

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes
08 September 2015
Law School Room 236 • 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Allman, Dwight; Baker, Lori; Beal, Ron; Burgess, Cynthia; Burleson, Debra; Coker, Joe; Cook, Garrett; Dixon, Andrea; Ellor, James; Edwards, Elise; Faucher, Mary Ann; Gardner, Kevin; Hurtt, Kathy; Johnston, Hope W.; Jordan, Mary Ann; Kebaara, Bessie for Baldrige, R.S.; Macgregor, Jason; Maze, Louis for Souza-Fuertes, Lilly; Mencken, Kimberly; Morgan, Ron; Neilson, Bill; Newberry, Byron; Ostlund, Sandor; Parrish, Michael; Pounders, Steven; Raines, Brian; Stroope, Michael; Tsang, Jo-Ann; Umstead, Randall; Walter, Janelle; Wood, Randy M.; Woody, Margaret, and Staff Council Representative Will Telfer

Members Absent: Senator McGlashan, Ann

I. Call to Order and Invocation

Senate Chair Beal called the meeting to order at 3:32, and offered an invocation.

II. Presentations

A. President Ken Starr

President Starr began with a brief report on development progress. He gave a preview of the announcement that David Rosselli, formerly of the University of Southern California, will soon be taking the position as Baylor's Vice President of Development.

President Starr then outlined the actions taken by the university in response to the circumstances surrounding the trial and criminal conviction of former student-athlete Sam Ukwuachu. Most of these details were provided in his September 3rd email to the Baylor Nation, including the internal inquiry by Jeremy Counsellor, and the subsequent recommendation to the regents to retain outside counsel through the Philadelphia law firm Pepper Hamilton LLP. This firm is currently investigating the case and reviewing Baylor's internal processes. They will report to a special committee of the regents chaired by David Harper, and including Chris Howard and Jerry Clements.

After a few additional statements about the cooperation and helpful attitude of the Athletic Department and Student Life, the president noted that in his email he had defended Coach Briles. He felt that the University was suffering from unfair and inaccurate press reports, and though his statements supporting Coach Briles were not definitive, he believed that what was known needed to be clarified.

In response to questions from Senators Newberry and Edwards, President Starr explained that the investigation of the outside counsel would be "wide open", that the report and recommendations of the outside counsel would be presented to the special committee, and that the findings would probably become public, though he defers to the special committee.

The president concluded his presentation with an explanation of the motion for summary judgment that Baylor is making in the matter of the Baylor Alumni Association. The position of the university is that under the law in Texas, agreements in perpetuity are unenforceable and illegal.

B. Dean Pattie Orr

Dean Orr reported that the university is exceeding its goals for faculty converting from Blackboard to Canvas in the current semester with a little less than 300 faculty members yet to make the transition. She explained that Blackboard had slowed in innovation over the years, was contracting add-on software with poor implementation, and is going to be sold at auction with an uncertain future. Canvas is growing in innovation and is used by more 1400 institutions.

Sandy Bennett, Assistant Director of Online Teaching, continued by outlining the resources available for Canvas:

- 24/7 support (1-844-334-0228)
- Online chat support and email
- Baylor's help line
- Office hours in Jones Library 206 – every Wednesday afternoon
- One-on-one sessions for faculty
- Departmental training on request
- Canvas U: online – accessible from the canvas.baylor.edu portal
- Quick start classes – 30 minute intro sessions
- Canvas U series – four courses with a cohort
- Advanced features course
- All day Core session in the summer and long breaks

She listed four problem areas with the most feedback from faculty:

1. Publisher content integrations
Most of these were accomplished in the summer though McGraw-Hill will be operational later in December.
2. Confusion about sending messages and notifications
Dr. Bennet feels that faculty members find these Canvas conversations useful once understood.
3. Attendance module – completely unlike Blackboard
Canvas is working on changes.
4. Gradebook – not as mature as Blackboard

Dr. Bennett responded to questions regarding Canvas feedback by noting an online Canvas Community for change requests and providing her own email for more direct requests, [Sandy Bennett@baylor.edu](mailto:Sandy.Bennett@baylor.edu).

C. Vice Provost Michael Matier

Vice Provost Matier reported on the SACSCOC Decennial Reaccreditation. He stated that Baylor is in a better position for accreditation than ten years ago, because the standards are basically unchanged since then and the 2012 five-year internal report was clean. Baylor made a decision 10 years ago to conduct the accreditation process in a way that served Baylor's best interest first, and fulfilled accreditation secondarily, a strategy endorsed by SACSCOC. The vice provost presented a timeline of "major milestones" in the accreditation process, which will be made available to the senate via Box.

Jeff Hamilton presented the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) that will be promoted by Baylor this year on Global Engagement. The Provost put together a working group with representative from across the campus; the proposal will be submitted in May of 2015 to be reviewed during the summer. After outlining possible focuses of the Global Engagement QEP, Dr. Hamilton responded to questions regarding the long-term viability of the QEP, the primary focus on undergraduates, and the fact that the QEP working group would be operating separately from the Council for Global Engagement.

III. Items of Business

Chair Beal quickly summarized a few ongoing concerns of the senate:

- The senate made a request to the provost's office last year for anonymous reviews of chairs and deans. The request has strong backing from the new provost.
- The senate also submitted recommendations to the provost last year regarding Academic Citizenship: that Baylor should fulfill its stated policy (and the focus of Pro Futuris) by crediting faculty for 10% of their time spent in service. There will be future meetings with the provost to discuss implementation.
- The executive counsel recommends that a committee be established to review the effectiveness of student evaluations (possibly changing the name to student satisfaction surveys) and how they are used in faculty evaluation processes, particularly for tenure.

Senator Cook opened a brief discussion of the poor parking on campus due to the closing of the Cashion parking lot.

Senator Jordan noted concern about the time spent in senate meetings on presentations, suggesting that more time be preserved for conducting senate business.

IV. Approval of Minutes: May 2015 - delayed

A motion to approve the minutes of the May Senate meeting was made by Senator Parrish and seconded by Senator Allman. The May minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Burlison and seconded by Senator Baker.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Pounders
Recording Secretary