

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes

February 10, 2015 • 3:30 p.m. • Cashion 110

Members Absent: Ron Morgan, Brian Raines

Senator Chair Baker called the meeting to order.

Senate Chair Baker welcomed Judge Starr.

Judge Starr reported that enrollment remains strong and demand remains strong. More than 73 foreign countries are represented in the student body. Three dean searches are happening simultaneously. Judge Starr reminded the Faculty Senate of their invitation to attend Thursday evenings' event to meet Provost Ed Trevathan.

The opening invocation was offered by Senator Johnston.

The motion was made to approve the minutes with the following amended items: Correcting the spelling of Senator Pounders' first name and title and a correction to the motion. The motion needs to read as follows:

Faculty-in-Residence (FIR)

Faculty-in-Residence representatives Professor Steven Pounders, Dr. Ian Gravano, and Dr. Jeff Doyle, Dean for Student Learning and Engagement.

A proposal was made to form a Council of Faculty-in-Residence to be added to the official academic committees of the University, with regular reporting to the Faculty Senate. There are currently 13 faculty-in-residence and faculty masters. Campus Living and Learning plans to have a faculty-in-residence or faculty master housed at all residence halls within the next five years. A complete description of the membership and reporting lines were included in the written proposal for the council.

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a Council of Faculty-in-Residence, with one small correction to the proposal membership, allowing the Senate to appoint a Senate Representative to the Council annually.

COIA

Regarding Senator Jordan's COIA report, the minutes need to reflect a change from "seasons" to "years." Her statement should read as follows: Scholarships for 4 years would enable the athletes to graduate.

Senator Baldrige moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Senator Beal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Council on Global Engagement

Senate Chair Baker reported that she has received comments from Senators about allowing stakeholders to have a voice on the council. There appears to be two different groups--Council on Global Engagement and a Council on Global Education. It was discussed that exchange programs and directors of study abroad programs need to be represented. The Council also needs to be explicit as to how members of the committees are selected.

Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Senate to delay the vote for more clarification.

Grade Change Policy

Senate Chair Baker reported that there is currently no grade change policy. Jonathan Helm, Registrar, requested the Senate review a new grade change policy draft. Discussion followed, a motion was made and the Senate approved the policy. Senator Hurtt recommended that faculty have 24-48 hours from when the grade is reported and a mistake is found so that faculty would be able to make the change without filling out the reports for a grade change.

Senate Chair Baker reported that an online system for grade change reporting is also in development.

Usage Policy for the Faculty Center

Senate Chair Baker reported that there is no BUPP for the Faculty Center listed among the online faculty policies. Discussion followed and there was affirmation that a policy is necessary.

Senate Election Commission

Senator Burleson made a motion to elect Senator Neilson and Senator Allman to the Election Commission. The motion was seconded by Senator Pounders. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Enrollment Management. Senator Beal, no report.

Staff Council. Senator Beal. Staff Council met today and they are interested in having their own Ombudsman. They are putting together a formal proposal to submit to the administration.

In March, the Staff Council will begin their fund drive. Senators are encouraged to invite others to go to the website and contribute.

Council of Deans. Senate Chair Baker, meeting was cancelled, no report.

Student Life. Senator Wood reported that the next meeting is February 17.

Course Repeat Task Force. Senator Wood reported that the Task Force met during his class time. He will have an update at the March Senate meeting.

Athletic Council. Senator Neubert, no report.

COIA. Senator Jordan reported that COIA's national meeting will be held February 20-22 in San Diego, California. Items on the agenda include lessons from UNC, character of faculty participation and governance, and the Presidential Commission on Reforming Intercollegiate Athletics.

Admissions/Elections Update. Senator Burleson. The committee was meeting during Faculty Senate meeting, no report.

Academic Freedom. Senator Tsang, no report.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Concealed Carry Gun. Senator Umstead reported that the Texas Senate will be conferring on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be the only opportunity to speak to this issue.

After discussion, Senator Allman made the motion to draft a statement from the Faculty Senate. Senator Umstead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Statement:

Baylor University Faculty Senate is opposed to licensed or unlicensed carrying of firearms on university campuses with the exception of certified peace officers.

A motion was made to accept the statement by Senator Umstead and seconded by Senator Patton. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy on appealing faculty evaluations. There appears to be no policy on appealing faculty evaluations. Senate Chair Baker will follow up on this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

Motion was made by Senator Baldrige to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Senator Beal. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra D. Burleson
Faculty Senate Secretary