

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 8, 2005, at 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, Patton (Chair), Pennington, Pinney, Purdy, Robinson, Rosenbaum, Rust, Steve Sadler (for O'Brien), Spain, Stanley, Sturgill, Vitanza, Wallace, Williams.

Absent with notification: Senator O'Brien.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM. Following the Chair's welcome Senator McGee offered the invocation.
- II. The minutes of the Senate's January 2005 meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved as amended.

III. Announcements:

A. Chair's Conversations with Board Chairman Will Davis. The Senate Chair reported on several conversations he has recently had with Will Davis, Chairman of the Baylor Boards of Regents, in the wake of Dr. Sloan's resignation as President of Baylor and reassignment as Chancellor.

Mr. Davis assures the Senate that he is aware of AAUP standards for shared governance. There will be a Faculty Senate representative on the Committee that will advise the Regents Committee on choosing a permanent replacement for President Sloan. This representative, however, will not be the only faculty member on this Advisory Committee. It was not clear how and by whom the other faculty member(s) would be selected.

After receiving nominations from the floor, Senator Vitanza was chosen by acclamation to serve as the Faculty Senate representative on the Advisory Committee, with Senators Cloud and McGee as alternates.

B. Election Commission. Senator Rust offered a brief report on this spring's upcoming Faculty Senate elections. All designated members of the Election Commission (Senators Mathis, Wallace, and Rust; Drs. Fred Curtis and Steve Gardner) have agreed to serve and have been assigned specific tasks as they prepare the election on March 8 and 9. The deadline for nominations is March 1.

IV. Old Business.

A. Final Report. Senator Robinson reported that, after all expenses for the Faculty Referendum on President Sloan have been paid, approximately \$1,000 will be transferred to the Baylor Chapter of Habitat for Humanity along with a letter stating that acceptance of the money would not constitute endorsement of the Senate's decision to hold the referendum.

B. Open Senate Meetings. Senator Stanley, Chair of the ad hoc committee, indicated that the committee has met and continues to gather data. Senator Chonko, committee member, distributed statistical data on how Faculty Senate meetings are handled at selected other universities. There seems to be no national consensus on the issue.

C. Extending the Tenure Clock Document (from Vice-Provost Elizabeth Davis). After extended debate, with several friendly amendments to modify confusing or controversial language, the lengthy document was approved on a voice vote without dissent upon a motion by Senator Baldrige, seconded by Senator Hanks. The document is now being returned to Dr. Davis to reconcile the administration's with the Senate's version. A copy of the Senate-approved document may be obtained from the Senate Chair or the Senate Secretary.

D. BU-PP Changes. Given time constraints and to streamline future debates, the Senate instructed its Executive Committee to preview up-coming BU-PP modifications and make recommendations to the entire Senate as to their acceptability.

E. SACS Document. Senator Cloud reported that the document remains open to amendments and modifications. In particular, the committee seeks additional information and evidence on (a) departmental personnel shortages, teaching overloads, and overloaded classes; (b) lack of communication between the central administration on the one hand, and the Faculty Senate, the university's various academic units, departments and individual faculty members on the other; and (3) lack of faculty involvement in SACS-mandated areas of shared governance involving the administration and the faculty. Senator Hanks offered that in the English Department alone, due to personnel shortages, 45 classes are presently not covered for the Fall 2005 semester.

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment (Senator McGlashan, chair): Senator McGlashan indicated that her committee has not yet met this month. One faculty member will appeal his/her recent tenure denial, even though the procedure, in the absence of a clear tenure denial review process, is unclear. The committee remains unpersuaded that the tenure committee should also act as the tenure denial review committee. The Senate's recommendations and initiatives in this respect have received no response from the administration so far.

- B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management** (Senator Stanley, chair): Freshmen applications, acceptances and deposits continue to run considerably ahead of last year's pace,, as do transfer applications. Of those accepted, 9.7 percent would come in as provisional students and be required to attend summer school. No data have been made available regarding the projected gender ratio of the incoming freshman class.
- C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities** (Senator Brown, chair): No report.
- D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services** (Senator Chonko, chair): No report.
- E. Liaison Reports.** No reports.
- VI. A. New Business.** In a unanimous voice vote, the Senate instructed its Chair to invite Will Davis, Chairman of the Baylor Board of Regents, as well as the members of the Regents' Academic Affairs Committee, to the Senate's March 2005 meeting.
- VII.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary, Faculty Senate