

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

8 December 2009
Room 303, Cashion
2:30 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; Harvey, Barry; Hurtt, David; Johnsen, Susan; Lehr, Larry; Longfellow, David; Losey, Jay; McGlashan, Ann; McKinney, Tim; Myers, Dennis; Neubert, Mitchell; Nunley, Patricia; Patteson, Rita; Pennington, David; Rosenbaum, Stuart; Sharp, Pat; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Sturgill, Amanda for Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Vitanza, Dianna; Walter, Janelle; Wood, Randy.

Members Absent: Senators Green, Georgia; Korpi, Michael; Johnson, Kevin

I. Call to Order

Dennis Myers called the meeting to order at 2:05.

II. Invocation

Senator Todd Still gave the invocation.

III. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting were distributed and moved for adoption as corrected by Senator Longfellow and seconded by Senator Baldrige. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. Old Business

1. Sabbaticals and Research Leave. Chairman Myers noted that semester sabbaticals and summer research leaves may no longer be taken in serial. He elaborated that this change has been in place for some time but was not sure of the official date of policy implementation and would check with the administration. Senators registered their unease in how the policy was changed and whether or not the faculty senate had any voice in the process.
2. Faculty Senate Statements on BAA/BOR Relationship. Chairman Myers reported that he had sent the faculty senate statements to the Baylor Alumni Association and the Baylor Board of Regents. The BAA acknowledged the statement and voiced its appreciation of the Faculty Senate. While the administration did not immediately acknowledge the resolutions, the Baptist Standard reported that the administration responded to their inquiry by stating that they are always interested in the sentiment of the Faculty Senate.
3. Presidential Search. Senator Diaz-Granados reported that the presidential search is ongoing. The presidential search advisory committee met on October 4th. Information presented in that meeting confirmed that a series of vetting interviews conducted by the BOR had begun and continues, and will probably push into the spring semester. Senator Diaz-Granados also reported that while the advisory committee continues to proceed along its prescribed lines, the committee does not have veto power and has not been able to see the dossiers of prospective candidates. He is assured that they will be brought into the process at some point.
4. Chair Evaluations. Chairman Myers reported that the Faculty Senate's work on chair evaluations is

being integrated into the process and that the full senate will be able to review the procedures upon their completion.

VI. Committee / Liaison Reports

- A.** Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Dennis Myers. No report.
- B.** Academic Freedom: David Longfellow. No Report.
- C.** Enrollment Management: Larry Lehr. No report.
- D.** Student Life: Senator Wood reported that during the October 13th meeting, Kevin Jackson reviewed the purpose of student life from his point of view. The November 20th meeting focused on retention, which remains fairly constant; most students leave the university because of financial concerns. There is a general concern from the committee and student life that there is a lack of rewards for faculty being involved in student life. For the first time, staff has more contact hours with students than faculty, 60%-40%. He also reported that the campus never experienced a H1N1 rate of over 1% of the student body at any given time during the fall semester.
- E.** Ad Hoc Committee on Master Teacher: Senator Pennington presented a document to the faculty senate describing qualifications for the Master Teacher designation. He pointed out that current students have been eliminated from the nomination process, but past students remain. The Provost office is also looking at the document and has asked that the rank of Master Teacher be more clearly defined. A senator inquired as to whether a Master Teacher is a 'title' or 'designation,' and not a 'rank.' It was the consensus that it is not a 'rank.' Another senator inquired as to where the calls for nomination shall be solicited: student body, alumni, BAA, other campuses, etc. It was the consensus this should be more clearly defined in the document.
- F.** Ad Hoc Committee on Parking Services: Dianna Vitanza. No report.
- G.** Ad Hoc Committee on Lecturer Concerns: Ann McGlashan. No report.
- H.** Ad Hoc Committee on Summer Compensation: Dianna Vitanza. Chairman Myers reported that he had a meeting with the administration concerning current practices of summer compensation. He relayed that the Provost does not want to talk about this issue until information is collected from other universities and should be under the purview of the ad hoc committee for summer compensation. During discussion, it was the consensus that summer compensation should be dealt with at the departmental level. Additional concerns are where peers groups are coming from (salary distribution, 9 month vs. 10 month contracts, and public vs. private) and who is collecting the data.
- I.** Ad Hoc Committee on Attendance Policy: Senator Janelle Walter reported that the committee met twice. During the first meeting they discussed whether or not a policy change was needed, and what policies from other universities looked like. The committee decided to compose a new policy that might be more central to the spirit of the central policy and removes the 'entitlement mentality' that students have about the number classes they can miss. Senators debated whether or not removing an actual minimal number of classes a student can miss would be beneficial. This is an issue because the 25% minimum is inequitably enforced. Another concern about a policy change is how it might impact student athletes and would they take advantage of not having a basement number of classes that they must attend. Other discussion was how the attendance policy affects graduate students, and whether the minimum number ought to be lowered, effectively making the policy more stringent, and does the Faculty Senate have the authority to initiate policy change. The committee motioned to change the attendance policy as presented in their statement (attached). During discussion, a Senator mentioned unease with a portion of the policy that might be read as a requirement for professors to contact students who miss class. The motioned failed on a show of hands: 7 for, 20 against, with 3 abstentions. Chairman Myers extended his appreciation to the

committee, and discharged them with the thanks of the entire Faculty Senate.

J. Liaison Reports

- i. Council of Deans: Dennis Myers. Senator Diaz-Granados attended the meeting in place of Senator Myers. He relayed that during the meeting Dr. Truell Hyde gave a short presentation on the importance of research which was the same report that he presented to the BoR. He also reported that V.P. Of Libraries, Patty Orr, presented an extension of the open access journals hosted at Baylor as part of a consortium of libraries and on-line technologies.
- ii. Athletic Council: No Report.
- iii. Personnel Policies: Mitch Neubert. Senator Beal agreed to serve on the committee.
- iv. Staff Council: Jean Boyd. Paulette reported that the staff council met on November 11th and gave an update to their endowed scholarship goals: they have collected \$2,500 in pledges during the last month, leaving them only \$1,000 short of their \$5,000 goal.
- v. Admissions: Barry Harvey. No Report.

VII. New Business.

1. Graduate Faculty. A Senator inquired as to the ability of lecturers to serve as graduate faculty and chair graduate committees. It was the consensus of the Faculty Senate that this decision is in the hands of individual departments.
2. Transparency for pay policy based on extramural support. A senator mentioned that the Faculty Senate should not get into personnel policy; this is better suited to the ombudsman. The general issues of inequitable support remain ill-formed and perhaps should be examined in better detail.
3. Policy Inquiry. A senator inquired in senate policy for speaking with the media. Chairman Myers responded by saying that while we are always concerned about being misinterpreted by the media, there is no senate policy concerning who may or may not speak with the media and every senator has the ability to determine this for themselves.

VIII. Adjournment