

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1997**

The Faculty Senate convened at 3:30 p.m. in Cashion room 303 with Chair Chris Buddo presiding.

Present: D. Adams, L. Adams, Baird, Basden, Beckner, Bowery, Buddo, Carini, Chinn, Conyers, C. Davis, E. Davis, Farris, Genrich, Gordon, Hillman, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Rolf, Supplee, Stone, Tipton, Weaver, Wiley, Willis, Yelderman, Youngdale

I. Invocation

G. W. Willis gave the invocation.

II. Presentation of AAUP Policy Documents and Reports to Senators

Dr. William Cooper, President of the Baylor Chapter of the AAUP, presented each Senator with a copy of the 1995 edition of the American Association of University Professors Policy Documents and Reports.

III. Approval of Minutes--October 14, 1997

As a courtesy, the Senate Executive Committee presented the October 14, 1997 minutes to Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf and Prof. Bill Underwood prior to approval. Prof. Underwood submitted a memo clarifying a couple of points in the minutes.

Prof. Underwood's comments were submitted along with the minutes for approval. Hillman moved that the memo addressing these concerns be attached to the minutes. That motion was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Wiley moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Baird seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

IV. Vote on Constitutional Amendment

Following the second reading of the proposed Constitutional Amendment, Baird moved for adoption. The motion was seconded. The Constitutional Amendment was adopted unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business Update

A. Dismissal Policy

McGee reported that he will be talking with Bill Underwood and other interested parties after reviewing policies from other universities. Underwood appears to be open to significant alterations in the current policy.

B. Tenure Policy

General discussion about the new policy. The primary discussion revolved around a concern that criteria used for making tenure decisions under the new policy could be different than those in place (whether implicitly or explicitly) at the time of hiring.

McGee moved that the Chair of the Senate draft a letter to the Administration expressing appreciation for the work done on the new policy, but also giving an idea of some of the concerns addressed in the Senate. Baird seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Grievance Policy

Wiley reported that he, Baird and former Senator Robinson will be meeting with Bill Underwood to discuss Underwood's concerns.

VI. Items from Council of Deans/Provost Schmeltekopf

A. Board Actions:

Restructuring--Chairs and Deans are no longer appointed by the Board but by the president.

Master of Social Work--process of developing funding for the program, which because of accreditation, might possibly be part of larger school that is health oriented.

B. Chair Search Document--document received is the current policy.

C. Transfer Credits

A decision has been made to close the window on transfer credits. The recommendation is that 15 hours be the limit of transfer credit once a student has matriculated at Baylor.

D. December Commencement/Exam Schedule

General discussion about the proposed exam schedule restructuring for Fall 1998. Seemed fine to the Senate.

E. Dorm Closing

Council of Deans passed a resolution in protest to the dorm closing. Dorms will now stay open until 9 a.m., Wednesday

F. Task Force on Diversity

Dr. Schmeltekopf is in the process of appointing this task force.

G. Honors College

The University is seeking funding for an honors college. Buddo would like the Senate to open dialogue among the faculty about this idea. Once more specifics are known the Senate will discuss the issue in depth.

H. Welcome Week

Dr. Schmeltekopf is working with student affairs to have part of the first day of Welcome Week used to introduce students to college life from an academic standpoint.

I. Computer literacy requirements

A question has been raised as to how the University will deal with the computer literacy guidelines for SACS. Motion made to pass the question on to the university curriculum committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

VII. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment--Dan McGee, Chair

McGee asked Baird to report on the situation with the Statement on Scholarly Expectation. A position paper was written by the committee, but prior to the submission of the paper to the Senate, the Administration agreed to work further on the Statement. Baird met with Dr. Schmeltekopf and others in the administration. Baird wrote a draft of a new Statement that dealt with the concerns that had been raised during discussion between the Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment Committee and the Administration about the initial Statement. Following several days of discussion, there was a document that Baird believed adequately addressed those concerns raised by the Committee. He told Dr. Schmeltekopf that the next appropriate step would be to resubmit the Statement to the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment and, from there, send the Statement to the Senate.

At its next meeting the Committee will discuss dismissal procedure, focusing on clarification of certain language in faculty contracts. Losey met with Bill Underwood to discuss questions about tenured faculty members' contracts. Contracts can be changed under procedures outlined in the BUPP, but not the specific provisions of each faculty member's contract. Underwood said he'd look into tenure procedures at other institutions if there were any concerns. He expressed his support for tenure and indicated that the principle of tenure is safe at Baylor. The dismissal policy itself is still being worked on by Underwood.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management--Howard Rolf, Chair

At the last meeting Stan Madden was present and talked about goals for next year's freshman class. The goals are for a larger freshman class, to raise the median SAT by 20, to enroll more non-Texans and minorities. In the area of recruiting, students are lined up to call prospective students rather than visiting high school campuses. Also discussed was how to deal with the current policy on repetition of classes by undergraduates.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities--Joe Yelderman, Chair

No report.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services--Gary Carini, Chair

No report.

E. Staff Council Liaison, Dawn Adams

Report on Santa's Workshop.

VIII. Other Items or Announcements

Graduate School Dean Search--members of the search committee are Professors Georgia Green, David Hendon, Truell Hyde, Sally Jackson, Melanie McEwen, Tillman Rodabough, Pat Sharp, David Sturgill, William Thomas, and Charles H. Talbert as Chair.

All business having been completed, Senate Chair Buddo declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Youngdale