

Faculty Senate Minutes October 7, 2014

**Absent: Todd Meehan, Lori Spies, Mary Margaret Schoaf, Stan Madden, and
Mitch Neubert**

Senate Chair Baker called the meeting to order.

The opening invocation was offered by Senator Stroope.

Senator Burgess noted under the section, “Items of Business,” that the minutes needed to reflect that the motion, second, and vote were only for the General Education Committee.

The motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Senator Baldrige and seconded by Senator Allman. The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

Baylor Athletic Director, Ian McCaw

McCaw informed the Senate about the current state of the NCAA Autonomy Structure. Jeremy Counsellor was also in attendance. McCaw gave a brief overview of the O’Banon case and the subsequent appeal, which will be heard in Spring 2015. He also addressed the national concern about athletes’ concussion, noting the legal challenges and also court rulings.

Locally, McCaw noted that Baylor student athletes’ GPA average is 3.2. He also mentioned the mission trips that student athletes have gone on in recent months. He concluded that the Big XII has conveyed television rights to 2026.

University Calendar Committee, Beth Willingham, Chair

Beth Willingham, Chair, University Calendar Committee, wanted the Senate’s feedback concerning the Final Exam Days for Spring 2015. After discussion, the motion was made to reduce the study days by 1 and keep the Monday as the last day of class. Motion was made by Senator Stroope and seconded by Senator Pounders. The motion passed.

Libraries and ITS Advisory Council, Dean Orr

Dean Orr brought a recommendation to the Senate and gave a brief history of the Committee. In 2007, Dean Orr informed the Committee on Committees that she wanted to have a Libraries and ITS Advisory Council that would be represented institution-wide. In 2008, the Committee on Committees established the Council. In 2011 she asked to have one committee member at large, and in 2012 added one staff member at large. She also added the director of the ATL who was an ex-officio member, the Vice-Provost for Research, and a student senator. Because of one promotion, there was one additional leader.

In the last two years, the Council has noted that they needed to have more faculty representation. Dean Orr presented to the Senate a request to add 7 additional members.

Senator Parrish made the motion to approve the request from the Libraries and ITS Advisory Council, and Senator Allman seconded. The motion passed.

REPORTS

Academic Citizenship

Senator Baker met with Interim Provost Garland about the Senate's discussions concerning Academic Citizenship. Senator Baker reported that Interim Provost Garland was very supportive and also welcomed discussion about how to get it implemented. Academic Affairs Provost Bennighof was also supportive. The issue is now how to change the faculty workload to include service.

Student Course Evaluations

Senator Baker met with Wes Null and Michael Mattere. Senator Baker was informed that they will be reviewing the student evaluation questions and also get faculty input. They may possibly have a separate committee to deal with policy changes insure how the information is used and how it is weighted.

A summary of the last Summer School Task Force included that 25% of scholarship dollars was used for summer school. The focus on enrollment in summer school for incoming freshmen will be the first generation college students. Online courses will be offered Summer 2015.

Announcement: Please contact Senator Baker if you have any suggestions for faculty who would be willing to serve on the Master Teacher Nominations. The nominations cannot be faculty who currently serve on the Faculty Senate.

Senator Hurtt moved to adjourn the meeting and Senator Jordan seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra D. Burlison, Recording Secretary