

# **Minutes, Baylor University Faculty Senate**

**13 May 2014 • 2:00 • Cashion 103**

**Members Absent: Boyd, McGlashan, Newberry, Shoaf, Souza**

**The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Senate Chair Patton, who then offered an opening invocation.**

## **Presentations**

- Chair Patton presented Professor Robert Baird with a certificate of appreciation for his many years of service as a colleague, Ombudsperson, and past chair of the Faculty Senate
  - Professor Baird addressed the Senate and reflected on his 47 years of service at Baylor University.
- Chair Patton presented Dr. Elizabeth Davis, Provost, with a certificate of appreciation and gratitude for her support of and work with the Faculty Senate.
  - Provost Davis expressed appreciation for the past six years of working with the Senate and for what the Senate does for the University.

**A motion was made by Senator Baldrige to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded by Senator Yancey and passed.**

## **Replacement for Ombudsperson**

- Chair Patton announced the appointment of Senator Yancey as interim ombudsperson until next fall, when the Senate can empanel a committee to find a permanent Ombudsperson
  - He clarified that the appointment of Senator Yancey to this position in the interim does not preclude her from being considered by the committee as a permanent Ombudsperson.

## **Election of officers**

- Chair Patton thanked the nominating committee for putting together a slate of candidates for Senate officers. The proposed slate of candidates was as follows:
  - Lori Baker – Chair

- Ron Beal – Chair-elect
- Debra Burleson – Secretary
- Byron Newberry – Publicity Officer
- Senator Baldrige moved that the slate of candidates be voted for as a group by a single vote, Senator Jordan seconded and the motion carried.
- The Senate voted to approve the new officers.

**Reports were received from several Faculty Senate representatives:**

**Chair Patton presented a report from the Chair**

- Academic Citizenship
  - The Senate’s recommendation regarding Academic Citizenship has gone to the Council of Deans, and from there will go to the interim Provost.
- Electronic evaluations
  - We have learned that due to software incompatibility, it is impossible to incentivize student completion of evaluations by tying them to the release of grades.
    - Other incentive ideas that have been suggested include giving away iPads, early registration, or privileged parking decals.
      - Wesley Null is taking all this under advisement and will take it up with Interim Provost Garland.
  - The Chair noted that the completion rates of electronic evaluations fell again this semester, a trend that is of great concern to non-tenured faculty.
    - Senator Hurtt suggested adding confidence intervals into these calculations, and the Chair agreed to bring this up at the next opportunity.
- Reapportionment
  - The Chair noted that a committee would be appointed over the summer to affirm the rule change to increase Senate representation for the School of Engineering.
    - In the fall, a second Senator from Engineering will appointed for a one-year term, with open elections for that position in the spring.
  - He reminded the Senate that we will need to continue to work towards defining and clarifying who is a “faculty member” in terms of being able to vote and serve, especially in the case of the libraries and institutes.

- Chair Patton reported from the Council of Deans
  - A presentation regarding parking on football game days was given and laid out the plans for closing campus four hours prior to kickoff but leaving a parking lot available to faculty who need to be on campus.
  - He also noted that certificates of appreciation for four members of the Board of Regents will be presented at the upcoming BOR meeting.
    - The Chair also expressed his hopes that in the future the Senate will empanel a committee to oversee the awarding of such certificates each year.

### **Other reports**

- Senator Still reported from the Provost Search Committee
  - He announced that the Committee now has a website up that will allow them to receive input from the Baylor community, including suggestions and recommendations.
- Senator Baker reported on the Staff Council meeting.
  - Dominique Hill will be the Chair of the Staff Council next year.
  - The staff endowment scholarship continues to grow.
  - The shift from Blackboard to Canvas was discussed.
  - The appointment of a staff ombudsperson has been discussed for several years, and they still seek to move forward with this. The idea was suggested of sharing an ombudsperson with the Senate.
- Senator Baker then reported on the Enrollment Management Committee.
  - A task force has been set up to focus on how best to manage and control enrollment, especially in over-enrolled programs/schools
  - The Committee is also considering a “change of major” team to help streamline this process and assist students in changing majors.
    - One suggestion has been the creation of a “general studies” major.
  - The Committee is especially concerned with helping groups of students who are most likely to drop out (e. g. first-generation college students) more fully integrate into the college community.
  - There were 6,809 acceptances sent out last year by Baylor, but the “melt rate” has been less so far than at this time last year.

- The University has hired its first off-campus person dedicated to recruitment to operate out of Dallas.
  - One senator inquired about the graduation rate, and Senator Baker replied that the rate has gone up slightly, to 80% over 6 years.
- Senator Wood reported that the Student Life Committee had not met.
  - Senator Neubert reported from the Athletic Council.
    - They discussed game day parking, and he raised the concerns expressed by the Senate about faculty who need to be on campus on game day having access to parking.

**Chair Patton introduced President Ken Starr, who addressed the Senate.**

- Judge Starr announced that the University had just received a \$1 million donation for student scholarships.
- He also thanked the Senate for recognizing several members of the Board of Regents, noting that the members were deeply appreciative of this gesture.
- Judge Starr relayed news that the Baylor Alumni Association was unwilling to stop using the Baylor name, and that this action would likely lead to two sides to go to court.
- He also discussed his recent testimony to a House Committee on the safety of school athletes.
  - He and representatives from Notre Dame and Stanford testified regarding their commitment to the health and safety of student athletes and their concerns about the exploitation of these athletes that sometimes happens in American colleges.
    - He noted that Baylor's student athletes have an average 3.27 GPA and an 87% graduation rate.

**Matt Cordon, Chair of the University's Committee on Committees, presented a report to the Senate**

- He presented the Senate with the draft version of the 2014-2015 Committee on Committees report.

- The Senate voted to give provisional approval to the report, with final approval of the finalized version of the report to come from the Senate's executive committee.

## **Election results**

- Winners of the recent Faculty Senate elections were announced:

### **College of Arts & Sciences (6 open seats filled)**

Dwight Allman (Political Science)  
Garrett Cook (Anthropology)  
Elise Edwards (Religion)  
Brian Raines (Mathematics)  
Jo-Ann Tsang (Psychology & Neuroscience)  
Janelle Walter (Family & Consumer Sciences)

### **Honors College (1 open seat filled)**

Bill Neilson

### **Libraries (1 open seat filled)**

Cynthia Burgess

### **School of Business (3 open seats filled)**

Debra Burleson  
Kathy Hurtt  
Jason MacGregor

### **School of Education (1 open seat filled)**

Randy Wood

### **School of Engineering/Computer Science (1 open seat filled)**

Byron Newberry

### **School of Music (1 open seat filled)**

Randy Umstead

### **Truett Seminary (1 open seat filled)**

Mike Stroope

### **School of Social Work (1 open seat filled)**

Gaynor Yancey

- Departing members of the Faculty Senate were also recognized, including:
  - Jean Boyd
  - Barry Harvey
  - David Hurtt
  - Rita Patteson
  - Cynthia Riemenschneider
  - Mark Taylor
  - Mary Margaret Shoaf
  - Todd Still
- The Senate expressed its appreciation for their service.

**New business**

- Chair-elect Baker presented a plaque to Senator Patton expressing the appreciation of the Faculty Senate for boldness and wisdom of his leadership this past year, and in gratitude for the many ways that he advocates for Baylor faculty.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Baldrige. It was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Joe Coker