

# Minutes, Baylor University Faculty Senate

**10 September 2013 • 3:30 • Cashion 111**

**Members Absent: Parrish<sup>\*</sup>, Wood, Yancey**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Senate Chair Patton, and an opening invocation was offered by Senator Still. The Chair then offered words of thanks to Senator Still for his tireless service as Chair of the Senate over the past year.

- A motion was passed to amend the agenda to allow time for President Starr to address the Senate.

President Starr expressed gratitude for the debate concerning the recent vote on the transition agreement between Baylor and the Baylor Alumni Association (BAA).

- He appreciated the Senate's leadership on this issue and discussed where the University will go from here regarding its relationship with the BAA. He noted that BAA staff members had been invited to join the Baylor Alumni Network (BAN) staff.

Senator Baldrige made a motion to accept the minutes from the 24 August meeting, which was seconded and approved.

Richard Amos, Director of Benefits and Compensation in Human Resources, addressed the Senate regarding upcoming changes in insurance options for retirees.

- These changes include Medigap plans to supplement Medicare, which will help retirees transition from Baylor's insurance plan to Medicare.
- He also announced the addition of High Deductible Health Plans, which offer lower premiums and higher deductibles that may be a money-saving option for some employees, and Health Savings Accounts, which would allow employees to build up savings for health care expenses over several years.

John Whelan, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, addressed the Senate regarding Baylor's proposed "No Tobacco" policy.

- He explained that the policy has already been endorsed by both the Student Senate and the Staff Council.

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<sup>\*</sup> Barry Hankins attended in his place.

- The policy would go into effect on 11 August 2014 and would prohibit use of any tobacco products on the Baylor campus.
- He also discussed issues of enforcement and the hope that it would lead to a cultural change on campus and not require an enforcement agency.
- A resolution from the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate was proposed, which stated “The Faculty Senate supports the tobacco-free initiative of Baylor University.”
  - Reservations were voiced by several senators, and questions raised about enforcement and impact of the policy.
  - Senator Baldrige called the question, Senator Beal seconded, and a vote was held. The resolution passed by a majority vote.

Chair Patton made several announcements, including the addition of Senators Gaynor and Harvey as at-large members of the Executive Committee, and invited up to three senators per month to join the Committee for its monthly meeting.

- Senator Allman volunteered to serve as parliamentarian for the Senate.

Reports were received from several committees.

- Chair Patton reported from the Council of Deans that minority and female hiring at Baylor continued to be a priority.
  - He also reported from Staff Council that they had passed a resolution in support of the tobacco-free policy.
  - From Enrollment Management he reported that efforts continue to be made to accurately predict the number of students that will arrive on campus each fall, and to avoid the last-minute “melt” of students from the projected number.

Chair Patton noted that the School of Nursing is supposed to have one representative on the Tenure Committee, but that no tenured faculty members were available this year.

- He then proposed that someone from outside the School of Nursing (but approved by the School of Nursing) be chosen to serve for the first year of the 3-year term, which met with approval.

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Spies and seconded by Senator Baker, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Coker