

Baylor University Faculty Senate Minutes
15 January 2019
Draper 147♦ 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Bolen, Bradley; Cordon, Matt; Dodson, Derek; Elkins, Nathan; Ellor, James; Farwell, Beth; Garner, Brian; Hansen, Christopher; Horace Jr., Maxile; Hultquist, Beth; Hurtt, Kathy; Korpi, Michael; Leidner, Dorothy; Leutholtz, Brian; Long, Mark; Long, Michael; MacGregor, Jason; McGlashan, Ann; Neilson, Bill; Nichols, Curt; Nuner, Joyce; Parrish, Maxey; Pittman, Coretta; Potts, Tom; Joyner, Ryan for Pounders, Steven; Raines, Brian; Robinson, Eric; Rodgers, Denyse; Schubert, Keith; Sielaff, Steven; Souza-Fuertes, Lizbeth; Strakos, Josh; Stroope, Mike; Supplee, Joan; Taylor, Mark; Umstead, Randall; Stubenrauch, Joe for Walden, Dan.

Members absent: Senators LeCompte, Karon; Renee Flippo; Staff Council Representative Heather Guenat; Wilcox, Walter; Wilfong Jr., Stanley.

Guest: Major Jesse Reed, Military Science

I. Call to Order

Senate Chair Umstead called the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

II. Invocation—3:30pm

Senator Nuner offered an invocation.

III. Approval of Minutes: 4 December 2018—3:35pm

Chair Umstead explained that the December minutes had a large amount of detail and according to the principles of Robert's Rules, details of discussions are not required for the minutes. The senators studied one section of the minutes and Senator MacGregor made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with the alteration to strike a phrase and to replace the numbers with bullet points. Senator Ellor seconded and the motion carried.

IV. Reports—3:40pm

- a) Provost's Office Meeting (no report)
- b) Academic Freedom and Responsibility (no report)
- c) Admissions Committee (no report)
- d) Faculty Athletic Council (no report)
- e) Council on Global Engagement (no report)
- f) Faculty Dismissal (no report)
- g) Human Resources Advisory Committee (no report)
- h) Libraries/ITS Advisory Committee (no report)

- i) Student Life and Services Committee (no report)
 - j) Staff Council (no report)
 - k) Enrollment Management Committee (no report)
 - l) Executive Committee Report (Randy Umstead)
- Chair Umstead mentioned that since the senate last met, faculty received an email informing us that Vice Provost for Research Truell Hyde will no longer serve in this position. Several faculty would like to recognize his work, so Chair Umstead will write to him as Chair of the Faculty Senate to thank him for his eighteen years of service.
 - Regarding the process for the appointment of faculty regents, Chair Umstead first gave some background information regarding the history of faculty regents. For many years, Baylor had one non-voting faculty regent. In May 2016, when several administrative terminations took place at Baylor, the senate reached out to the faculty regent for additional information. She explained that, as a non-voting regent, any time the Board of Regents dealt with personnel matters, they would go into executive session and all non-voting regents were excused. Therefore, she was unable to give the senate any relevant information.

In the months that followed, through the continued dialogue between the administration and regents, the senate recommended to the Board that there be one or two voting faculty regents so that the senate would be able to be better informed in the event of a future crisis. Furthermore, the consultants that assisted the Board in developing new governance documents and in restructuring also made the same recommendation. This was approved by the Board of Regents at the February 2016 meeting. The Board then reached out to former senate Chair Byron Newberry and asked for nominations of faculty regents. At that point, the senate provided four nominees to the Provost, who forwarded them to the Board and also began to work on a process to elect faculty regents. Due to the transition in the Provost's Office, the senate is only now re-starting this work.

Our upper administration would like the senate to provide a proposal for the process of soliciting and reviewing faculty regent nominations. Currently, faculty regents serve single three-year terms and they are staggered in order to provide institutional memory and nominations are collected through the Provost. There was a discussion on the different aspects of the process.

V. Old Business—4:00pm

Baylor University Retirement Plan Changes

- Chair Umstead gave an update regarding the retirement plan. Human Resources (HR) has been working with the Provost's office to obtain a list of faculty members that President Livingstone wanted HR to contact directly, and they are working to ensure that those specific impacted populations are contacted. Regarding the reconstitution of the benefits committees, which the senate had requested, HR has been in touch with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and HR's external counsel. There are two requirements that

cannot be changed regarding the benefit committee membership: qualifications for each committee member cannot change from what they are currently (an IRS rule) and the Board has unrestricted rights through the President to appoint and remove members of the committee(s) as they see fit.

VI. New Business—4:15pm

a) Formation of Senate Election Commission

- Chair Umstead stated that, according to the bylaws, the senate will elect two senators, and the secretary will serve ex-officio to form a Senate Election Commission in order to assist the secretary in arranging and running the election. Members cannot be from the same academic unit. Two members volunteered to serve, Senator Cordon from the Law School and Senator Nichols from Arts and Sciences. Senator Raines made the motion to approve the senate members for the Senate Election Commission and Senator Farwell seconded. The motion passed.

b) Faculty Regent Selection Process

- Chair Umstead and Chair-Elect Raines met with Acting Vice Provost for Administration Gary Carini and Vice Provost for Graduate Professional Education Gary Mortenson and agreed the senate should put forward a proposal that would honor the previous senate's wishes and that would also stand the likelihood of being accepted. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the manner in which the nominees should be selected.
- Chair-Elect Raines made a motion that the faculty senate would request our own appendix to the Board of Regents bylaws paralleled after the B Foundation and Bears Foundations' appendix, but including our definition of faculty. Senator Supplee seconded. The motion was approved by the senate.
- A vote for the motion from the executive committee was carried out regarding the faculty regent selection process and the guidelines that were presented. It was approved unanimously by the senate.

VII. Announcements—4:50pm

There were no announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Hansen. The motion was seconded by Chair-Elect Raines and approved by the senate. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lizbeth Souza-Fuertes
Recording Secretary