



Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 18, 2001

Cashion 303

MINUTES

Present: Abbott-Kirk, Baldrige, Beck, Cannon, Cooper, Cox, Dunn, Farris, Gilbreath, Gray, Hanks, Haynes, Jacobson, Longfellow, McGlashan, McManness, Ngan, Patton, Riley, Robinson, Rust, Sharp, Sparkman, Stanley, Weaver, Williams, Wilson, Yelderman, Young

Absent with notification: Auld, Bowery, Curtis, Losey

I. Call to Order & Announcements.

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. The minutes of the May meeting, earlier distributed by e-mail, were approved unanimously.

II. Consideration of Agenda

The chair welcomed and introduced newly elected Senators Baldrige, Cooper, Gilbreath, Haynes, McGlashan, and Robinson.

III. Old Business

A: Baylor 2012 Vision Statement. The chair reported that the vision

statement is essentially in its final form and will be presented to the Regents at their next meeting.

B: Capital Campaign for Greatness. The chair encouraged faculty to advertise, and to contribute to, the recently launched Capital Campaign for Greatness designed to raise the endowment. More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

C: Tenured Faculty Development Task Force Proposal. Senator Patton (chair) advised that the draft proposal will be available for discussion at the October meeting.

D: Post-retirement benefits and health care coverage. The administration is studying the matter and is comparing Baylor's arrangements to those at other schools. There is a possibility that the "20-year-rule" (full benefits only after 20 years of service) will be modified and some survivor benefits increased. The Senate expressed its desire that benefits, if touched at all, be improved rather than clipped.

E: Part-time Faculty Report. The Senate's Report and recommendations have been forwarded to Vice President Marilyn Crone for a cost analysis.

F: Plus/Minus Grading. Originally tabled, the report has been referred to the Senate's Academic Freedom Committee. Student government prefers a system of full grades only, if any changes are to be made. Senator Cannon has encountered concern over graduation standards and over what would constitute being in good standing under the proposed system. The administration, while aware of the proposal, has taken no action so far.

G: Faculty Search Committee (ad hoc). Committee members (Senators Cannon, Curtis, Stanley, Young; chair to be named) and others reiterated concern over recent faculty searches and hiring decisions by the administration. Impressions prevail that at Baylor an unusually high number of searches result in no hires of presumably qualified candidates. A major difficulty appears to be the collection of data from departments and colleges that would allow for comparisons with other institutions and with traditional patterns at Baylor. Efforts to obtain pertinent information will continue.

H: Honor Council appeals. The chair reported that, upon the departure of Dr. Moore, President Sloan will revisit the question of whether Honor Council appeals should go to the Vice President for Academic Affairs or to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

I: President's Faculty Forum format. In a compromise between President Sloan's preferences and Faculty Senate views, the Senate instructed Longfellow to suggest to the President that, as an experiment, future fora might feature the presence of several top-level administrators alongside President Sloan while the current practice of anonymously collected and pre-arranged questions (with follow-ups) be retained.

J: Senate Committee Appointments. The Executive Committee recommends that Dr. Pauline Johnson (Nursing) fill the present vacancy on the Tenure Committee. The Senate will vote on her appointment in October. Senator Stanley agreed to fill the vacancy on the Student Life and Services Committee.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

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

B: Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Ray Cannon, Chair). Freshmen enrollment is slightly below last year's level.

C: Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Joe Yelderman, chair). Problems have been reported with two-way 4th Street access to the new parking garage. Construction of the seminary is almost finished. The latest proposed location for the new Science Building is near the Student Life Center in the intramural fields along Waco Creek. The old Law School building will be the future home of the University Scholars, Honors Program, BIC, and several academic departments such as Classics and Philosophy.

D: Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Ray Wilson, chair). An improved pledge system for student organizations is under discussion.

E: Liaison Reports

Athletic Council (Mark Dunn): No report.

Staff Council (Jane Abbott-Kirk): Buy and promote "Goldrush" T-Shirts.

Benefits and Personnel (Fred Curtis): No report

V. New Business

A: Faculty Housing. Baylor will reacquire "Fort Faculty" by 2016 based on renegotiated buy-back agreements with present home owners. Edgefield subdivision residents have been reassured that Baylor will not expand into, or take over, their neighborhood. President Sloan is calming apprehension over a possible on-campus stadium by pointing

out that the vision statement only contemplates a feasibility study.

B: Changes in Library Administration. Upon learning essential details from Senator Sparkman, the Faculty Senate expressed its concern over the recent abortive search for a new Dean of Libraries and the way in which the administration plans to resolve the issue by merging the position of Dean of Libraries with that of the university's Chief Information Officer who has no professional library background. After an extended and animated debate, the Senate unanimously approved the following resolution by Senator Gilbreath (seconded by Senator Beck) as representing the sense of the Senate:

"The Faculty Senate supports the continued existence of a Dean of Libraries position separate from the position of Chief Information Officer, and that this Dean of Libraries be administratively structured under the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in a manner similar to the other academic deans. "

The chair will communicate the resolution to the administration.

C, D: Merit Pay and Summer Salaries Proposals. By general consensus, discussion of these two proposals by Senator Gilbreath was postponed until the October meeting.

E: Letter from Bill Dembski. At the writer's request, and without discussion or comment, the chair read aloud a letter of apology from Dr. Bill Dembski to the Faculty Senate.

F: Disaster Relief. Senator Stanley suggested that the Senate endorse the "United Way September 11th Fund" as Baylor's conduit for contributions in the wake of the terrorist attacks. After concerns were raised as to the percentage of local United Way donations that reach intended recipients, the possibility emerged of using other agencies instead (Red Cross, Salvation Army). The chair and Senator Stanley will work on an appropriate solution.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric C. Rust
Secretary

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