

## **CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

**APRIL 2015**

Greetings Mr. Chairman, Board of Regents, Dr. Patillo, Dr. Berry, Esteemed Colleagues, and Guests:

During the remainder of the spring term and through next year, I will serve as Chair of the Faculty Senate. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve SFA in this capacity.

Joining me in leading the Faculty Senate, this year, I would also like to introduce to you, Dr. Norjuan Austin, Associate Professor of English, who was elected to the position of Chair Elect at the Senate meeting in February. Dr. Austin is a Lumberjack himself and he holds a PHD in English from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He is serving a second term on the Faculty Senate.

Together Senator Austin and I will complete the terms of Drs. Nerren and Franks and begin our elected terms in May. We look forward to the months ahead in working with the faculty and administration to support the highest caliber of academic and co-curricular experiences for SFA faculty and students.

Now, I would like to provide a brief update on recent Senate activity beginning with the Faculty Senate Resolutions that are located in Tab 20 of your notebooks.

Last fall, the Texas Council of Faculty Senate passed four resolutions pertaining to higher education in the Texas 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature. These resolutions were subsequently adopted by the SFA Faculty Senate in November and are posted on the Faculty Senate website.

As you each have a copy, I will not read them in full. However, in sum, the SFA Faculty Senate:

- 1) Opposes legislation that would overturn the present prohibitions on carrying concealed or open-carry weapons on university campuses;

- 2) Petitions the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase funding for higher education by 25 percent;
- 3) Encourages full funding for the Hazelwood act; and
- 4) Strongly recommends an increase in funding for the Texas Education Opportunity Grant program.

Although the bills related to these items may have very different outcomes than we intend, these resolutions demonstrate our position and active engagement with other public funded institutions in Texas to sustain campus safety and improve fiscal resources for higher education in our state.

Locally, this is a busy time in the Senate as we are in the midst of elections of new Senators and in the transition of Senators who will rotate off of the Senate in May.

I would like to recognize the outgoing Senators and their contributions. These are:

- Dr. Charlotte Allen, Professor, Management, Marketing, and International Business,
- Dr. Leisha Bridwell, Associate Professor, Human Sciences,
- Dr. Leslie Cecil, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Geology, and Sociology,
- Dr. Matthew Kwiatkowski, Associate Professor, Biology, and
- Dr. Mary Olle, Assistant Professor, Human Sciences.

In closing, I will conclude this report with some of the highlights of recent academic accomplishments of our faculty.

Dr. Kelly Noe was recognized by the Texas Society of Public Accountants with the Outstanding Accounting Educator Award for the State of Texas.

Dr. Justin Blount was awarded the Homes Cardozo Award by the Academy of Legal Studies in Business for his paper titled “Social Enterprise, Corporate Objectives, and the Corporate Governance Narrative” which has been accepted for publication this summer by the *American Business Law Journal*.

The American Psychological Association awarded a Division 16 Grant Program Award for School Psychology Internships to the department of

human services in the Perkins College of Education.

Dr. Tim King, Regents Professor, gave the 2014 Regents Lecture in Cole Concert Hall last month. In May, Dr. King will once again lead the SFA Acapella Choir on an international choral concert tour in Venice, Florence, and Rome, Italy. The SFA Acapella Choir has performed at the Texas Music Educators Association, The National Association for Music Education, and the American Choral Directors Association. The SFA Acapella Choir is recognized as one of the finest choral ensembles in the United States.

Faculty in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture with Dr. Chay Runnels in human services hosted 15 students and two faculty from the Älvdalen Educational Center in Älvdalen, Sweden. The group spent ten days exploring hospitality and forest management in East Texas. The visit marks the continuation of a partnership formed between ATCOFA and Älvdalens, which seeks to broaden the cultural horizons of students from both programs.

Dr. Andrew Brininstool, who received an NEA Fellowship in Creative Writing a year ago, had his first collection of short stories, *Crude Sketches Done in Quick Succession*, published by Queen's Ferry Press. His short story "Big Eyes, Wide Smiles" was named an Honorable Mention in the 2015 Pushcart Prize anthology for Best of the Small Presses.

Dr. Tayo Odunuga was awarded a three-month grant from the Research Council of Norway to travel to The University of Tromso. Dr. Odunuga serves as a guest researcher in the Department of Medical Biology and The Norwegian Structural Biology Centre (NorStruct).

This list is a small percentage of the total of faculty productivity in research, grant funding, academic innovation, teaching excellence, and service at SFA. If I were to report all of items shared with me by deans and department chairs, this list would be over twelve single-spaced pages.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Regents, for the opportunity to present this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate.