

MINUTES OF THE CALLED FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 28, 2004, 10:00 AM, in Science Building B-206

Present: Senators Baldrige, Rosalie Beck (for McGee), Boyd, Brown, Chonko, Cloud, Connally, Cordon, Cox, Diaz-Granados, Green, Hanks, Lehr, Mathis, McGlashan, McManness, Miner, Ngan, Norman, O'Brien, Patton (Chair), Pennington, Pinney, Purdy, Robinson, Rosenbaum, Rust, Spain, Stanley, Sturgill, Vitanza, Wallace, Williams.

Absent with notification: Senator Garner.

[Note: This called session of the Faculty Senate was preceded by an informal retreat which commenced shortly after 8:30 AM in the same location. At his request, President Sloan addressed the assembled Senators for approximately fifteen minutes. A silent prayer followed for the late Senator Dr. Ray Wilson. Senator O'Brien gave the invocation. Senators then introduced themselves individually to their colleagues. This year's Senate Executive Committee will consist of Jim Patton (Chair), Eric Robinson (Chair-Elect), Eric Rust (Secretary), Patsy Norman (Publicity), Robert C. Cloud, Joe Cox, and Dianna Vitanza. The Chair provided an overview over developments at Baylor since the last Senate meeting in May and then requested members to bring up issues that the Senate might take up in coming sessions. More than twenty different subjects were submitted from the floor. In other matters, Senator Hanks offered to serve again as parliamentarian, while Senator O'Brien kindly agreed to provide an opening invocation at all meetings this year.]

- I. The special meeting was called to order at 10:42 AM.
- II. **Senate Standing Operating Procedures.** Upon a motion by Senator Baldrige, seconded by Senator Robinson, the Senate unanimously renewed last year's standing operating procedures as a basis for its deliberations, including an agreement "not to share individual comments or votes" with anyone outside the chamber and to discuss "the outcomes of debates in general terms only" to protect the confidentiality of individual Senators and, as appropriate, of the issues involved. The Senate may create an ac hoc committee at a future point to put these rules down in writing.
- III. **Status of SACS Report.** Senator Cloud, chair of the ad hoc committee, briefed the Senate on the history and present status of the SACS Document. The committee has identified eighteen potential SACS accreditation violations, of which some appear more serious than others. The report was fine-tuned over the course of the summer and exists in three versions: (a) a four-page executive summary; (b) a fourteen-page more detailed summary document; and (c) the summary document plus an appendix containing specific supporting evidence. At

their request, the executive summary has been made available earlier this year to Mr. Will Davis, Chairman of the Board of Regents, and to President Sloan.

After discussion, and acting on a motion by Senator Stanley that was seconded by Senator Baldrige, the Senate voted unanimously to hand-deliver hard copies of the fourteen-page report to every Senator, with the proviso that the document be treated confidentially and that individual Senators may peruse the evidentiary part of the report in the privacy of the offices of the five Senators who serve on the ad hoc committee, as well as in the office of the Senate Chair. The SACS Report and what to do with it will be discussed further at the next Senate meeting.

- IV. Faculty Referendum on President Sloan.** The Senate noted that no response had been received to its request in May to the Board of Regents that a faculty referendum on Dr. Sloan presidency be held in case the current administration remained in office at the beginning of the Fall Semester 2004.

Upon a discussion on timing and related considerations, a motion was introduced by Senator Hanks and seconded by Senator Cloud to reconsider the original motion of May 2004 with a view toward adding specific deadlines by which the faculty referendum is to be announced, scheduled and carried out. This motion failed to gain a majority on a voice vote.

In its stead the Senate adopted by a vote of 29-1 (no abstentions; two Senators having left the proceedings because of other obligations) the following resolution, introduced by Senator Stanley and seconded by Senator Lehr, and instructed the Senate Chair to transmit it to the Chairman of the Board of Regents:

"The Baylor Faculty Senate requests of the Regents that by Monday, September 27, 2004, they schedule and publicly announce the referendum referred to in the Faculty Senate's May 2004 motion. The referendum should take place, and the results be publicly announced, before the Fall Break 2004."

- V.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary, Faculty Senate