

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

13 January 2009
Room 303, Cashion
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Baker, Baldrige, Blackwell, Bowman, Boyd, Cannon, Cloud, Cordon, Diaz-Granados, Duhrkopf, Garner, Green, Harvey, Hurtt, Cox for Johnson, Korpi, Lehr, Long, Losey, Myers, Nunley, Patteson, Pennington, Purdy, Rosenbaum, Sadler, Sharp, Spain, Stone, Supplee, Vitanza, Wood.

Members Absent: Senators Johnson, Kayworth, Longfellow, Still.

I. Call to Order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 3:31. Senator Wood gave the invocation.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Green asked for additions or corrections to the minutes.

Senator Baldrige moved for approval; Senator Wood seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Old Business

A. Proposed Tenure Policy and Procedures Document Update

Chair Green reported that 1) references to promotion to full professor have been dropped; 2) rotation for committee assignments will be followed; 3) appeals process/reappointment has been added; 4) department chairs and deans will review tenure notebooks, chair summary, and ballots before sending these items to the University Tenure Committee.

The AAUP statement the senate recommended in its December 2008 meeting will not be included in the tenure document. Chair Green read an email from Interim Provost Davis explaining the administration's reasons.

Senator: If we had a BOR who were fair, such a position (i.e., not to endorse the AAUP statement) might be defensible.

Senator: It's hard to follow everything in Interim Provost Davis' email.

Discussion ensued about the administration's decision not to include the AAUP statement.

Senator: “I have concerns about the way ballots are being handled.” Under the new policy, both the chair and dean will know how faculty members voted.

Discussion ensued about why ballots are to be sent to chairs and deans. Senators expressed support and nonsupport for this proposed policy change. Are too many people in the loop? Will there be retaliation against faculty members who vote against a candidate? Shouldn’t the chair and dean know beforehand so as not to get “blindsided”? Is the attempt to encourage faculty members to state negative comments/criticism of the tenure-track candidate early in the review process? If the candidate knows early on, then he or she can “transition” to another institution.

Senator: Is there any way we can say why a candidate was denied tenure? Chair Green indicated she would discuss the issue with the administration.

Further discussion ensued about the ballots and who reads them.

Senator: Faculty members are being put in an “awkward” position.

Senator: Can we express reservations with the proposed policy for disseminating ballots to chairs and deans?

The revised tenure policy document will be reviewed by the BOR academic committee at the February BOR meeting.

Senator: “What’s the main concern among senators about having ballots go to the chair and dean?”

Discussion again ensued about the ramifications of sending ballots to the chairs and deans.

B. Issues Regarding the End of Semester

1. Dead Week
2. Rescheduling of Exams

Chair Green hasn’t had a chance to talk to Interim Provost Davis about these two matters, but will do so by the February senate meeting.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Myers)—Curriculum Action Forms are being reviewed by the UCC; the new electronic process is going well.

B. Academic Freedom (Longfellow)—No report.

- C. Enrollment Management (Lehr)—No report.
- D. Student Life (Wood)—No report.
- E. Ad Hoc Committee on Master Teacher Criteria (Pennington)—Senator Pennington indicated that he will distribute a document on Master Teachers before the February senate meeting.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Parking Services (Purdy, Vitanza)—No report.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee on Lecturer Concerns (McGlashan)—Professor McGlashan reported that the meeting with lecturers in December went well and was well attended. The meeting lasted two hours. She indicated that any lecturer denied the promotion to Senior Lecturer will receive a one-year terminal contract. She concluded by saying that data is being collected on lecturers.
- H. Liaison Reports
 - 1. Council of Deans (Green)—No report.
 - 2. Athletic Council (Blackwell, Sadler)—No report.
 - 3. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (Cloud)—Senator Cloud said that faculty members have expressed concerns about Baylor’s financial situation; he would like a “conversation” to take place.

V. New Business: Items from the Floor

A. Senate Election Commission

The Faculty Senate representatives will be Senators Long and Pennington.

The at-large representatives will be Drs. Patsy Norman and Eric Rust.

The senate secretary serves ex officio.

B. Faculty Voting on Chair Hires

Currently, faculty members can’t vote on chair hires. Is that the current position of the present administration? Chair Green will ask the Interim Provost and President about their position on faculty voting on chair candidates.

C. Promptness of Student Evaluations

A faculty member has expressed concern about the promptness of student evaluations. This faculty member would like them available by commencement. Chair Green indicated that she would discuss the matter with Interim Provost Davis.

D. Lab Space

A senator indicated that lab space for a second-year faculty member in chemistry has not been finished.

E. Dean Evaluations

Another senator said that faculty members had contacted her about administration evaluations, especially for deans, and wanted the senate to continue discussing these evaluations with the administration.

VI. Adjournment

Senator Cloud moved to adjourn the meeting; Senator Baldrige seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Losey, Secretary