

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 18, 2003, 3:30 p.m., in Cashion 303

Present: Senators Abbott-Kirk, Baldrige, Beck, Benesh, Brown, Cannon, Connally, Cooper, Matthew Cordon (for Auld), Dunn, Gilbreath, Jacobson, Lehr, Longfellow, Blaine McCormick (for Cox), McGlashan, McManness, Norman, Patton, Pinney, Robinson, Rust, Sharp, Spain, Stanley, David Sturgill (for Walbesser), Tatum, Weaver (Chair), Williams, Wilson, Young.

Absent with notification: Senators Bowery, Hanks, Haynes, Ngan.

Present for the first part of the proceedings: Dr. Donald D. Schmeltekopf, outgoing Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and several former chairs of the Faculty Senate, among them Bob Baird, Jeter Basden, Chris Buddo, Kathy Hillman, Terry Maness, Dan McGee, Doug Rogers, and Diana Vitanza.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.
- II. To a prolonged round of applause, the Chair welcomed Dr. Donald D. Schmeltekopf, outgoing Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and presented him with a plaque signed by every Chair of the Faculty Senate during his tenure as Provost in appreciation for his twelve years of dedicated service. In his brief remarks, the Provost emphasized the cordial and professional relationship that has governed his dealings with the Faculty Senate and pointed out that one his first administrative actions had been to make the Senate Chair a voting member of the Council of Deans.
- III. The minutes of the February meeting, distributed earlier by e-mail, were unanimously approved as amended.

IV. Old Business

A: Great Texts. Expansion of the Great Texts program is on hold due to financial constraints. Several Senators expressed the view that this might be a good opportunity to discuss the nature and future impact of the program, in particular how it would affect curricula and degree requirements in the various units of the university.

B: E-Mail. Senator Patton summarized the results of his inquiry into the recent e-mail crashes. He is satisfied that the technology staff is sufficiently sensitized to the nature of the problem and dedicated to the avoidance of future recurrences. No further action in the matter appears warranted at this juncture.

C: Medical Benefits Task Force. Senator Stanley has agreed to chair the task force and will report back to the Senate at a future meeting.

D: Senate Elections. The following faculty members have been elected or re-elected to three-year terms (2003-2006) on the Baylor Faculty Senate: Robert C. Cloud (Education), Georgia Green (Music), Tom Hanks (A&S), Linda Haynes (Nursing), Dan McGee (A&S), Linda McManness (A&S), Patricia Norman (Business), Jim Patton (A&S), Rita Purdy (A&S), Eric Rust (A&S), and Charles Stanley (Business). Susan Wallace (A&S) will serve the remaining year (2003-2004) of Bill Cooper's unexpired term upon his retirement. More than half of the eligible faculty cast ballots, thus making the Faculty Senate both *de jure* as well as *de facto* the representative body of the Baylor faculties.

E: Non Tenure-Track Assistant Professors. While at present confined to the Religion Department and characterized as a temporary, enrollment-driven stop-gap measure, the creation of a faculty rank of terminal non tenure-track assistant professors continues to concern the Senate. Furthermore, it appears that the administration is in the process of converting a lecturer position in the Department of Environmental Studies to that of an "academic professional." The latter measure seems to contradict assurances that "academic professional" would be a category restricted to some library personnel. The Chair will bring up both matters with the Provost.

F: Scholarly Expectations for A Faculty. The Provost will soon put into writing his scholarly expectations for A Profile faculty. Confusion continues over scholarly expectations for lecturers and for A Profile faculty who hold endowed chairs.

G: Colloquy Reminder. The colloquy organized by the Law School to honor the Provost upon his retirement will be held April 10-11.

H: Small Group Meeting Reminder. The third group of Senators will confer with President Sloan at 1 PM on April 8 in the conference room on the fifth floor of Cashion.

I: State of the University Address Reminder. The President's State of the University Address will be given on April 16 at 3:30 PM (location to be announced).

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Environment (Senator McGlashan, chair): The committee will continue to monitor the Great Texts situation in the Schools of Music and Education. Senator McGlashan also reported briefly on the National Conference on Academic Freedom at Religious Institutions, which she as well as Senators Patton and Tatum recently attended at the University of San Diego.

B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Senator Cannon, chair): With a target of 2,800 entering freshmen this coming fall, new student commitments to Baylor

are running slightly behind last year's pace. Admissions officers are optimistic that expectations can be met without a decline in mean SAT scores.

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Senator Beck, chair): The parking and traffic flow situation around campus for students and faculty is worsening due to construction and the closure, either temporary or permanent, of streets and parking lots. Dr. Beck's committee will investigate these and related problems and report back to the Senate in May.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Senator Wilson, chair): Class and exam schedules are now available on-line as PDF files.

E. Liaison Reports

A: Athletic Council (Senator Dunn): The new football coach appears as strict about the enforcement of academic rules and as concerned about the deficit situation in the Athletic Department as his predecessor. It is not unusual for the GPAs of players to drop when there is a change of coaches.

B: Staff Council (Senator Abbott-Kirk): No report.

C: Personnel Benefits and Compensation (Senators Ngan/Williams): Senator Williams related several encouraging personal experiences regarding recent changes in the prescription drug program, including the availability of smaller bottles when traveling.

VI. New Business

A: Nominating Committee. The Chair will put together an eight-person nominating committee for 2003-2004 Faculty Senate officers, drawing in its membership primarily on the present Executive Committee and past chairs.

B: Committee on Committees. The Senate approved unanimously the proposed members of a Baylor Institutional Biosafety Committee as prescribed by the National Institute of Health. Linda Cobbs will present the full Committee on Committees Report for Senate ratification at the April/May meetings.

C: Tenure Decisions. Of seventeen candidates this year, thirteen received tenure while four were denied. The national average of tenure denials at private universities is approximately 25 percent. The Chair handed out copies of the university-wide tenure guidelines as approved by the Provost on February 27, 2003.

D: Request for Survey Results. The Chair has made a request to the administration that the results of recent faculty surveys be made public.

E: Other Business:

(1) Senators offered numerous objections and comments regarding the recent letter received by all faculty from Vice President Hulme. The administration has decided that, beginning with the Fall 2003 semester, (a) all freshmen have to attend Chapel for two semesters in their first year of study, (b) that a Friday session will be added to the current Monday and Wednesday sessions, and (c) that over a hundred faculty and staff will be recruited to discuss with smaller groups of students on six consecutive Fridays the substance and meaning of Chapel activities conducted earlier in the week. The Senate instructed the Chair to raise the issue and the problems expressed with the Provost as soon as possible and also in a letter to Vice President Hulme.

(2) Senator Gilbreath distributed a 24-page extract from his recent series of essays that deals specifically with issues relative to the Faculty Senate. He invites pertinent comments and responses, and a discussion of the matter will likely take place at the Senate's April meeting.

(3) Provost-Designate Dr. David Lyle Jeffrey has agreed to meet with the Senate in April. The Chair invites Senators to solicit and submit questions so that they may be collated and put to Dr. Jeffrey on that occasion.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary