

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes
12 January 2016
Law School Room 236 • 3:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Senators Edwards, Elise and Macgregor, Jason

I. Call to Order

Senate Chair Beal called the meeting to order at 3:36

II. Invocation

Senator Ellor offered an invocation.

III. Announcement from President Ken Starr

Senate Chair Beal introduced President Starr. The president shared the information (confidential until a forthcoming public announcement) that Dr. Ed Trevathan, Executive Vice President and Provost, had decided to step aside as provost, while maintaining his position as professor of Neuroscience. The President prayerfully accepted his decision, noting that Baylor has benefitted from Dr. Trevathan's talents and that he is grateful for Dr. Trevathan's service to the university.

Effective today Dr. Todd Still will act as the interim provost of Baylor, while continuing to serve as Dean of Truett Seminary. The President assured the Senate that the office of the Provost remains in service to the university and will not "miss a beat". Dr. Still has been in conversation with the staff of the office of the Provost. President Starr indicated that the resignation of Dr. Trevathan does not signal a change in Baylor's direction, which still follows the guidelines of Pro Futuris. He also mentioned the ongoing discussions of the Senate on the topic of faculty service, and assured senators that service is still at the heart of Baylor's identity, and should not be compromised.

A senator asked why the resignation was taking place, and President Starr responded that he preferred to let the provost speak for himself, in his own statement of resignation.

Another senator asked if the provost search committee would be reconvened. The President responded yes, and noted helpful comments from a meeting earlier in the day with the Senate Executive Committee. He noted that the search committee could begin with the finalists of the last search, though he added that Baylor would not again be retaining the executive search firm, Storbeck/Pimintel and Associates.

After the President's departure, there was a brief discussion of readdressing the Senate service initiative with the interim provost. Senators representing the ongoing Scholarship Resource Assessment Task Force asked that their work also be pursued with the new interim provost. Senator Allman suggested and it was agreed that Provost Todd Still would be invited to a Senate session.

IV. Approval of Minutes: December 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the May Senate meeting was made by Senator Baldrige and seconded by Senator Souza-Fuertes . The May minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Texas Campus Carry Legislation

Chair Beal announced that security personnel, including Mark Childers, Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Security, would meet with the Senate at the February meeting. He then reminded the Senate of the following motion, proposed by Senators Newberry, Ostlund, Allman, and Umstead, and disseminated to the Senate by email:

In keeping with our core Christian values and academic mission, the Baylor University Faculty Senate is opposed to licensed or unlicensed, open or concealed, carrying of firearms on university campuses with the exception of certified peace officers.

The Senate recognizes that campus security is an increasingly critical topic. We therefore encourage the university to continue to explore methods of ensuring that all Baylor University campuses remain safe environments.

The Senate also expects that off-campus military affiliated programs will continue to follow federal laws and applicable military regulations concerning firearms.

Chair Elect Newberry discussed the security presentation at the staff council meeting, particularly their emphatic desire to opt out of campus carry. The security presentation also addressed ongoing security measures at Baylor: extensive personnel training for campus shooter situations, implementation of the BU Campus Guardian Mobile Safety Application, and monthly faculty/staff training opportunities for emergencies. The Staff Council followed this presentation with a lively discussion and a recommendation regarding campus security that is confidential until it has been presented to the administration.

Senator Baldrige proposed a motion to wait on approving a Senate statement on the campus carry issue until after the discussion with campus security personnel at the February Senate meeting. Senator Walter seconded the motion.

In discussion about the motion, some senators noted having attended active shooter training sessions. Other senators noted having departmental emergency training through Leah Ann Moffett, the Director of Emergency Management. Another senator added that office managers in the School of Business had received emergency training. When asked to summarize the principles of active shooter training, a senator cited a rule of the field as “run, hide, fight”. Some senators suggested that a lack of communication to faculty and staff about the availability of training might be an issue.

Other senators responded that all of these safety concerns do not have a bearing on the philosophical issue of campus carry. Senators suggested that the group had already shown resolution on the campus carry issue specifically, and that delay on the campus carry motion would send the wrong signal.

A vote was taken on the motion of Senator Baldrige to wait until February for the campus carry resolution. Three senators voted in favor of waiting; a large majority voted against waiting.

Senator Ostlund made a motion to adopt the resolution opposed to carrying firearms as proposed by Senators Newberry, Ostlund, Allman, and Umstead. Senator Burgess seconded the motion.

At the request of a senator the resolution was read as follows:

In keeping with our core Christian values and academic mission, the Baylor University Faculty Senate is opposed to licensed or unlicensed, open or concealed, carrying of firearms on university campuses with the exception of certified peace officers.

The Senate recognizes that campus security is an increasingly critical topic. We therefore encourage the university to continue to explore methods of ensuring that all Baylor University campuses remain safe environments.

The Senate also expects that off-campus military affiliated programs will continue to follow federal laws and applicable military regulations concerning firearms.

The Senate approved the motion for the resolution unanimously.

Senator Wood made a motion for the Senate to approve the following resolution:

In accordance with campus safety we would like to request active shooter training for faculty and staff in each department set up by the campus safety office as soon as possible but during the Spring 2016 semester.

After some discussion that such a timeline might be unreasonable, Senator Wood agreed to the following amended resolution:

In accordance with campus safety we would like to request campus safety training for faculty and staff in each department set up by the campus safety office as soon as possible.

After hearing suggestions that the February Senate meeting might prompt a better-informed resolution, it was agreed to table the motion.

Further discussion on the topic of campus security touched upon the need for a more concerted effort at communication and the Guardian App for Baylor, and the safety information already available on Baylor's Department of Public Safety website. A senator noted that emergency training should be conducted building by building, because of the marked differences in each campus facility. Another senator suggested that online security training, similar to Baylor's recent Title IX training, would be helpful. A Senator noted that video tapes are available for security training, including an active shooter training video produced by the City of Houston. Some Senators suggested that prioritizing active shooter training was inappropriate, given the rarity of such situations, and that active shooter training should only be a part of a larger promotion of emergency preparedness training.

A senator proposed including Director Moffett in the February meeting invitation extended to other security personnel. Chair Beal agreed to invite Director Moffett.

.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Baldrige and seconded by Senator Ellor . The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Ponders
Recording Secretary