



Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2025, BRIC 3160

10-11:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Luke Whiting, seconded by Eric Ames.

The group welcomed President Linda Livingstone to share about the Baylor strategic plan, Baylor in Deeds, and other University updates.

University-level updates were as follows:

- Renovation of the residence halls continues across campus, finishing up Allen and Dawson; we will begin work on Kokernot this summer
- Wrapping up the recruiting for the fall freshman class; right now, the class looks strong with good numbers and an increase in high-ability students and tuition revenue
- The Hurd Welcome Center hosted over 6,000 people this year; thanks was given to those working in Admissions, especially for the student tours
- Hosted the first concert in the Foster Pavilion, continued concerts in both Foster and at McLane Stadium this fall
- Launched Institute for Global Human Flourishing; positions Baylor as a leader, Byron Johnson will lead
- “Extend the Line” scholarship campaign - fundraising specific to student scholarships
- New Energy Complex will need to be updated to support future capacity; this will be a project that takes place over 10 years; RFP has been sent, 9 teams have bid- hope that we will name the project groups this summer. The space will likely move outside of campus.
- Announced last week inaugural TedX event at Baylor; theme is “Innovation in Deeds”

The president then shared a time of Q&A with the group.

After a 5-minute break, the chair welcomed outgoing Staff Chaplain Brett Gibson for his time of shepherding and prayer. April 2025 minutes were approved by a motion from Jenny Branson.

A report then was shared by Jeffrey Olafsen, Faculty Senate liaison:



- Updates on medical and family leave
- Updates on bylaws and clinical faculty workload
- Question about a “staff hiring freeze” - not a freeze, but a slowdown, for faculty, those replacements will likely be put into a pool rather than a 1-for-1 replacement; department budgets have been cut, hiring is slowing - looking like a tight budget year
- AI Committee continuing
- Report on “microaggressions” changed to “incivilities” in Faculty Senate; this will be noted in faculty syllabi
- New “State of the State” committee to inform the Faculty Senate about federal updates

Lauren Muhl then shared an executive update regarding Staff Meetings in the fall and spring. A letter was sent from the Executive Committee to the provost, asking her to attend and present the Staff Meetings and give a report on salient items.

The Advancement Committee encouraged the group to buy Staff Council shirts and to spread the word amongst their units.

The Staff Regent working group provided an update to the general Staff Council and recommended that this initiative be taken up next year to move forward this time next year (May 2026 Board of Regents Meeting).

Chair Muhl then thanked and gifted certificates (prepared by the membership group) to the outgoing Staff Council members alongside Vice-Chair Derry.

A reminder was shared regarding next year’s Staff Council executive team:

- Chair, Chelsea Derry
- Vice-Chair, Daniel Ramirez
- Secretary, Maxcey Blaylock
- Chaplain, Luke Whiting
- Parliamentarian, Jaime Basher
- Eric Ames, Webmaster

The meeting was closed with a motion by Jenny Branson, seconded by Amos Barker at 11:24 a.m.