

Minutes, Baylor University Faculty Senate

8 April 2014 • 3:30 • Cashion 111

Members Absent: Morgan, Riemenshneider^{*}, Souza

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Senate Chair Patton.

Senator Wood offered an opening invocation.

A motion was made by Senator Baldrige to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded by Senator Shoaf and passed.

Reports were received from several Faculty Senate representatives:

- Chair Patton reported from the Council of Deans
- Senator Baker reported on the Staff Council meeting.
 - Dr. Ramsower gave a presentation on the progress made on the new stadium and on the budget.
- Senator Wood reported on the Student Life Committee.
 - University Sing was the largest in Baylor's history.
 - Sarah Dorral has been hired as new Case Manager for Student Life and will deal specifically with students who have psychological needs.
- Senator Neubert reported from the Athletic Council.
 - The GPA of new student-athlete recruits is the highest on record at Baylor.
 - The Council is collecting information from a student-athlete survey to assess how well these students are doing academically, socially, etc.
- Chair Patton reported that the Nominating Committee makes the following nominations for Faculty Senate offices:
 - Chair: Lori Baker
 - Chair-elect: Ron Beal
 - Secretary: Debra Burluson

^{*} John Tripp attended in her place

- Public Relations: Byron Newberry
 - Elections for these positions will take place at the May FS meeting.

New Business

Changes to Constitution and Bylaws.

- Changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws were distributed and discussed.
 - The changes made primarily address issues such as the use of electronic voting rather than paper ballots and the designation of past Chairs whose terms have expired as “Senator-at-Large.”

Reapportionment.

- The Executive Council recommends merging faculty from the Libraries and the various institutes into one group with one Senator representing them all.
 - Also recommended was adding a second Senator from the School of Engineering in order to bring their Faculty:Senator ratio into line with other divisions.

Resolutions of appreciation.

- Chair Patton brought a recommendation from the Executive Council that the Senate reach out to Regents and others to let them know that we appreciate the good working relationship we have enjoyed with them. The hope is that this will begin a tradition in the FS of recognizing those who have made contributions to the faculty.
 - Three different types of recognition were proposed:
 - Resolutions of Appreciation for Administrative Service at Baylor to:
 - Elizabeth Davis
 - David Garland
 - William May
 - Resolutions of Appreciation and Gratitude for Services and Support of Baylor to:
 - Harold Cunningham
 - Paul Foster
 - Drayton McLane

- Richard Willis
 - Resolution of Appreciation and Gratitude for Faculty Leadership and Advocacy to:
 - Robert Baird
- Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of passing such resolutions.
 - Some Senators suggested that clearer criteria for choosing recipients are necessary in order to avoid seeming arbitrary or offending anyone.
 - Others feared that such criteria could lead some to expect that they deserve such recognition.
 - Chair Patton suggested that in the future the FS might establish a committee to look at such issues in the fall and bring recommendations to the full Senate each spring.
 - A vote was taken on whether to pass resolutions of appreciation for Drs. Davis, Garland, and May. The resolution passed with a majority vote.
 - A vote was taken on whether to pass resolutions of appreciation for the aforementioned members of the Board of Regents. The resolution passed with a majority vote.

Academic Citizenship.

- Senator Beal presented the recommendations of the Academic Citizenship Committee.
 - He explained the conundrum that the Committee faced, which is that *Pro Futuris* says faculty should provide service to their department and to the University, but the annual review does not incorporate service into the evaluation.
 - The Committee discovered that BUPP706 still mandates that 10% of a faculty member's annual evaluation be based on service, and has never been changed.
 - The Committee therefore recommends that BUPP706 be enforced and that service be part of the evaluation process.
 - He noted that the Committee avoided trying to quantify academic citizenship but instead chose to list examples of service.
 - A vote was taken on the Committee's recommendation and was approved unanimously.

Registration priority.

- Senator Walter gave a final report on changes being made to registration priority.
 - The principle that no one should be impeded from graduating as early as possible led to a scaling back of priority registration categories.
 - OALA and student-athletes will be the only groups to get priority registration.
 - Faculty children will get to register first within their classification group, as will Honors students and others.
 - This report is being sent to the Provost.

Electronic evaluations.

- In the ongoing effort to make electronic student evaluations more reliable and useful, Chair Patton suggested that the University have students complete evaluations for every class, even if evaluations are not required for that faculty member.
 - This will help create a more useful database and will train students to always do evaluations by making it more consistent from class to class.
 - If a faculty member is not required to be evaluated, the results of the evaluations would not be made available to either the professor or his/her department chair.
 - Faculty can ask beforehand to view the evaluations if they choose, however.
 - Some concerns about making such a change were raised some senators.

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Neubert. It was seconded by Senator Baker and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Coker