

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

2 March 2010
Room 303, Cashion
3:30 pm

Members Present: Senators Baker, Erich; Baldrige, R. S.; Beal, Ron; Blackwell, Frieda; Bowman, Judy; Boyd, Jean; Cannon, Raymond; Diaz-Granados, Jaime; Duhrkopf, Richard; Garner, Linda; Green, Georgia; Harvey, Barry; Hurtt, David; Johnsen, Susan; Korpi, Michael; Lehr, Larry; Longfellow, David; Losey, Jay; Madden, Stan; McKinney, Tim; Myers, Dennis; Neubert, Mitchell; Nunley, Patricia; Patteson, Rita; Rosenbaum, Stuart; Sharp, Pat; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Vitanza, Dianna, Walter, Janelle.

Members Absent: Senators Wood, Randy

I. Call to Order

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 3:33. He welcomed Prof. Stan Madden, who filled the seat vacated by Kevin Johnson in a special election.

II. Invocation

Senator Rosalie Beck gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

David Longfellow motioned for approval of the minutes as amended with Senators Vitanza, Losey and Lehr added to the list of present faculty. The motion was seconded by Senator Blackwell and passed by unanimous show of hands.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

V. Old business

a. Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA).

Dae Vasek, director of OALA, was joined by Brandon Miller, enrollment management, Paul L. Foster Success Center, and Chris Holmes from Baylor's general council office. She gave a short presentation about purpose and scope of OALA. During her presentation she pointed out that the purpose of OALA is to provide students with varying disabilities (ADHD, LD, psychological, physical, among others) "reasonable accommodations" under Federal ADA and ADAAG regulations. The role of OALA is essentially to bring Baylor into compliance with various nondiscrimination laws. Several points of interest included:

- i. OALA regulations do not lower academic standards for students; they must meet current academic requirements;
- ii. Students reporting to OALA self-identify;
- iii. OALA currently has 715 students and gave ~4000 exams for the 08-09 academic year;
- iv. If faculty feel that OALA recommendations for classroom treatment do not meet the test of "reasonable accommodations" they are encouraged to contact OALA to discuss their implementations.

A senator sought clarification about OALA's role in testing students and granting permission for possible disruptive behavior in the classroom. Director Vasek responded by saying that OALA does not do the actual testing and only implements "reasonable" recommendations from medical professionals. Additionally, if students are disruptive, perhaps dropping the course is an appropriate action. Mr. Holmes added that due to some attendance abuses in the past, OALA has taken effort to communicate to students that they have an affirmative responsibility to attend class.

A follow on question was asked about the accommodation of absences and tardiness. Mr. Holmes elaborated on his previous response by stating that while not required to change core academic aspects of the university, it is difficult to call attendance core. This is due to the uneven application of the attendance policy across campus or even between differing sections of the same course. However, students may be failed on absences if it falls under the uniform application of the attendance policy.

Mr. Holmes also noted that faculty should not grant students special accommodations on their own without going through OALA. This is because once you regard a student to have a disability they, de facto, have that disability under ADA and ADAA, regardless of what OALA stipulates. Requests for reasonable accommodations must originate in OALA.

A senator inquired as to whether a student may have too many disabilities to be a participating part of the Baylor campus. Director Vasek pointed out the students with numerous issues are often not successful and will most likely leave the university. Mr. Holmes stated that OALA only takes effect once a student is enrolled and has no role in the acceptance process. He also states that psychological issues are the most demanding because of their uneven diagnosis and often acute presentations. And, while difficult, it is possible for the university to dispute a disability finding. More often, OALA will require retesting.

A senator asked Director Vasek how well OALA was accomplishing their mission. While she did not have any data on graduation rates, etc., she did feel that they were doing very well. She also pointed out that their success was remarkable considering their budgetary constraints.

Director Vasek was asked to elaborate on those students with psychological disabilities. She responded generally, stating that about 11% of OALA students had psychological problems, and that the majority are well-controlled (depression, anxiety). Others are closely monitored to insure that medication protocols are followed. She also pointed out an early alert system called the students of concern committee that monitors the status of students in a heightened state of risk.

b. Lecturer Proposal.

Due to severe time limitations, interim Provost Davis will not be able to meet with Faculty Senate representatives about the Lecturer Proposal until late April. In the intervening time, Chairman Myers informed the Senate that the document was sent to Vice Provost's Bennighof's office for examination and remarks.

c. Summer Compensation.

Chairman Myers stated that this would be taken up with the interim Provost during the April meeting. He also stated that Dr. Davis requested a report from the College of Arts & Sciences detailing how many faculty had their summer contracts held for 2010.

d. Election.

The secretary of the Faculty Senate reported on the progress of the annual Senate elections. Senator Baker stated that there were ongoing elections in the Schools of Music, Nursing and Education. He also noted that there were no elections in the Schools of Law, Business and Arts & Sciences due to the very low nomination turnout. A senator commented on the current demands and cumbersome nature of the election process, and how they may lead to errors, low voter turnout, and inability to obtain enough nominees. Another Senator pointed out that these issues are exacerbated by the lack of continuity in the secretary position. Chairman Myers suggested that the Faculty Senate form an *ad hoc* committee to study election issues, to include the feasibility of an electronic election, the nomination process, timelines, and the potential utility of a permanent staff member. The *ad hoc* committee will be chaired by the current Faculty secretary, Senator Baker, and former secretaries, Jay Losey, Eric Rust, and David Sturgill along with Senator Beal.

e. Summer Contracts.

