

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 11, 2005 at 3:30 p.m., in Cashion 303

TENTATIVE

Present: Supplee substituting for Rust, Klingman for Vitanza.

Absent with notification: Senator McGee.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Senator Hanks gave the invocation.
- II. The minutes of the previous meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved with corrections.
- III. SACS Report: Dr. Larry Lyon and staff gave a report on the progress of the SACS assessment. We are working progressively towards an April 17-19, 2007 visit.

IV: Old Business

- A. Report on “On-Line Faculty Evaluation by Students” concerning the report of the committee empanelled to study this topic. Discussion followed.
-This issue is not pressing at present. The consensus was to postpone action since movement by the administration is not imminent.
- B. Chairman Robinson gave a brief update on the work to study salaries and benefits as well as the committee work to establish evaluation procedures for department chairs, deans, and the president and provost.
- C. There was a question about the Senate’s role in asking for a performance audit and Chairman Robinson noted that Interim President Underwood was looking at audit information.
- D. There was a question on the status of the Senate’s request to have Chairman Robinson contact Mssrs. Davis and Brian regarding the input of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. Dr. Robinson indicated that he had not yet had the opportunity to discuss this issue with Mssrs. Davis and Brian but that he would.
- E. Chairman Robinson also indicated that he would send a direct communication to Chairman Davis regarding the Senate’s wish to see the Advisory Committee on the presidential search reconstituted.
- F. **Motion** [M: Baldrige; S: Pennington]: The chair of the Senate should follow through with the passed motion of the last meeting (B.g.) and make Mssrs. Davis and Brian aware of the concern of the Senate about the divergence of the votes between the Advisory and the Search Committees. Discussion followed. **Vote: Unanimous approval.**

V. New Business:

A. Motion [Executive Committee]: The Faculty Senate wishes to affirm its unqualified support of Interim President Bill Underwood and his leadership of Baylor University over the past four months. He has demonstrated an attitude of acceptance and respect for all faculty members, provided sound and transparent leadership, encouraged and modeled administrative efficiency, and undertaken concrete and intentional actions toward healing the University community. Interim President Underwood has the respect, appreciation, and unqualified support of the Faculty Senate. Discussion followed:

Motion to Amend [M: Norman; S: Cloud]: Remove first "...unqualified..." Discussion followed. **Vote on Amendment: Unanimous Approval.**

Amended Motion: The Faculty Senate wishes to affirm its support of Interim President Bill Underwood and his leadership of Baylor University over the past four months. He has demonstrated an attitude of acceptance and respect for all faculty members, provided sound and transparent leadership, encouraged and modeled administrative efficiency, and undertaken concrete and intentional actions toward healing the University community. Interim President Underwood has the respect, appreciation, and unqualified support of the Faculty Senate. Further discussion of amended motion. **Vote: Yea 31, Nay 0, Abstain 1.**

B. Discussion of open Senate meetings.

Motion [M: Diaz-Granados; S: Cloud]: The Faculty Senate encourages the opening of Faculty Senate meetings at the prerogative of the Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Motion to Amend [M: Norman; S: Baldrige]: Add "to faculty" so to read "...Faculty Senate meetings to faculty at..." Discussion of the amendment followed. **Vote on Amendment: Unanimous Approval**

Motion: The Faculty Senate encourages the opening of Faculty Senate meetings to faculty at the prerogative of the Chair of the Faculty Senate. Discussion followed.

Motion to Amend [M: Rosenbaum; S: Norman]: The Faculty Senate encourages the Chair to invite all faculty members to appropriate meetings of the Faculty Senate. Discussion Followed. **Vote on Amendment: 29 Yea; 0 Nay; 2 Abstentions.**

Motion to Amend [M: Stone S: Diaz-Granados]: remove "appropriate". Discussion followed. **Vote on Amendment: 30 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abst.**

Motion: The Faculty Senate encourages the Chair to invite all faculty members to meetings of the Faculty Senate. Discussion followed.

Motion to call for the question: [M: Diaz-Grandos; S: Sturgill] **Vote: exceeded 2/3.**

Vote on the Motion: Unanimous to approve.

C. Report from the Retention Task Force (Senator Diaz-Granados). Dr. D-G gave a presentation on the "Freshman Common Experience" and how the Committee hoped it would impact retention. He asked for Senate support in encouraging faculty to participate in mentoring sections of the "Common Experience."

Motion [M: Patton; S: Stanley]: Faculty Senate members encourage their colleagues to support the Freshman Common Experience and to volunteer to serve as mentors if possible given the constraints of their other academic duties. **Vote on Motion: 30 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Abstention.**

VI. Chairman Robinson asked the Senate for permission to suspend the Order of Business. Voice vote of approval.

VII. Committee/Liaison Reports:

- a. Academic Freedom (Longfellow): No report.
- b. Enrollment Management (Sturgill): No report.
- c. Physical Facilities (Brown): As distributed.
- d. Student Life (Chonko): No report.
- e. Liaison Reports:
 - 1. Athletic Council (Connally): No report.
 - 2. Staff Council (Robinson): 1) Still considering the Ombudsman issue.
 - 3. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (Ngan/Patton): No report.

VI. Resumption of New Business:

D. BUPP Changes: Chairman Robinson indicated that he will send out a report on those BUPP changes that we have already approved and Interim President Underwood has signed.

E. Tenure Policy Changes. Discussion.

VII. Motion to adjourn [M: Patton; S: Diaz-Granados]. Vote on Motion: Unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Jim Patton, Interim Secretary.