

Baylor University Faculty Senate May Minutes
May 12, 2015 • 2:00 p.m. • Cashion 103

Members Absent: Senator Jordan, Senator Newberry, Senator Yancey, Senator Meehan

Senate Chair Baker welcomed Senators, and the Invocation was offered by Senator Wood.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Baldrige moved to approve the April minutes and Senator Beal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

President Starr thanked the Senators for their service.

- President Starr stated that he is anticipating the largest Freshman in Baylor history. He had breakfast with graduating seniors, and the seniors talked about the benefits of Baylor and the mentoring of faculty with Baylor students. Students talked about realizing the benefits of Baylor when they compared experiences that their friends have had at other universities.
- He provided an overview of the money raised by development, an update about the Vice President of Development search, and the percentage of alumnae from Baylor compared to other universities.

Ombudsperson Report

Senate Chair Baker reported for Dr. Yancey, Ombudsperson.

- Dr. Yancey met with 11 colleagues during the 2014-15 academic year for a total number of 60 contacts. Many issues evolved around faculty review processes.
- Dr. Yancey also met with two different sets of parents and two universities who were considering an Ombudsman position. She spoke at the Summer Faculty Institute and at the new faculty orientation.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Constitutional Changes

Senate Chair Baker reported for Senator Newberry that changes to the constitution were distributed in April followed by some questions. In April the Senate decided to delay the vote until the May Senate Meeting.

Senate Chair Baker opened the discussion.

Senator Cook moved to accept the changes as presented by the committee. Senator Morgan seconded the motion.

Senator Hurtt provided clarification on the motivation for the change. Senator Hurtt stated that it will place a threshold of 30 faculty members comprising the Senate. Each year there will be an assessment of how many seats are open in each academic area.

The motion passed unanimously.

Academy of Teaching and Learning

Senate Chair Baker reported that the committee met with Dr. Wright. The committee felt that the name of the committee did not express the nature of the committee, descriptions also needed to be updated, and so the change was proposed to change the name to “Faculty Development Committee.”

The motion comes from committee and requires no second. Senator Pounders moved, and the motion passed.

Course Repeat Task Force

- Committee wanted the Senate to look at the document and recommend any needed changes before the document is sent to the Provost.
- Registrar. Consider options for students who change majors and have a D in a course that now is no longer in their major. Senate Chair Baker will bring that matter forward.

Election of Officers

Chair Baker thanked the nominating committee for putting together a slate of candidates for 2015-2016. The officers slated are as follows:

- Ron Beal, Chair
- Byron Newberry, Chair-Elect
- Steven Pounders, Secretary
- Ann McGlashan, Publicity

Senator Patton moved to accept the nominees and vote on the slate by a single vote. Senator Walter seconded the motion.

The Senate voted to approve the new officers.

REPORTS

Chair Report

- Annual Faculty Performance Review. Chairman Baker has visited with Regent Chairman Willis about concerns brought forward from faculty about the Annual Faculty Performance Review process.
- Summer School. Discussion are ongoing about summer school enrollment.
- Chair Resource Website. Chairman Baker reported that there is a “Chair Resource Website.” Chairman Baker asked Senators over the summer to review procedures for summer school courses as well as resources available on the website and give feedback.

Committee on Global Engagement

- Senator Woody reported that the University Committee on Committees would like one person from each academic unit on campus represented on the committee. The Senate will appoint three individuals who have a stake in international travel.
- Three candidates, Randy Wood, Lynn Tatum, and Joan Supplee, have been nominated as candidates thus far. Others may be nominated with the Senate members voting to select three committee members before the end of the semester.

Faculty Center Update

Chairman Baker reminded the Senate that the Faculty Center Policy states that “the faculty center is a benefit for all full-time faculty.”

Staff Council

Senator Beal reported that Keane Tarbell became the official chair of the Staff Council today.

Student Life

Senator Wood reported that this year’s Diadeloso (Fall 2014) had the most number of arrests on campus, and the Student Life Executive Staff is meeting with students. The purpose of Diadeloso is to have a day set aside for students and faculty to be together.

Athletic Council, Senator Neubert, no report.

Admissions Committee, Senator Burleson, no report.

Academic Freedom, Senator Tsang, no report.

COIA Report, Legislation on Creating a Commission

Senator Johnston reported that the committee does not agree with supporting the reform presented by COIA. Senator Johnston will continue to investigate the way in which the Senate might respond.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SENATORS AND HONORING SENATE SERVICE

- Senate Chair Baker welcomed the new Senators.
- Senate Chair Baker thanked the retiring Senators for their service. Senators retiring this year include: Senator Neubert, Senator Spies, Senator Meehan, Senator Madden, and Senator Patton.

OTHER MATTERS

Senator Beal presented Senate Chair Baker with a thank you gift.

Senator Baldrige moved to adjourn the meeting and Senator Patton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra D. Burleson
Recording Secretary