

## MINUTES OF THE CALLED FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 5, 2004, 3:30 PM, in Rogers 109

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

**Invited for part of the proceedings:** Dr. Greg Benesh; Nathan Wacker and Brandon Anderson.

**Present for part of the proceedings:** Prof. William Murchison.

- I. The special meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM.
- II. Senator O'Brien offered the invocation.
- III. **Visitors.** Student representatives Nathan Wacker and Brandon Anderson distributed copies of the resolution passed the previous night by the Student Congress urging the Faculty Senate not to hold a faculty referendum on President Sloan. In oral comments both students reinforced the arguments contained in their resolution.

The Chair thanked both speakers. He then kindly requested that Mr. William Murchison, a Journalism professor, who had wandered into the proceedings and taken a seat in a rear row, leave the room inasmuch as the Senate was not in open session.

Dr. Greg Benesh, University Ombudsman for Faculty, distributed and read aloud a letter he had received anonymously from a group of faculty members. The letter was addressed to "Dear Members of the Baylor Family" and signed by "Members of the Baylor Faculty." The one-page letter laid out arguments why the Faculty Senate should not conduct a faculty referendum.

The Chair thanked Dr. Benesh for his presentation and, all visitors having left, called the Senate into executive session.

- IV. **Faculty Referendum on President Sloan.** The Chair briefed the Senate on developments since the September meeting, in particular on his conversations with Regents Chair Will Davis over the Board's decision not to sponsor a faculty referendum on President Sloan, and on recent deliberations within the Senate's Executive Committee. He also distributed copies of an e-mail message he had

received from a faculty member extremely critical of the speech Dr. Jeffrey had given at Wheaton College in May.

A motion by Senator Baldrige, seconded by Senator Rosenbaum, revived for consideration the previously tabled motion on the faculty referendum by a vote of 30-1 (one Senator did not vote). In a discussion lasting for more than an hour, a majority of Senators introduced and reiterated arguments in favor of the holding a faculty-wide referendum, with a minority of Senators questioning the wisdom, timing and general efficacy of such a move. Part of the discussion centered on the practical modalities of the referendum, especially its timing, its location, and how to finance it. While several concrete possibilities were mentioned and weighed, by general consensus the Senate's Executive committee was entrusted with working out a specific plan and timetable for the implementation of the referendum, should the proposal pass, with further deliberations likely at the following week's regular Senate meeting. Discussion ended when Senator Hanks called the question, seconded by Senator Baldrige, and a majority of Senators concurred.

Inasmuch as the wording of the original motion was no longer appropriate, that motion was subsequently defeated by an overwhelming majority vote and the following substitute proposition introduced by Senator Robinson, seconded by Senator Baldrige:

"The Faculty Senate instructs its Executive Committee to arrange for a referendum by the full-time faculty of Baylor University on the leadership of President Sloan. This referendum is to be held as soon as practical and conducted by an independent third party."

The motion passed by a vote of 26-5, with one abstention.

Senators agreed not to reveal the outcome of the motion outside the chamber until Senator Patton had had a chance to communicate it to Chairman Davis and President Sloan.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust  
Secretary, Faculty Senate