

# Minutes of the Baylor University Faculty Senate

8 October 2013 • 3:30PM • Cashion 111

**Members Absent: Parrish<sup>\*</sup>, McGlashan**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Senate Chair Patton, and an opening invocation was offered by Senator Yancey.

Senator Jordan made a motion to accept the minutes from the 10 September meeting, which was seconded by Senator Baldrige and approved.

## Reports:

- Council of Deans report given by Chair Patton
  - Richard Willis, Chair of the Board of Regents, addressed the deans regarding the failure of the Baylor Alumni Association to pass the Transition Agreement.
    - He said that the Board of Regents was committed to funding the best programs at Baylor.
  - PA presentation was given regarding Risk Management plan for reviewing training procedures in each department.
- Staff Council report given by Chair Patton
  - Staff Council's scholarship plan continues to grow, and they are raising money to support Mosaic, which provides assisted living opportunities for the physically challenged.
- Enrollment Management report given by Senator Baker
  - Increased efforts are being made to encourage students to attend summer school at BU.
  - Unit deans have been tasked with coming up with retention goals for their units.
    - Senator Still inquired about the availability of retention numbers for different schools/colleges within Baylor, and said those should not be kept confidential.
  - Senator Baker also announced \$2.5 million in new scholarships, and a discussion ensued about how that money will be distributed.

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<sup>\*</sup> Barry Hankins attended in his place.

## **Presentation by Beth Willingham regarding calendar changes**

- New changes to the calendar include dropping fall break and Labor Day and expanding Thanksgiving break to a full week.
  - Senator Wood expressed deep concern about dropping fall break. He noted that this is a very precarious time in the semester for many students, and that there have recently been suicide attempts. Fall break allows a brief respite for these overstressed students.
  - Others commented that a one-day fall break was too short to be of any real value to students, and some suggested dropping Labor Day and adding a day to fall break.
- Dr. Willingham pointed out that there were constraints upon the fall calendar because of summer and December graduations, and that the University is committed to maintaining three graduations per year.
  - She also noted that lab requirements in the sciences also make it difficult to rearrange the days off.
- Chair Patton thanked Dr. Willingham for discussing the calendar with the Senate, and plans to invite the Provost to discuss the issue further.

## **Reports continued:**

- Student Life report given by Senator Wood
  - Announced that the opening of the East Village has been a great success, and that Collins cafeteria will close.
    - Next year North Russell residence hall will close for renovations, to be followed by Penland the year after that and Collins the following year.
  - Senator Wood noted lots of psychological problems this week, which is common at this point in the semester.
- Global Education report given by Senator Spies
  - They are working towards hiring a lead person in global education.

Chair Patton announced that next month the Faculty Senate would take up the issue of reinserting service as a component of faculty annual evaluations.

- The Provost has expressed willingness to do so, but needs matrix for weighing service.

Senator Baldrige moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:55, and it was so.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Coker