

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

12 January 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; Longfellow, David; McKinney, Tim; Myers, Dennis; Neubert, Mitchell; Nunley, Patricia; Patteson, Rita; Rosenbaum, Stuart; Sharp, Pat; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Walter, Janelle; Wood, Randy.

Members Absent: Senators Johnson, Kevin (withdrawn); Vitanza, Dianna; McGlashan, Ann; Lehr, Larry; Pennington, David; Losey, Jay

I. Call to Order

Dennis Myers called the meeting to order at 3:30

II. Invocation

Senator Todd Still gave the invocation.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Senator Longfellow moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Senator Baldrige. The meeting agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting were distributed and moved for adoption as written by Senator Baldrige, seconded by Senator Longfellow. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. Old Business

1. Summer Pay. Chairman Myers reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the *ad hoc* committee on summer compensation are moving forward with their plan to examine summer pay, including alternatives to Baylor's current approach. This process will include an initial self-study and a meeting with Interim Provost Davis and CFO, Reagan Ramsower to discuss motivations for the current policy. Senator Vitanza has agreed to organize and conduct a survey of ten other peer universities regarding their summer pay policies.
2. Presidential Search. Senator Diaz-Granados reported that the presidential advisory committee will meet with the search committee on January 25th. At this meeting they are expected to examine the dossiers of potential candidates and give feedback.
3. Faculty Evaluations. Chairman Myers reported that the provost's office is in the process of reviewing the process of evaluation. While no conclusions have been reached, the Faculty Senate is assured to have input in the process.

VI. Committee / Liaison Reports

- A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Dennis Myers. He reported that the committee has recently identified, and aims to correct, possible duplications of courses. He stated that the new electronic CAF will start March 1, 2010.
- B. Academic Freedom: David Longfellow. No Report.

- C. Enrollment Management: Larry 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: Dianna Vitanza. No report.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee on Lecturer Concerns: Ann McGlashan. No report.
- H. Ad Hoc Committee on Summer Compensation: Dianna Vitanza. Reported as Old Business.
- I. Liaison Reports
 - i. Council of Deans: Dennis Myers. No Report.
 - ii. Athletic Council: No Report.
 - iii. Personnel Policies: Mitch Neubert. No report.
 - iv. Staff Council: Jean Boyd reported that the staff council met with Mr. Whelan, Assoc. VP for Human Resources. There was discussion as to whether or not the staff needed a position equivalent to an ombudsman, as someone to hear grievances outside of the normal HR chain due to confidentiality. Mr. Whelan stated that issues would be better handled in the future, perhaps precluding the need for such a position. Senator Boyd noted that the perception of the staff about their treatment as faculty equals was uneven and this is an issue that faculty should continue to address at every opportunity.
 - v. Admissions: Barry Harvey. No Report.

VII. New Business.

1. President's List. There was a proposal from the student senate that academic achievers (4.0 GPA) be recognized in a "President's List." While the executive committee of the FS had no objections, Chairman Myers asked for feedback from the full body. While there were not outright rejections of the idea from the senate there were several concerns voiced. Several senators wanted to know if inclusion on a President's List would bring special recognition, such as early registration, tassels at graduation, indication on a diploma, early registration for classes, etc. Others wanted to know how it differed from the already existing Dean's List or AK? Another senator wanted to know if a President's List would further separate the student body unduly. Chairman Myers agreed to pass along the tentative approval of the Faculty Senate but would also request further information.
2. Faculty Evaluation. A faculty senator inquired as to whether student evaluations of faculty could be returned to faculty members sooner between fall and spring semesters in order to help shape courses and provide basis in the first year tenure review. The evaluation center at Baylor reported to Chairman Myers that getting back evaluations sooner would not be possible. However, we could move to a model that (1) cuts off the evaluation process earlier or (2) engage in an electronic process. The online or electronic process has a lower response rate that may rebound over time. It also exhibits a bimodal response distribution. The nursing school is attempting an electronic evaluation process but feedback is poor. Senators remarked that compulsory electronic evaluations may work. An early cutoff time is also unsatisfactory because it does not allow a student to provide feedback of the entire course. Flagging certain evaluations for early review is problematic because it precludes comparison groups. The Faculty Senate welcomes additional ideas that may address this issue.
3. Election. There is a FS election scheduled for the spring. Chair Myers emphasized that the FS needed to get the word out and these elections are important to the faculty and must be taken seriously.

VIII. Adjournment