



Faculty Senate

Newsletter

October 1996

The 1996-97 Faculty Senate officers and membership:

Chair: Jeter Basden (Arts and Sciences)

Chair-elect: Chris Buddo (Music)

Secretary: Karen Johnson (Business)

Publicity: Jay Losey (Arts & Sciences)

<i>Arts and Sciences:</i>		<i>Engineering and Computer Science:</i>
<i>Dawn Adams</i>		<i>Don Farris</i>
<i>Linda Adams</i>	<i>Business:</i>	
<i>Robert "Bob" Baird</i>	<i>Elizabeth Davis</i>	
<i>Lewis "Bud" Barker</i>	<i>Don Edwards</i>	<i>Law:</i>
<i>Nancy Chinn</i>	<i>Michael Robinson</i>	<i>Elizabeth Youngsdale</i>
<i>John Fox</i>	<i>Chet Miller</i>	<i>Libraries:</i>
<i>William Jensen</i>	<i>G. W. Willis</i>	<i>Kathy Hillman</i>
<i>Phillip Johnson</i>		<i>Music:</i>
<i>David Longfellow</i>	<i>Education:</i>	<i>Jerry Gordon</i>
<i>Dan McGee</i>	<i>Duane Knudson</i>	<i>Nursing:</i>
<i>Howard Rolf</i>	<i>Grover "Rusty" Pippin</i>	<i>Linda Garner</i>
<i>Sara Stone</i>	<i>Jim Wiley</i>	<i>Truett Seminary:</i>
<i>Patricia Wallace</i>		<i>A. J. "Chip" Conyers</i>
<i>Joe Yelderman</i>		

Notes from the Senate Chair:

Greetings to all of you from the 1996-97 Faculty Senate. We hope that your 1996-97 AY at Baylor University will be successful.

The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to serve and function as the representative body of the Baylor University Faculties. My hope is that we can provide an appropriate forum for discussing matters of interest to the Baylor faculty, seeking to assist the University in problem-solving by being an advisory group reporting to the President and coordinating the work of assigned committees.

Much of our work is done through committees. Four faculty committees are chaired by Senators and report directly to the Senate. They are as follows:

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

Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management, Howard Rolf, Chair

Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities, Joe Yelderman, Chair

Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services, Patricia Wallace, Chair

Also reporting to the Senate are the University Committee on Committees and the University Lecturers Committee.

Already this year the Senate as sponsored the September 26 President's Faculty Forum. Thank you for participating in this opportunity to hear from our President and to dialogue with him about important issues of concern to us all. Please note that the Spring President's Faculty Forum is set for Thursday, February 27.

The Senate will join Faculty and Staff Development and the Staff Council to sponsor the Faculty/Staff Lunch with the President on Wednesday, November 20. The Senate will join AAUP in sponsoring the President's State of the University Address on Wednesday, April 23. Please reserve these dates on your calendar now.

This first part of the year has been spent in following up on work done by the Senate in 1995-96 with regard to the Faculty Handbook, the Baylor University Personnel Policy Manual, and the issues that have arisen out of discussion related to these two policy documents. We expect to be in continuing dialogue with the University administration as the documents are finalized, adopted, and published for distribution.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is listed the Faculty Senate roster for 1996-97. Please contact any of us if you have issues that you feel need to be addressed by the Senate. We look forward to hearing from you as we seek to represent you this year. Best wishes for a productive 1996-97!

Jeter Basden

Chair, Faculty Senate

Administration Matters

Comments from President Sloan

October 14, 1996

Dear Colleagues:

I am grateful for the opportunity you gave me a couple of weeks ago (September 17, 1996) to have a time of discussion with you about matters related to Baylor University. Such times of discussion are significant to all of us because our work as an institution of higher learning depends upon trust, and trust depends upon communication. Please know that I look forward to any opportunities in the future to share thoughts and ideas with you and to hear from you.