Chairman Myers pointed out that this issue has morphed into a discussion of ‘contracts’ in general, and we are still in the process of gathering information. A senator suggested that we bring together administrators from Human Resources, Legal Counsel, and the CFO’s office to discuss the landscape of contracts as it pertains to peer institutions. There was some debate as to whether Baylor is unique in its litigious view of contractually binding tenured faculty members, for example. It was decided that more information was needed before the Faculty Senate got further involved.

f. Bookstore Management.

The chairman of the Faculty Senate bookstore committee, Rita Patteson, agreed to take faculty concerns directly to appropriate bookstore representatives. A senator asked whether there was a standing university policy about the circumvention of the bookstore for cheaper, third party book sellers. Senator Patteson did not believe that there was, but pointed out that the bookstore was willing to work with faculty about competitive pricing. Chairman Myers suggested that we invite a bookstore representative to speak with the Senate about distributions concerns, alternatives to purchasing (rental, online, etc.), and current federal regulations regarding adoptions.

VI. Committee / Liaison Reports

- a. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Chairman Myers reported that the committee has moved the release data of the electronic Curriculum Action Forms (CAFs) to April 1st.
- b. Academic Freedom: Senator Longfellow. No report.
- c. Enrollment Management: Senator Lehr. No Report.
- d. Student Life: Senator Wood. No Report.
- e. Ad Hoc Committee on Master Teacher: Senator Pennington. No Report.

- f. Ad Hoc Committee on Parking Services: Senator Vitanza. No Report.
- g. Ad Hoc Committee on Summer Compensation: Senator Vitanza. Reported as Old Business.
- h. Liaison Reports
 - i. Council of Deans: Dennis Myers. No Report.
 - ii. Athletic Council: Senator Blackwell. No Report.
 - iii. Personnel Policies: Ron Beal. Senator Beal replaces Senator Neubert as chair.
 - iv. Staff Council: Senator Boyd. No Report.
 - v. Admissions: Senator Harvey. Everything is up over last year. Chairman Myers asked the committee to collect and report on data describing admissions.

VII. **New Business**

a. Parking at the Athletic Complex

Chairman Myers presented a recent issue about preferential treatment of student athlete parking at the Athletic Complex. The complaint by faculty stated that students were not being ticketed, and that it was the policy of parking services not to ticket these students. Requests to the administration confirmed that due to parking limitations at the facility, no cars are ticketed unless they are in a fire lane or handicap parking, and that this should not be seen as preferential treatment of student athletes. It was the consensus of the Senate that this issue be diverted to the Parking Service committee.

b. Spiritual Life Advisory Committee

The senate was asked to accept the name change of the Religious Affairs Committee to the Spiritual Life Advisory Committee. Senator Beck motioned that the name and content changes be accepted by the Senate. The motion was seconded by Senator Longfellow. There was no objection to these changes during discussion and the motion carried was carried by unanimous voice vote with 2 abstentions.

c. Committee on Committee Appointments

The University Committee on Committees requested Faculty Senate appointments to the following committees: Athletic Council, Honors, Faculty Dismissals and Tenure. The Faculty Senate executive committee put forward names for each committee:

- Frieda Blackwell (nomination accepted) for Athletic Council,
- Robin Wallace for Faculty Dismissals,
- Lenore Wright for Honors Council, and
- Greg Speegle (nomination accepted) and Georgia Green (nomination accepted) for the University Tenure Committee.

Nominations from the floor were requested: none were given. Senator Pennington moved to accept the committee appointments of those faculty who

have nomination accepted. The motion was seconded by Senator Longfellow and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

d. Executive Committee Meeting with President-Elect Starr

Chairman Myers reported that the Executive Committee had a productive meeting with Judge Starr during his trip to campus just prior to his official announcement as Baylor's 14th president. Senator Myers noted that Judge Starr expressed great support of the Senate and faculty governance. Senators Diaz-Granados and Green added that the presidential search process produced a clear and unanimous result, and expressed great hope for Baylor's future.

In response to a question from a Senator about the divisions between the Baylor Alumni Association and the administration, the executive committee reported President Starr prefers to personally evaluate the situation before making any policy decisions.

Chairman Myers added that the Faculty Senate was invited to sit with Judge Starr on April 20th, 3:30-4:30.

e. Transfer Credits for Online Courses

A Senator pointed out that some faculty have been getting friction from the administration when not accepting transfer credits, particularly from online courses. Another senator pointed out that this is an area of concern from many points around campus; courses are offered by universities that are accredited by the same agencies that accredit Baylor, but uneven course rigor is a serious concern. Another senator noted that while the university will not accept courses that they think are online courses, common course numbers make it difficult to distinguish physical from virtual courses. A decision to accept or deny transfer credit can be made on a per-case basis.

f. President List

There was an inquiry as to the status of a proposed President's list, which will designate students with perfect GPA on a semester by semester basis, not at graduation. The consensus of the Senate was that they were comfortable with this designation and Chairman Myers will look into the status of this student body request.

VIII. Adjournment