

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, March 16, 1999**  
**303 Cashion, Hankamer**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Abbott-Kirk, Baird, Beck, Beckner, Bowery, Buddo, Carini, Chinn, Conyers, C. Davis E. Davis, Dunn, Farris, Genrich, Gilchrest, Hillman, T. Roller (Art) for Jensen, K. Johnson, P. Johnson, Johnston, Longfellow, Losey, McGee, Stone, Supplee, Tipton, Weaver, Wilson, Yelderman, Young

**Absent:** Adams, Counts,

**Also Present:** D. Rogers (EDU), B. Marks (MUS)

**I. Invocation**

The meeting began at 3:35 PM; Joe Yelderman gave the invocation.

**II. Consideration of Agenda**

Move C. Weaver's report to follow item III.

**III. Administrative Decision Regarding Systematic Move to IBM Compatible PCs**

D. Rogers (EDU) and B. Marks (MUS) were invited by McGee to share their School's concern over the University's decision to convert most existing computers to PC-based formats.

Marks reported on the School of Music's discussions since the platform switch was announced. Marks summarized the discussions as involving three issues: costs of the switch, impact on education, and concerns regarding academic freedom. He elaborated on each.

- **Costs.** While the cost of the equipment replacement can be estimated with reasonable accuracy, has anyone considered the costs of faculty and staff retraining? Have the impacts of the switch on scholarly productivity been addressed? This is especially important given the increased emphasis on academic productivity. Finally, much of the academic software which has been purchased is highly specialized and expensive. What will be the cost of repurchasing software, and who will bear those costs?
- **Educational Issues.** For many disciplines, the Macintosh is a much more effective educational tool.
- **Academic Freedom.** By mandating a specific platform, faculty will be restricted in their ability to use all available methods of instruction, and limitations of a single platform may also constrain the content, depending on PC-platform compatibility

D. Rogers reviewed several issues which have been discussed by the faculty of the School of Education. First, because of the varied demands of their faculty and students, EDU has a real need for a multi-platform environment.

Rogers pointed out that the solution imposed by the mandated PC-platform switch is a solution to the *wrong problem*. The existing problems are not ones of technical expertise—ITC staff already has such expertise. The problem is that ITC does not have a sufficient number of technicians, and switching to a single platform will not solve this problem.

Rogers elaborated by reporting on a study conducted by the Gardner Group, comparing different network configurations. In a dual-platform environment—which is what Baylor will continue to have, because of a number of demonstrated academic needs to retain Macintoshes—this survey reported that Macintoshes were 25% cheaper to maintain, and required considerably less time to install into the network. In fact, one specific recommendation of the Gardner Group was that multi-platform networks should *increase* the number of Macintoshes in the population. Finally, the Gardner Group recommended that standardization on networks focus on applications, not hardware.

Rogers then discussed several institutions, including Dartmouth, who require that incoming students purchase a computer before enrolling—and they chose the iMac.

Finally, Rogers questioned the assumption that students should work on PC-based machines, since they will likely use PCs in the business world. This assumption is predicated on the belief that the computer skills taught in a University setting are little more than "how-to" course. Instead, Rogers suggested, students are being taught more conceptual skills, ones which are essentially "platform-independent."

After extensive discussion, the following motion was made by Beck: The Senate Chair and Executive Committee should present these concerns to the Council of Deans and explore possible options. Longfellow offered an amendment to the motion, adding that the Chair and Executive Committee discover the rationale behind the switch, which was accepted by Beck. Motion was seconded by Conyers, and passed.

#### **IV. Election of new Senate members (Weaver)**

Weaver apologized for the problems in the Arts & Sciences ballot. Other than that, no difficulties were observed. The Faculty Senate membership for 1999-2000 is included as Appendix A.

*At this point, Weaver left the meeting, and the remainder of the minutes were taken by K. Hillman.*

#### **IV. Committee on Committees Report**

McGee discussed procedures noting that the Faculty Senate recommends the report to the

administration. Traditionally, the Senate Executive Committee has served as the Senate Nominating Committee. By common consent, this was approved for this year.

McGee asked that Senators complete and return the "preference sheets" on Senate Committee assignments. He also asked for suggestions from Truett Seminary and SON for potential appointees to the Tenure Committee. The Senate will vote on the Executive Committee's recommendations as well as the Committee on Committee's report at the April meeting.

#### **V. Faculty Evaluation of Administrators**

McGee urged completion of faculty evaluations of administrators. Paper forms are available from McGee and Baird, but individual faculty members may not complete both paper and electronic forms. In response to a question, McGee explained that comments cannot be made on the paper forms because of the cost of work hours required to input these comments.

#### **VI. Discussion of Lack of Faculty Anonymity in Evaluating Deans**

Arts & Sciences faculty received a letter requesting that they evaluate their dean's reappointment and sign with comments if they voted against the reappointment.

A question was asked regarding the relationship between the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators and the vote on reappointment. The two processes are completely separate, and both evaluations are necessary.

Finally, it was noted that while previous reappointment evaluations were restricted to tenured faculty only, this letter was sent to all full-time faculty, including lecturers.

#### **VII. Discussion of Request for a Faculty Committee on Faculty Benefits and Retirement**

This issue was tabled until the April meeting.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Environment (Bob Baird).**

The provost's letter on Academic Freedom was distributed (see Appendix B)

The memo to the Faculty Senate concerning Faculty Committee on Evaluation of Faculty was adopted unanimously. The Executive Committee will pursue details.

##### **B. Faculty Committee on Enrollment Management (Elizabeth Davis). No report.**

C. Faculty Committee on Physical Facilities (Joe Yelderman). The baseball stadium construction is behind schedule.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Life and Services (Gary Carini). No Report.

E. Athletic Council (Mark Dunn).

Because of the delays associated with the construction of the baseball field, most home games have been scheduled for 2 PM starts, resulting in a higher than normal absence rate (for classes) among players.

The athletic department is reviewing travel procedures to make certain the players miss no more classes than is necessary.

The new ballpark at Ferrell Field will not be completed until after the season, and lights will not be functional until April.

Dunn was asked to keep the Senate informed about minimum ACT/SAT scores.

F. Staff Council Liaison (Nancy Chinn). No Report.

The Staff Council has initiated an outdoor dining project to the Student Union building.

The next Staff Council service project will benefit Mission Waco. Details will be distributed via e-mail as they become available.

H. Senate Newsletter and Web Page (Buddy Gilchrest)

The fourth newsletter will be distributed mid-April.. Improvement to the Senate web site are continuing.

## **X. Miscellaneous**

D. Chair reports on:

1. Request to Provost regarding status of Faculty Dismissal Policy, Policy on Financial Exigency and reduction of Academic Programs, and Reduction of Academic Programs not mandated by Financial Exigency

No response yet from General Counsel.

2. Receipt of Recommendation for Honorary Doctoral Degree.  
Judge Sam D. Johnson's nomination has been forwarded to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

## **XI. Other Items or Announcements**

Grievance Policy Committee is to meet later this week.

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Hillman  
Chuck Weaver*

**Memorandum  
FACULTY SENATE, 1999-2000**

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**College of Arts and Sciences**

Linda Adams--98-01\*  
Robert "Bob" Baird--98-01\*  
Rosalie Beck--98-01  
Anne-Marie Bowery--97-00  
William M. Jensen--97-00\*  
Philip Johnson--97-00\*  
David L. Longfellow--97-00  
Jay B. Losey--99-02\*  
Daniel B. McGee--97-00\*  
Richard B. Riley--99-02  
Sara Stone--98-01\*  
Joan E. Supplee--97-00\*  
Charles A. Weaver III--97-00  
F. Ray Wilson II--98-01  
Joe C. Yelderman, Jr.--99-02\*  
David E. Young--98-01

**Engineering and Computer Science**

Donald Farris--99-02\*

**Libraries**

William B. Hair III--99-02

**Nursing**

Sandra J. Genrich 97-00

**Hankamer School of Business**

Gary R. Carini--97-00  
Joe A. Cox--9-02  
Charles E. Davis--97-00  
Mark G. Dunn--98-01  
Karen Johnson--98-01\*  
Jane G. Williams--99-02

**School of Education**

K. Frederick Curtis--99-02  
Norman L. Gilchrest--98-01  
Deborah Johnston--97-00

**Law School**

Mitchell E. Counts--98-01

**School of Music**

Jane Abbott-Kirk--98-01  
J. Christopher Buddo--97-00\*

**Truett Seminary**

Ruth Ann Foster--99-02

February 22, 1999

Dr. Robert M. Baird, Chair  
Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom  
and Responsibility  
P. O. Box 97274  
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Baird:

During the July, 1998, Board of Regents' Retreat, the Academic Affairs Committee decided to review several Baylor University policies, including the Statement on Academic Freedom, to determine if they needed updating or refinement. After subsequent review, the Committee, in its meeting of February 11, 1999, unanimously voted to retain, with no changes, the existing Statement on Academic Freedom found in the Baylor University Personnel Policy, Manual, Section 701 (adopted September 6, 1985).

Sincerely,

[signed]

*Donald D. Schmeltekopf*  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

pre

xc: President Robert B. Sloan, Jr.  
Assistant Vice President Claude Ervin  
Vice Provost Dianna M. Vitanza  
Assistant Provost Cynthia J. Dougherty