I think the challenges facing higher education for the next two decades are truly enormous. In many ways, the character of higher education may well be reshaped in the years to come. Instead of partnerships with government, where government interests fueled by military and economic development have pushed the agenda for universities--because in turn universities have been driven by soft dollars which created a certain kind of faculty and curriculum--universities may be called upon to rethink, in the absence of the older sources of funding, the kind of university they have been, in connection with both specialized areas of research and the ways of delivering higher education. The research universities, especially the public universities, are going to face a great challenge with regard to their emphasis upon teaching.

Private universities will continue of course to face challenges as well, especially in the economic arena. What we must do, it seems to me, is be very clear as to our own character and identity, realizing that Baylor University does constitute a very appealing option to many people, though it will never appeal to all (nor does any university).

Baylor has historically emphasized the importance of teaching and the character development of our students within the framework of a holistic community (we are not simply a commuter college--nor must we ever allow the lures of technology to make us only a "virtual university" populated by students in absentia).

With respect to teaching and the overall life of the institution, Baylor University has excelled. We have attracted students with high ideals, young people interested in making a difference in the world. We have often led the nation in preparing students for professional schools, and we have historically provided excellent professional schools ourselves. Undergraduate education leading to the professional schools--though we must not forget the opportunity in a highly selective way to provide graduate education--reflects the distinctive character, I think, of Baylor University.

The economic challenges for higher education, fueled by the rapid changes generated by technology (by the way, biotechnology is a subrevolution forthcoming as a result of the more generalized revolution brought on by technology), will force us to think innovatively about our curricula, all the while keeping our focus on those things which we have done well historically and which have characterized our historic mission.

It may be a modern cliché to say it, but we must be willing to lay aside our old patterns of thinking with respect to, for example, administrative models and pedagogical delivery systems. I noticed in this last weekend's Dallas Morning News that David Boren, the new president of O. U., referred to the traditional cultural tensions between faculty and

administration. No doubt there are certain inherent tensions in many cultural relationships which do not easily dissolve, such as that which is often referred to as the "town and gown" distinction in almost every college town. But the new challenges we face call for a lot more from each of us. New models for relationships really are evolving. It is important for all of us as a team of colleagues to work together to encounter the challenges that together we face in higher education. At Baylor University, our history and our character position us more readily than is the case for many institutions for developing that kind of new, more cooperative model.

And that is why I am glad we are able to visit together and did so recently. May we continue to develop such patterns of open communication and honesty.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

President

Publicity notes:

Dates of Senate meetings for 1996-97:

(All meetings are scheduled for the Conference Room of the Blume Conference Center. Refreshments will be served at 3:15 p.m. Meetings begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.)

October 15	February 18
November 19	March 25
December 3	April 15
January 21	May 13

All academic areas of Baylor schools have elected members on the Senate. Thirty-two members serve staggered, three-year terms. No more than two faculty members may serve from a single department. Members may serve two consecutive three-year terms, after which they cannot be re-elected for one year.

I encourage all faculty to contact any senator and let him/her know your views. We represent you, but cannot present your views on pressing matters unless you communicate with us. One possibility is through e-mail. All senators have e-mail addresses and would like to hear from you.

The following is an announcement by Rosemary Townsend, Director of Business Affairs/Administration for Health Services and the University's United Way campaign chair:

Baylor University - 1996 United Way Campaign:

Why Give?

*Because you care.

***You can help the children.**

*Because the allocation of funds to agencies is determined by volunteers, just like you.

***You can provide shelter.**

*Because almost 90 cents of every dollar you give goes to help people.

***You can help others cope with the unexpected.**

*Because your gift touches one out of two people in McLennan County.

***You are the difference.**

John Thornburn, Classics, has been extremely helpful in updating the Faculty Senate website. You can access it at the following address:

<http://www3.baylor.edu/departments/Fac_Senate/senatehome.html>.

The Faculty Senate would like to thank John publicly for his contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank **Leigh Ann Marshall**, CCIS, for her expertise in preparing this attractive newsletter. She used pagemaker to create a "book-like" format and used designer club to create the border.

Jay Losey
Publicity Officer

Quotable:

"Finality is not the language of politics."

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81), English statesman, author; speech to House of Commons, 28 February 1859.

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http://www3.baylor.edu/~Fac_Senate/senatehome.html

Please send suggestions to buddy_gilchrest@Baylor.edu.