

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 17, 2006, at 3:30 PM in Cashion 303

Present: Senators Baldrige, Boyd, Brown, Chonko, Cloud, Connally, Cordon, Diaz-Granados, Gardner, Green, Mary Lynn Klingman (for Tom Hanks) Longfellow, McGee, McGlashan, McManness, Miner, Ngan, Norman, Nunley, Patton, Pennington, Lyn Prater (for Linda Garner), Purdy, Robinson (Chair), Rosenbaum, Rust, Spain, Stanley, Stone, Sturgill, Tolbert, Vitanza, Wilcox.

Absent with notification: Senators Myers, Wallace.

Guest: President John M. Lilley.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM. Following the Chair's welcome, Senator Ngan offered the invocation.
- II. The minutes of the Senate's December meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved as amended.
- III. **President John M. Lilley.**

President Lilley addressed the Senate for approximately 20 minutes and then answered questions from the floor.

In his remarks President Lilley announced that Brooks Village, patterned on North Village with some modifications, will likely replace Brooks Hall, and that Baylor will have little choice but to incur further debt to finance its construction. While entering freshman classes will be scaled back to about 2,850 students with still rising average SAT scores, there remains a considerable unfulfilled demand for on-campus housing well into the future. Lilley rejected the notion that Baylor can "grow itself" out of financial trouble and advocated instead aggressive and inspired fundraising as the only plausible alternative.

Several Senators sought clarification on whether and how faculty (and others at Baylor) should embrace and exercise some form of "intentional Christianity." While no clear definition of the expression was offered, and while several Senators raised concerns over possible negative or prescriptive connotations of the term, President Lilley believes that scheduled discussions on the subject within academic departments will produce some illumination by the March 1 deadline, even if a university-wide consensus may prove elusive and indeed undesirable. On the other hand, unanimity appears to exist on the efficacy of furthering research, scholarship and creative endeavors at Baylor within the framework of present financial restraints.

Other subjects covered by President Lilley included the new faculty interview process; reflections on why formerly religious schools have become secularized; the need to be gracious, collegial and moved by decency and integrity when dealing with dissent among faculty colleagues; and to bring not only subject matter expertise but inspirational teaching to the classroom.

A presentation by the President, followed by a Q&A session, may become a regular feature of future Senate meetings.

IV. Old Business.

A. Five-Year Salaries and Benefits Trend (Update). Senator Cloud reported that additional meetings, including one with Kent Gilbreath, are scheduled shortly to gather all pertinent data. The forthcoming report will also include information on retired faculty.

B. Evaluation of the University President and Provost. Senator Chonko reported on the compilation of a 20-page document containing guiding principles. There would be a need to coordinate the Senate's initiative with the Regents. The Kansas State University evaluation instrument is useful but has a different focus. A fuller report will be forthcoming at the next Senate meeting.

C. BU-PP Changes: Nepotism in Teaching and Research. After discussion and minor changes to the text, the Senate voted unanimously to adopt the document and return it to the Provost's Office where it had originated.

D. Chair's Responses to Issues Raised in the December Meeting.

(a) The Chair circulated letters from Bill Underwood and Mike Morrison thanking the Senate for the gifts presented to them at the December meeting.

(b) Even though still included in the on-line version of the Faculty Handbook, the former A/B faculty designation has been officially abolished.

(c) The Honor Council heard three cases last year, one case so far this year. Senator Miner asked to be released from service on the Honor Council because he teaches a class at the time the council meets. Senator Patton will take Senator Miner's seat as the representative of the Faculty Senate. After a brief debate, the Senate, upon a motion by Senator Vitanza seconded by Senator Jimmy Diaz-Granados, voted unanimously that the Honor Council in the future should forward its recommendations to the Provost rather than to the Vice President for Student Life for adjudication.

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment (Senator Longfellow, chair): No report.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Senator Sturgill, chair): The number of deposits by prospective students has doubled compared to last year.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Senator Brown, chair): It seems Baylor's master plan shared with committee members has not been updated in some time, including Phase II. A new dining facility closer to the Science Building was requested by the student representative.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Senator Chonko, chair): No report.

E. Liaison Reports:

1. Athletic Council (Senator Connally): No report.

2. Staff Council (Senator Robinson): The Staff Council rejected by a vote of 22 to 1 (one abstention) the administration's proposal to endorse the environmental "Earth Share" program and make employee payroll deductions possible.

3. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (Senators Ngan, Patton): No report.

VI. New Business.

A. Evaluation of University Committees. Survey results are coming in to Professor Beth Miller and will be evaluated. No immediate results are likely, but changes may be in place for 2006/2007.

B. Senate Election Commission. Senator Rust offered a summary of the forthcoming spring election schedule for the eleven open seats. Elections will be held March 7 and 8. Rust will be joined on the Senate Election Commission by Senators Stanley and Pennington as well as non-Senate members Dr. Walter Bradley and Prof. Janet Sheets.

C. Paper vs. Electronic. The Senate will form an ad hoc committee under Senator Longfellow's chairmanship to study the issue in liaison with Ms. Hogue's endeavors on the administration's side.

D. Report on Chair's Meeting with the Council of Deans and the Provost. The administration is proposing (a) the introduction of a mini-mester between the spring semester and the first summer session, and (b) a provision that would allow students to take up to 9 credit hours per summer session. The Senate expressed concern over not having been consulted earlier about these initiatives, over matters of teaching loads and compensation, over the extra academic burden on students, and over the notion that the proposal may work in some departments,

but definitely not in others. The Senate Chair will present the Senate's reservations about these proposals to the administration.

E. Other New Business. The question arose whether academic supervisors have an intrinsic right or prerogative to read not only the statistical summaries but the actual written faculty evaluations by students of faculty members in their division of departments. It was noted that practices vary widely across campus and that a standard policy would be highly desirable.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary, Faculty Senate