

MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE

April 15, 1997

The Faculty Senate convened at 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Blume Conference Center, Hankamer School of Business, with Chair Jeter Basden presiding.

Present: L. Adams, Baird, Basden, Buddo, Chinn, Conyers, Baldwin for Davis, Edwards, Farris, Fox, Garner, Gordon, Hillman, Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Knudson, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Miller, Robinson, Rolf, Stone, Wallace, Wiley, Willis, Yelderman, Youngdale

Absent: D. Adams, Barker, Pippin

I. **Invocation**

The invocation was led by Michael Robinson.

II. **Approval of March 25 Minutes**

The minutes of the March 25 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Items from Council of Deans/Provost Schmeltekopf**

A. Faculty Handbook Update

Senate Chair Basden reported that he and Senator Buddo had met with Provost Schmeltekopf and University Senior Counsel Underwood to discuss the status of the faculty handbook and to convey the Senate's interest in seeing the handbook published in the very near future. As a result of that meeting it was decided that the handbook will be published and distributed with all policies that have been reviewed and finalized included therein. For policies that are still under review, it is likely that the policies which are currently in effect will be included, with a notation that those sections will be updated at a future time. Basden

indicated that he expects this process to move rapidly and a handbook to be available soon.

B. Faculty Workload Policy

(In the Spring of 1996 the Senate approved a Faculty Workload Policy developed by the Faculty Workload Task Force chaired by Joe Cox. This item was on a recent list of unfinished business submitted to the administration by Chair Basden and which Provost Schmeltekopf indicated has undergone initial review only.)

Senator Buddo reported that he had spoken before the Council of Deans regarding the report prepared by the Faculty Workload Task Force. This document outlines the university's faculty workload policy as it now exists; the problem is that the university does not consistently follow the existing policy. The Council of Deans has decided to ask Dianna Vitanza, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, to correlate the task force report with the material currently in the Personnel Policy Manual and produce an edited policy that can serve as a guideline for workload issues for the deans of each academic unit.

A senator asked if the document resulting from this process will come back to the Senate for review; Basden indicated that he will ask for this to occur.

IV. Recommendation from Executive Committee: Ad Hoc Committee to Study the System of Lectureships at Baylor

Basden reviewed the background regarding the recommendation approved by the Senate in June 1996 pertaining to the system of lectureships and the lecturer position. This issue has been on the list of recommendations and other matters that the Senate has asked the administration to address.

Senator K. Johnson reported that Provost Schmeltekopf is ready to appoint an ad hoc committee to study the system of lectureships. Schmeltekopf has asked Jeter Basden to chair the committee. The committee will have seven members: three appointed by the administration and four appointed by the Senate (with Basden counting as one of the Senate's appointees). The members appointed by the administration are Wallace Daniel, Terry Maness, and Betty Jo Monk.

The Senate Executive Committee brings the recommendation that the Senate's appointees to the ad hoc committee be Jay Losey, Melissa Essary, and Georgia Green. After a brief period of discussion, the Senate voted to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint these individuals to the ad hoc committee.

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

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

McGee indicated that the AFRE committee has prepared statements responding to the document entitled "Enhancing the Academic Environment at Baylor University" and responding to changes suggested by the administration to the document entitled "Policy and Procedure for Responding to Financial Exigency by Reducing Academic Programs" based on recommendations voted on by the Senate at the March meeting. These statements have been delivered to the administration.

Baden reported on the response received upon delivery of these statements. The suggested revisions to the exigency policy were given to Provost Schmeltekopf, who promised that he would review them. The recommendation that an ad hoc committee be formed to study the issues raised in the "Enhancing the Academic Environment . . ." document received a positive response from the provost.

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

Rolf indicated that the committee is scheduled to meet. Baden reported that he has sent a letter to the administration containing the recommendations from this committee that were voted on by the Senate at the March meeting.

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

Yelderman reported the following information:

- (1) A new exit door is to be installed in Pat Neff Hall to ensure code compliance. The door will be near the main entrance on the ground floor facing Founders

Mall and attempts will be made to construct this new exit in a way that helps maintain the aesthetics of the building.

- (2) Robinson Tower is now 100% occupied.
- (3) The university is gradually upgrading dormitory rooms to accommodate computers and cable television.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services - Patricia Wallace, Chair

Wallace reported that the committee is awaiting the results of a recent student poll regarding the need for increased university-owned student housing.

E. Staff Council Liaison - Rusty Pippin
No report.

VI. Other Items or Announcements

A. President's State of the University Address

Baden announced that the President's State of the University address would be delivered by President Sloan on Wednesday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m. in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. This event is sponsored by the Baylor chapter of AAUP and co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate. Senator Baird added that prior to the president's address the AAUP will recognize retiring faculty members, and following the address there will be a question-and-answer period.

B. Spring Service Project - Staff Council

Baden directed the senators' attention to a printed announcement that had been distributed prior to the meeting containing information on the Staff Council's spring service project. The Senate was invited to participate by donating money and/or non-perishable food items to benefit Meals on Wheels and Caritas. (A copy of the announcement is attached to the file copy of the minutes.)

C. Inviting Newly Elected Senators to the May Meeting

Baden announced that, subject to the Senate's agreement, he would like to invite newly elected senators to attend the

May Senate meeting as visitors. The Senate's response to this plan was positive.

D. American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE)
Accreditation Visit

Senator Fox distributed to the senators a copy of an article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 4 issue, regarding the AALE, which is scheduled to conduct an accreditation visit to Baylor University's College of Arts and Sciences in the near future. (A copy of the article is attached to the file copy of the minutes.) Senator Baird reported on a called meeting of the Arts and Sciences faculty which had taken place immediately prior to the Senate meeting. He indicated that there were many important issues of concern expressed at the A&S meeting, the primary focus being the standards used by the AALE in its accreditation process.

During a period of discussion, the following questions were raised: Who invited the AALE to conduct an accreditation examination at Baylor? Can the faculty have a vote or voice in whether the accreditation is pursued? Why did the university apply to the AALE for accreditation? Various senators offered opinions and voiced concerns regarding the AALE accreditation. It was stated that a committee had been formed and tasked with preparing for the accreditation examination. All schools at Baylor except for A&S are accredited by a separate accrediting body in addition to SACS, so one view is that separate accreditation for A&S could be beneficial. However, concern was expressed regarding the control that AALE could exert and whether such control could prove detrimental to the university in the long run.

All business having been completed, Senate Chair Basden declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Johnson, Secretary