

Faculty Senate Minutes
14 September 2010
Cashion 203 • 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Baker, Erich; Baker, Lori; Baldrige, R. S.; Beal, Ron; Beard, DeAnna Toten; Beck, Rosalie; Blackwell, Frieda; Cannon, Raymond; Claybrook, Doug; Cunningham, Scott; Duhrkopf, Richard; Hanks, Tom; Harvey, Barry; Hurtt, David; Johnsen, Susan; Jordan, Mary Ann; Long, Michael; Longfellow, David; Losey, Jay; McKinney, Tim; Myers, Dennis; Neubert, Mitchell; Nunley, Patricia; Paschal, John; Patteson, Rita; Sharp, Pat; Shoaf, Mary Margaret; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Tsang, Jo-Anne for Patton, Jim

Members Absent: Senator Madden, Stan

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

II. Invocation

Senator Still offered an invocation.

III. Special Guest Presentation by Judge Kenneth W. Starr, President

- A. Judge Starr commenced his time with the Senate by stating that the fall semester was off to a good start. He reported that there were 3,269 freshmen enrolled and that the average SAT of the entering class was 1,218. Judge Starr indicated that the residence halls were at 103% capacity. He commended the class for having a “good spirit” and expressed a desire to retain as many of these students as possible. Having noted certain difficulties that this generation of students has experienced, he applauded Drs. Kevin Jackson and Burt Burleson, along with their staffs, for the excellent work that they are doing for these entering students.
- B. Judge Starr then stated how honored he was to be at Baylor and how humbled he felt about his upcoming inauguration. He indicated in particular how he was looking forward to the remarks that guest speaker Professor Stephen Carter of Yale University Law School would offer.
- C. Judge Starr then fielded a number of questions from Senators.
 - 1. One Senator asked what Judge Starr saw as his top priority this year. He responded, “Raising money.” In fact, Judge Starr noted that there would be a scholarship initiative rolling out tomorrow. His desire is to make a Baylor education accessible. He regards accessibility to a

Baylor education to be a moral issue. Judge Starr is hopeful that the Baylor Nation will rally around this initiative as it did over the summer in keeping the Big 12 together. He reported that alumni giving is presently at 6.8% and that such a percentage compares poorly to TCU, SMU, and Rice. Even though “transformational gifts” are hard to come by, we can broaden the base and cultivate a culture of giving. Judge Starr suggested that the scholarship initiative would launch the university into a period of strategic planning.

2. In response to a question regarding the relationship between the university and the Baylor Alumni Association, Judge Starr indicated that he had a good relationship with BAA President Emily Tinsley and was desirous of leaving the acrimony between the university and the BAA behind. He anticipates fruitful conversation in good faith in the coming days and is hoping and praying for the best. The questions that he is asking are: What serves that best interests of Baylor? How can we accomplish that?
3. One Senator noted certain “space constraints” at the university and asked what progress might be expected along these lines in the near future. Judge Starr responded by noting that fundraising efforts for new buildings are ongoing and that development officers have been given the green light. The delicate balance, Judge Starr noted, is raising money for student scholarships and building projects simultaneously. The university is in “strong financial shape.” However, faculty and staff continue to be underpaid. Moreover, “we cannot continue to build this great university on the backs of our students.” It should become the Baylor way to care for those who come after you.
4. In response to one Senator’s concern that too many freshmen are being admitted and too much financial aid is being offered, Judge Starr suggested that the “yield rate” this year was “unprecedentedly high” and that “we do not know the reasons why.” That a Baylor education is in high demand, whatever the reasons, is both a blessing and a challenge.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Senator Longfellow moved that the minutes of the May Senate meeting be approved as distributed. Senator Baldrige seconded the motion. The Senate unanimously affirmed the motion by voice vote.

V. Old Business

- A. Election of Senators. Chair Cannon noted that the Senate is currently short two Senators in Arts and Sciences due to an inadvertent clerical error. The Chair indicated that he would like for the Senate to entertain a recommendation from a committee comprised of Senators Myers (Chair), Harvey, Hurtt, Longfellow, Johnsen, McKinney, Paschal, and Still to nominate Francis Beckwith (Philosophy) and Janelle Walter (Family and Consumer Sciences) to serve one-year terms so that there might be a full complement of Senators in Arts and Sciences for the 2010-11 academic year. The Chair noted that Drs. Beckwith and Walter would have been seated as Senators in September 2010 had it not been for an inadvertent clerical error. The aforementioned committee recommended that Drs. Beckwith and Walter be nominated to serve one-year Senate terms as representatives of the College of Arts and Sciences. Their one-year terms of service would be contingent upon election by the Senate near the outset of its October meeting.

Chair Cannon also informed the Senate that a Senator from the Business School had resigned. The Chair indicated that he would like for the Senate to entertain a motion from a committee comprised of Senators Myers (Chair), Harvey, Hurtt, Longfellow, Johnsen, McKinney, Paschal, and Still nominate Professor Tom Odegaard to serve a one-year term so that there might be a full complement of Senators from the School of Business for the 2010-11 academic year. The aforementioned committee recommended that Professor Odegaard be nominated to serve a one-year Senate term as a representative of the School of Business. His one-year term of service is contingent upon election by the Senate near the outset of its October meeting.

Senator Blackwell made a motion that the Senate approve the committee's nominations outlined above and moved that the committee study the matter of special elections for Senate vacancies as outlined in the Faculty Senate Constitution and bring back a report to the Senate as soon as possible. Senator Neubert seconded. The Senate was unanimous in its approval.

- B. Pre-registration concerns. Chair Cannon informed the Senate that the Provost is currently considering the hiring of a Registrar. It is thought that this hire will address concerns that Senators have raised about pre-registration in the past.
- C. Summer compensation. The Chair reported that he has been in conversation with Provost Davis regarding summer compensation for faculty. Presently, Provost Davis is in conversation with Reagan Ramsower regarding the same. The Chair is convinced that progress is being made along these lines and will keep the Senate informed of ongoing developments.

- D. Lecturer policy. A Senator asked the Chair for a report regarding the ongoing conversation concerning university lecturers. The Chair informed the Senate that a committee comprised of both faculty and administration was currently working on a final proposal and that he was optimistic regarding the outcome of the committee's work.

VI. Committee/Liaison Reports

- A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Senator Myers reported that electronic registration was working well and that the committee was actively meeting and working.
- B. Academic Freedom. Senator Longfellow. No report.
- C. Enrollment Management. Senator Beck reported that the committee is actively meeting and discussing matters of tuition, enrollment, and retention. Decisions have yet to be made.
- D. Student Life. Sara Stone. No report.
- E. Liaison Reports
 - 1. Council of Deans. Chair Cannon reported that the Deans have begun to discuss strategic planning (again). The Provost is emphasizing the need to consider the bigger picture. Additionally, the committee studying space utilization at the university is stressing the need to take better care of and to make better use of the space already available.

One Senator asked the Chair if he thought that this current round of strategic planning would be worth the time and energy expended. The Chair responded that he was guardedly optimistic.

At this point the Chair indicated that he wanted to make sure that the faculty was aware of an alternative policy set forth by the Provost for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor for Associate Professors who were hired without research expectations. Senator Hanks moved that the Chair share this policy with the faculty. Senator Longfellow seconded. The Senate unanimously approved the motion.

The Chair also encouraged the Senate to sign-up and show-up for Judge Starr's upcoming inauguration. Additionally, he reported that he was encouraged by the relationship between the faculty and administration. The administration is appointing faculty to various

committees and is facilitating conversation between the Senate and the Board of Regents. Recently, Provost Davis arranged a breakfast meeting between the Executive Committee and David Harper, chair of the Academic Committee of the Regents. The Executive Committee was encouraged by the meeting.

2. Athletic Council. Senator Blackwell. No report.
3. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation. Senator Madden. No report.
4. Personnel Policies. Senator Nunley reported that this committee continues to meet regularly and encouraged Senators to let her know if they had any concerns that they wanted her to raise with the committee.
5. Admissions. Senator Harvey reported that the committee was dealing with student deposits and dismissals.
6. Staff Council. Senator Patton. No report.

VII. New Business

- A. Committee Appointments. Senator Blackwell has agreed to serve on the Libraries Council. Former Senator Diana Vitanza continues to serve on the Transportation Access and Review Committee as well as the Public Improvement Committee.
- B. Journal Policy. Senator Longfellow moved that the Senate approve the electronic journal policy that had been distributed to the Senate. Senator Beal pointed out that the policy does not clearly indicate what constitutes a journal. After some discussion, Senator Harvey moved to amend the policy by including the following: “For purposes of this policy, a journal shall be defined as a regularly scheduled, peer-reviewed, scholarly publication with an editorial board and shall not be construed as covering other forms of electronic discussion, e.g., blogs and personal websites.” Senator Beal seconded Senator Harvey’s amendment, and the Senate voted unanimously for the amendment and for the policy as amended.
- C. “Observer” Policy for athletes. Chair Cannon noted that this policy is entirely voluntary. Some faculty may choose to opt in, while others may decide not to.

VIII. Adjournment

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

