

Faculty Senate Minutes
February 8, 2011 • Cashion 111
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Baker, Erich; Baker, Lori; Baldrige, R. S.; Beal, Ron; Beard, DeAnna Toten; Beck, Rosalie; Beckwith, Frank; Blackwell, Frieda; Cannon, Raymond; Claybrook, Doug; Duhrkopf, Richard; Hanks, Tom; Harvey, Barry; Hurtt, David; Johnsen, Susan; Jordan, Mary Ann; Long, Michael; Losey, Jay; McKinney, Tim; Madden, Stan; Nuebert, Mitchell; Myers, Dennis; Nunley, Patricia; Odegaard, Tom; Parrish, Michael (substituting in Spring 2011 for David Longfellow); Patton, Jim; Patteson, Rita; Sharp, Pat; Shoaf, Mary Margaret; Spain, Rufus; Still, Todd; Stone, Sara; Supplee, Joan; Walter, Janelle

Members Absent: Senators Paschal, John

I. Call to Order

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

II. Invocation

Senator Walter offered an invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Senator Baldrige moved that the minutes of the January 2011 Faculty Senate meeting be approved as distributed. Senator Odegaard seconded the motion. Senator Jordan noted she was not present at the January 2011 meeting of the Senate as reported in the minutes. With this mistake corrected, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes.

IV. Old Business

A. Role of Library Faculty on Tenure Committee

Chair Cannon is having ongoing conversations with Patty Orr regarding the role of library faculty on the Tenure Committee.

B. Visit with the Provost

Provost Davis came to visit with the Senate at the request of the Senate. Some Senators were interested in how the evaluation of Deans was being conducted and was progressing. Provost Davis reported that in the spring of 2010, the first round of Dean evaluations occurred. Subsequent to these evaluations, the Provost visited with each Dean who was evaluated. This spring she will visit again with the Deans and will follow-up on their evaluations. One recurring concern, Provost Davis noted, was communication. The Provost informed the Senate that Tiffany Hogue will return to Baylor this summer to serve as her Chief of Staff. Among other things, she will assist the Provost with matters of communication.

One Senator asked the Provost how the Deans were to inform their faculties of their evaluations. The Provost indicated that there was no set

procedure. Should faculty have a concern about a Dean, they may speak directly with the Provost. If a Dean is performing poorly, the Provost takes it seriously.

The Provost reported that she has been encouraged with the response toward Strategic Planning thus far. She encouraged the Senate to be involved, perhaps with the drafting of documents, and submit them to the Strategic Themes Committee.

One Senator noted that the Baylor Alumni Association continues to be a “sore spot” for many and that it would facilitate strategic planning if their could be a solution, or at least a “truce,” between the university and the alumni association. The Provost suggested that there is a need to move beyond a “zero sum” game.

One Senator suggested that it will be especially important in moving from the input phase to the writing of a document. Another Senator commented that oftentimes “less is more.”

Will the strategic plan be a master plan, one Senator asked? The Provost suggested that the strategic plan will assist the university in developing specific plans. Another Senator suggested that priorities are important in theory and practice. Still another Senator suggested that an actual plan with priorities should be put in place.

With Mike Morrison stepping down and Naymond Keathley being named as Interim Director of the Center for International Education, one Senator voiced concern about direction of the Center. The Provost assured that there is a commitment to international education at Baylor and that a legitimate search will take place to fill this vacated position.

C. Senate Involvement in Strategic Planning Process

Chair Cannon encouraged the Senate to get involved in the strategic planning process by drafting statements and sending them to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then seek to draft a statement regarding an academic vision for the university.

Senator Neubert, who is serving as Chair of the Strategic Themes Committee, offered a report regarding the Strategic Planning Process and urged the Senate’s participation.

D. Senate Ombudsperson

Chair Cannon reported that Dr. Robert Baird has agreed to a one-year appointment as Senate Ombudsperson.

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

- A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Myers)—No report. Senator Myers shared with the Senate that he is presently serving on the Vice

President for Development Search Committee. He noted that the committee met before the Christmas break. Dr. Myers reported that twelve candidates had been vetted and that four would be invited to campus. He described the process as open and authentic. He also commented on the diversity of candidates and said that he was looking forward to the selection process.

- B. Academic Freedom (Sharp)—No report
- C. Enrollment Management (Beck)—No report
- D. Student Life (Stone)—Noted that there would be a meeting next week.
- E. Liaison Reports
 - i. Council of Deans (Cannon)—Chair Cannon reported that the Deans desire for the faculty to update their emergency contact information. He also informed the Senate that will be a national search for a Registrar in the not too distant future. At the meeting of Deans, Naymond Keathley spoke about commencement. There was also conversation among the Deans regarding a criminal background check letter.
 - ii. Athletic Council (Blackwell)—No report
 - iii. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (Madden)—Senator Madden noted that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the reimbursement of over-the-counter medications. If it can be verified that they have been doctor prescribed, then they can be reimbursed.
 - iv. Personnel Policies (Beal/Nunley)—No meeting
 - v. Admissions (Harvey)—At a recent meeting it was reported that applications and inquiries are up and acceptances are roughly the same as last year. Committee members were also informed the SAT/ACT scores of applicants are up and that more minorities and males had applied than at this time last year. Presently, there 2,721 deposits have been received. The enrollment goal for the entering class is 3,100 students. The “discount rate” is close to 44%.
 - vi. Staff Council (Patton)—Senator Patton noted that the Staff Council had met earlier in the day. Matters arising included: the Staff Council’s involvement in the Relay for Life scheduled April 1st; medical leave; future staff luncheons, the next of which will feature Judge Starr; Staff Council scholarship fund; and conversation regarding a staff ombudsperson.

VI. New Business

A. Senate Elections in 2011

Chair Cannon noted that the Senate had fallen behind the calendar stipulated by Senate Bylaws regarding the election of Senators. In consultation with the Executive Committee, Chair Cannon recommended that the elections be held on Tuesday-Wednesday, April 5-6, 2011. Senator Duhrkopf moved that the Bylaws be suspended to allow for such. Senator Beck seconded this motion. The Senate was unanimous in its support of the motion. Subsequently, Senator Supplee moved that 2011 Senate elections be held on April 5th-6th. Senator Jordan seconded this motion, which was unanimously affirmed by the Senate.

Senate elections require a Commission, comprised of the Secretary and two other Senators elected by the Senate. Chair Cannon recommended that Senators Losey and Baker assist the Secretary with the upcoming election. Senator Supplee turned Chair Cannon's recommendation into a motion, which Senator Blackwell seconded. The Senate was unanimous in its support of the motion.

B. Other

In a recent luncheon with Regents Stone and Harper, the Executive Committee was told that the Board needed to raise more money for the university. The relationship between the university and the Baylor Alumni Association was the chief topic of a cordial, candid conversation.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Cannon adjourned the meeting.