Stanley, Sturgill, Tatum, Wallace, Weaver, Williams, Wilson, Young.

Absent: None.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. Senator Beck gave the invocation.
- II. The minutes, distributed earlier by e-mail, of both of the regular meeting on January 20 and the Special Session on January 27, were unanimously approved as amended.
- III. **Old Business**

A: Small Group Meeting with President Sloan Reminder. Senators originally slated to meet with President Sloan on November 25 will join the two groups of Senators scheduled to meet with him in the spring semester. The February 17 meeting will be held in the former Blume Conference Center.

B: Maternity Benefits Ad Hoc Committee: Senator Purdy (chair) reported that the committee is still gathering information before it can report to the full Senate on a future occasion.

C: Senate Elections. The Senate approved the election procedures as laid out by Senator Rust. All incoming ballots will be kept in a sealed box by Ms. Linda Conlon, Administrative Assistant of the History Department, until 2 PM on March 9 when the box will be publicly opened and the ballots officially tallied in Bennett Auditorium by a group of designated Senators (Beck, Brown, Norman). The proceedings will be open to the public.

D: Attendance Policy. The proposed policy has been shared with the Council of Deans and may be distributed to the faculty at large for further input and discussion.

E: Medical Benefits Task Force. Senators Lehr and Pinney (co-chairs) will assemble the entire task force, including non-Senate members, and meet with Mr. Amos in an effort to bring more equity to the premium structure, especially in view perceived inequities in connection with summer teaching. Overall, the Senate favors a health-promotion model for Baylor.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

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

The Committee is working on a proposal to establish a tenure appeals process. It is studying the situation at other Big XII schools as well as AAUP guidelines. The committee is also looking into the complaint of a lecturer in MFL who allegedly was forced by the administration to assign a grade to a student against his/her wishes. The Senate is pleased that twenty-one out of twenty-two candidates received tenure this spring.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Senator Stanley, chair):

Vice-President Crone appears optimistic that freshmen enrollment targets can be met this fall. Some 1,200 deposits have been received. SAT/ACT scores run slightly ahead of last year. The target number of 2,800 freshmen does include provisional students.

On the latter issue, the Senate adopted by a vote of 32-1 the following motion, introduced by Senator Hanks and seconded by Senator Cloud, namely, that the Senate Chair "send a letter of concern to Vice-President Crone to point out that the 400+ provisional students admitted in the fall of 2003 suffered a 15 percent loss in retention, and that this high number of provisional students significantly lessens the quality of the academic program. The Senate asks that the number of provisional students be reduced to a level similar to two years ago—about 100 provisional students, exclusive of athletes—without changing the definition of what constitutes a provisional student."

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Senator Beck, chair): There is no further information on the indoor athletic practice facility on campus, nor on specific plans for the projected parking garage along 8th/9th Street. Likewise no permanent decision has been made with regard to the former fountain area behind the Student Union Building. Several Senators expressed a preference for keeping it a green space.

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

E. Liaison Reports.

A: Athletic Council (Senator Dunn): No report as the Athletic Council has not met since the last Senate meeting.

B: Staff Council (Senator Brown): The "Race for the Cure" will be held on April 3 this year.

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

V. New Business

A: Ad Hoc Document Preparation Committee (Senator Cloud, chair): The committee is reviewing numerous documents related to accreditation issues that have been brought to the attention of the Senate. Every effort will be made to identify substantive and legitimate matters of concern, to investigate them in good faith, and to issue a fair, accurate and carefully documented report.

B: Faculty Senate Document Release. Senator Weaver reported that a bound copy of the 105-page report in its "no names" version was sent to every member of the Board of Regents last Thursday.

C: Honors College Senator. After he had presented a one-page statement summing up his position on the transition from a temporary to a regular representative from the Honors College on the Faculty Senate, Senator Tatum left the proceedings for the remainder of the discussion of Honors College representation. Senator Rust then provided a timeline of developments regarding Honors College representation in the Senate. Thereupon the Senate voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, introduced by Senator Patton and seconded by Senator Stanley:

"The Baylor Faculty Senate, having amended its Constitution on November 11, 2003, to provide for a permanent representative of the Honors College, hereby directs the Secretary of the Senate to arrange among the full-time faculty of the Honors College an election for such a representative in the current spring election cycle. To assure an evenly staggered rotation schedule for Senators university-wide (pursuant to Article II, Section I, of the Constitution), and to follow the precedent set after the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the Seminary were created, the Senator elected this spring in the Honors College will serve an initial term covering the 2004-2005 academic year. In the spring of 2005, a regular election will be held for a full three-year term. The individual elected this spring would be eligible to run for the full 2005-2008 term and, if elected, could seek reelection for the 2008-2011 term. The term of the current *pro tempore* representative of the Honors College will expire at the end of the 2003-2004 academic year."

A further motion, introduced by Senator Gilbreath and seconded by Senator Patton, citing Baylor's serious financial crisis, called upon the Faculty Senate to recommend to the Board of Regents the disestablishment of the Honors College and the transfer of its functions and essential operations to the College of Arts and Sciences. Before discussion could commence, Senator Weaver moved, and Senator Tatum seconded, that the motion be tabled. This was done by a vote of 28-2.

D: Reporting Groups. The Chair invited suggestions on how to improve further the mechanism of designated "reporting groups" Senators currently use to communicate with faculty.

E: Report on Council of Deans Meeting. The Chair reported on the most recent Council of Deans meeting he attended on February 5. Among the items discussed were the new grade change policy, the lack of a service infrastructure for faculty, the recent tenure decisions (only one candidate out of twenty-two was denied), and the proposal that regular meetings between the Council of Deans and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate may be instituted in the near future.

F. Other Business.

(a) Senator Sturgill indicated that he would introduce at a future meeting a motion that Faculty Senate Meetings be open rather than closed.

(b) The Senate discussed the recent budget cuts and hiring freezes.

(c) Senator Tatum announced that, at the invitation of the AAUP, Vice President Brooks will speak on February 24 at 3:30 PM in Miller Chapel on the subject of Baylor's financial situation.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary