



Faculty Senate

Newsletter

April 1997

The 1996-97 Faculty Senate officers and membership:

Chair: Jeter Basden (Arts and Sciences)

Chair-elect: Chris Buddo (Music)

Secretary: Karen Johnson (Business)

Publicity: Jay Losey (Arts & Sciences)

<p>Arts and Sciences:</p> <p><i>Dawn Adams</i></p> <p><i>Linda Adams</i></p> <p><i>Robert "Bob" Baird</i></p> <p><i>Lewis "Bud" Barker</i></p> <p><i>Nancy Chinn</i></p> <p><i>John Fox</i></p> <p><i>William Jensen</i></p> <p><i>Phillip Johnson</i></p> <p><i>David Longfellow</i></p> <p><i>Dan McGee</i></p> <p><i>Howard Rolf</i></p> <p><i>Sara Stone</i></p> <p><i>Patricia Wallace</i></p> <p><i>Joe Yelderman</i></p>	<p>Business:</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Davis</i></p> <p><i>Don Edwards</i></p> <p><i>Michael Robinson</i></p> <p><i>Chet Miller</i></p> <p><i>G. W. Willis</i></p> <p>Education:</p> <p><i>Duane Knudson</i></p> <p><i>Grover "Rusty" Pippin</i></p> <p><i>Jim Wiley</i></p>	<p>Engineering and Computer Science:</p> <p><i>Don Farris</i></p> <p>Law:</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Youngsdale</i></p> <p>Libraries:</p> <p><i>Kathy Hillman</i></p> <p>Music:</p> <p><i>Jerry Gordon</i></p> <p>Nursing:</p> <p><i>Linda Garner</i></p> <p>Truett Seminary:</p> <p><i>A. J. "Chip" Conyers</i></p>
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Notes from the Senate Chair:

As I write these notes, only two regularly-scheduled Faculty Senate meetings remain for this academic year--the April 15 meeting and the May 13 meeting. Thank you all for the support of the work of the Senate during 1996-97.

The Senate elections for 1997-98 have now been completed. 59.3% (341 voters) of the eligible faculty members voted in the elections. New Senators elected for a first term (1997-2000) are:

Anne-Marie Bowery Arts and Sciences

Gary R. Carini Business

Charles E. Davis Business

Sandra J. Genrich Nursing

Deborah Johnston Education

Joan E. Supplee Arts and Sciences

Charles A. Weaver Arts and Sciences

Senators re-elected for a second term (1997-2000) are:

J. Christopher Buddo Music

William M. Jensen Arts and Sciences

Phillip Johnson Arts and Sciences

David L. Longfellow Arts and Sciences

Daniel B. McGee Arts and Sciences

Congratulations to each of these! Thank you for your willingness to serve the university in this important task.

Retiring Senators are Lewis M. (Bud) Barker, Don Edwards, John Fox, Linda Garner, Grover D. (Rusty) Pippin, Michael Robinson, and Patricia Wallace. To each of you, thank you for your dedicated service as a Senator.

The work of the Faculty Senate carries over from year to year. Projects currently under active review include the following:

o Core Courses, Transfer Credit, Summer School Program Recommendations

- o Faculty Handbook*
- o Tenure Study*
- o Faculty Grievance Procedure*
- o Faculty Dismissal Policy*
- o Study of Student Evaluation of Faculty/Course Process*
- o Faculty Workload Policy*
- o Regular System of Evaluations for Administrators*
- o Enhancing the Academic Environment*

Some of these perhaps will be completed in the next few weeks. Others will carry over into 1997-98.

The University Committee on Committees has been hard at work preparing their recommendations for appointments to university committees for 1997-98. Thanks go to chair John Wilson and the members of the committee for their long hours of dedicated work to complete the list of recommendations. The Senate will act on the recommendations at the May 13 meeting. The Senate will then forward the recommendations to President Sloan for his action. Thank you all who have worked on university committees during 1996-97.

Please allow me to express my appreciation to the Senate for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Senate Chair this year. I have found the work with faculty and administrators to be challenging, fulfilling, and rewarding. Both groups have worked hard to make the university a better place for all of us. I have gained a new appreciation for the ongoing challenge of shared governance in higher education. I am particularly grateful for the work of Senate officers Chris Buddo, Karen Johnson, and Jay Losey. Each has made a significant contribution to the university through the Senate this year. I am also appreciative of the work of Kathy Hillman, Duane Knudson, and Sara Stone in their service as members of the Senate Executive Committee. To the entire Senate, thank you for giving these officers and committee members an opportunity of service. We appreciate the leadership responsibilities that have been ours.

Finally, please note the announcement about the President's State of the University address, scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m. in the Barfield Drawing Room. The Senate is pleased to join with the Baylor chapter of AAUP to sponsor the event. We

look forward to seeing you there. To all of you, please do call on any of us if we can assist you in making your work at Baylor University more productive and rewarding.

Jeter Basden, Chair

Faculty Senate, 1996-97

Administration Matters:

Comments from President Sloan

About a year ago, Chancellor Reynolds indicated that I might find my second year as president harder than the first. At the time I found that difficult to believe. I simply did not see how it could have been any busier. But he was right. The second year has been more difficult than the first, not because the schedule was any more hectic--almost nothing could compare with the hurried pace of the first year, learning about faculty projects and interests, meeting students and donors, and generally trying to get a first exposure to the many and varied pockets of this thing called Baylor University and/or the Baylor family--but because of the nature of the issues faced. No doubt the most demanding experience this past year has related to the situation with the Baylor Health Care System. I believe that we do have a very satisfactory resolution now in process. It has been a challenging issue, but I believe that both the health care system and the university will be stronger as a result of this resolution. More details will come out in the future once a final resolution is reached. For now we can definitely say that we are anticipating an ongoing relationship with the Baylor Health Care System and that the relationship will continue and indeed flourish in areas of the university which are most obviously related to healthcare.

As I look toward the future, it seems to me that we at Baylor--and indeed all of higher education--face numerous opportunities and certain clear challenges. I am convinced that all institutions must have a distinct sense of who they are and where they want to go. I think we must affirm unequivocally--as I sense virtually everyone does at Baylor-- that the university must retain its essential and historic character and mission. That is, our core convictions orient around (1) the spiritual commitments inherent within Christian and Baptist traditions, (2) our commitment to undergraduate education, (3) our commitment within the framework of our various schools and curricula to teaching as an act of engagement leading to understanding, and (4) our unapologetic desire to serve the students of Baylor University as the primary, personal object of our daily efforts. Though there is of course much to discuss with regard to the details and/or implementation of these commitments, I am convinced that there is really no essential disagreement as to the broad shape of the core convictions I have suggested above. What we must continue

to do, however, is, within the framework of these core convictions, define ways to press forward on a number of significant fronts.

Higher education in general--and Baylor is no exception--must pay attention to academic standards. Being student friendly and service oriented means, in the long run, that we best serve our students by holding ourselves and them to the highest possible academic standards. The watering down of standards and the erosion over time of the rigors and disciplines of study in American academic life place a heavy burden upon us to find new ways, with all that we now know about differences in learning styles, to challenge both ourselves and our students to do better. Academic conversation and atmosphere, though nebulous in description, are likewise something that we must do a better job of cultivating. How can we, in practical and intentionally thought-out ways, enhance both the quantity and the vitality of the intellectual life on the campus? If the caricature of students is that they care about social life, and the stereotype about faculty members and staff is that we are concerned about parking and campus politics, and if generally as a culture we are consumed by conversation about sports, then how can we intentionally and collectively work against these trends? How can we raise the level of discussion for our students in the dormitories and on the sidewalks? How can we engender among ourselves at the coffee table, at lunch time, and in the corridors, an increased engagement in our academic interests? How can we in both perception and substance increase the evidence of our commitment to scholarship?

Though trite to refer to our "shrinking world," there is with this cliché an important truth: namely, the technological advances of the modern world have brought the peoples of the world closer together and have challenged all of us to find new ways to understand education, our disciplines, and the common features of our politically, socially, economically, etc., diverse existence. What about the role of languages at Baylor University? How will we as a faculty and staff respond to the fact that Texas is changing dramatically in terms of its demographics? Can we be satisfied with the way education has been traditionally delivered? Though many of us were trained in specific and traditional disciplines, what will the world of higher education be like ten years from now if technological advances continue at the current pace? Can we as a teaching faculty isolate ourselves from the dramatic cultural changes being brought about by powerful economic forces which have caused nations and peoples to work together in unprecedented ways? Or, put another way, shouldn't there be increased opportunities for professional development with regard to other languages, cultures, and disciplines, as well as technology?

I am convinced that we can meet these challenges and that we must all be willing to face enormous changes in higher education, without, however, losing our soul as an institution. How can we do it? It will require a willingness to change. It will require significant investments on the part of the university in professional development for both faculty and staff. It will require a willingness on the part of all of us to think about the mission of the university, the mission of our individual units, and then to focus resources precisely on the priorities of our units with respect to the overall mission. Of course, money is always a big issue for us. We have already begun to increase staff in

development to intensify our fund raising efforts. We will soon be undertaking an important study by an outside consulting group with regard to our tuition (which, as you know, represents the most significant annual revenue stream for the university). Can we find ways to provide additional scholarship support for students, increase the diversity of our campus, maintain our essential character as an institution, and at the same time find new resources for supporting all that must be done?

I believe we can. I think the university is poised to move forward into the 21st century with expanded networks of support, an ever-increasing commitment to academic excellence, and a willingness on the part of all of us, with the support of the institution, to grow and develop as professionals. It is a great privilege for me to serve you as Baylor's president. I look forward to the days ahead. There will be, no doubt, many challenges, but our future is bright, and it is so because the historic character of Baylor belongs not just to our history, but to the present quality of those who work here.

Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

President

Publicity Notes:

The following information was compiled by Karen Johnson, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

Return percentages for the Spring 1997 Faculty Senate Election (i.e., % of total ballots sent out that were returned):

Arts and Sciences 57.4%

Music 66%

Nursing 46.7%

Business 58.9%

Education

First ballot 74.5%

Run-off 76.6%

The other four academic units (Libraries, Eng/CompSci, Truett, and Law) did not have a Senate slot to be filled this time.

Overall, combining all five academic units that participated in the election, we received 341 ballots out of the 575 ballots sent out, for an overall return of 59.3%.

The results are listed in alphabetical order:

<i>SENATOR</i>	<i>ACADEMIC UNIT</i>	<i>TERM</i>
<i>Newly Elected Senators</i>		
<i>Anne-Marie Bowery</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>J. Christopher Buddo</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>97-00*</i>
<i>Gary R. Carini</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>Charles E. Davis</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>Sandra J. Genrich</i>	<i>Nursing</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>William M. Jensen</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00*</i>
<i>Phillip Johnson</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00*</i>
<i>Deborah Johnston</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>David L. Longfellow</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00*</i>
<i>Daniel B. McGee</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00*</i>
<i>Joan E. Supplee</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>Charles A. Weaver</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>97-00</i>
<i>Returning Senators</i>		
<i>Dawn Adams</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Linda Adams</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Robert "Bob" Baird</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Jeter Basden</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98*</i>
<i>Nancy Chinn</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>A.J. "Chip" Conyers</i>	<i>Truett Seminary</i>	<i>96-99*</i>
<i>Elizabeth Davis</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>Donald Farris</i>	<i>Engineering/Computer Science</i>	<i>96-99*</i>
<i>Jerry Gordon</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Kathy Hillman</i>	<i>Libraries</i>	<i>96-99*</i>
<i>Karen Johnson</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Duane Knudson</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>Jay Losey</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>Chet Miller</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>Howard Rolf</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Sara Stone</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Jim Wiley</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>95-98</i>

<i>G.W. Willis</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>95-98</i>
<i>Joe Yelderman</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>96-99</i>
<i>Elizabeth Youngdale</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>96-99*</i>

**Denotes second consecutive term*

Please plan on attending President Sloan's State of the University address, Wednesday, April 23, 3:30, Barfield Drawing Room. Refreshments will be served at 3:15. This joint AAUP-Faculty Senate meeting will also recognize retiring faculty.

Baylor University Staff Council announces a spring service project: "Cash for Coolers, Cans for Caritas." Donations of money will be used to purchase coolers to transport food for Meals on Wheels. Donations of non-perishable food items will be given to Caritas. If you would like information about where to donate or if you have any questions, please contact Jerri Cunningham (Law School) at x1911.

*John Thorburn, Classics, has been extremely helpful in updating the Faculty Senate website. You can access it at the following new address:
<http://www3.baylor.edu/~Fac_Senate/senatehome.html>.*

The Faculty Senate would like to thank John publicly for his contribution.

I would like to thank Leigh Ann Marshall, CCIS, for her expertise in preparing this attractive newsletter. She used pagemaker to create a "book-like" format and used Designer Club clipart to create the border.

Finally, I would like to express on behalf of the Faculty Senate our deep gratitude to Jeter Basden for his effective leadership and wise counsel as Chair. We are all grateful to Jeter for helping us represent our colleagues and Baylor University in a meaningful way.

Jay Losey

Publicity Officer

Faculty Senate Website

http://www3.baylor.edu/~Fac_Senate/senatehome.html

Please send suggestions to buddy_gilchrest@Baylor.edu.