

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS JULY 2016

Greetings Mr. Chairman, Board of Regents, Dr. Pattillo, Dr. Bullard, Esteemed Colleagues and Guests:

Introduction

I am excited to start my term as Chair and I thank you for the opportunity to share this update from the Faculty Senate. I know my predecessor, Dr. Embry-Jenlink, shared some information about me at your last session but I wanted to formally introduce myself. I'm Dr. J.D. Salas, an associate professor starting my eleventh year in the School of Music where I teach applied instruction in Tuba and Euphonium. My secondary area of specialty is Jazz, and with the promotion of Dr. Gary Wurtz to Director of the School of Music, I have recently been appointed as the director of SFA's second jazz ensemble – The Swingn' Aces. I look forward to representing the SFA Faculty and maintaining the atmosphere of shared governance that makes SFA a great place to work.

Faculty Senate Overview of Activities - Late Spring 2016

During the April session, Dr. Embry-Jenlink presented a report of the Senate's involvement in the formation and revision of policies affecting faculty members at SFA. At our final meeting on May 4, the senate reviewed five of those policies: Policy 7.4 Academic Promotion, Policy 7.6 Faculty Merit Pay, Policy 7.9 Distance Education Competencies and Compensation, Policy 7.22 Post Tenure Review, and Policy 7.29 Tenure & Continuing Employment. The Senate was able to endorse Policy 7.6 Faculty Merit Pay and Policy 7.19 Distance Education Competencies and Compensation. Unfortunately, the other policies were not yet in their final versions when presented at our last meeting so the Senate was unable to endorse them. We did submit comments for each of the policies not

endorsed and some of that feedback was included in their final versions. This was the first year in which the Senate was involved in this process and even though we were unable to have completed versions of all of the policies before the end of Senate's term, I believe it to be an invaluable process to creating a transparent environment. As for the policies not endorsed during our last meeting, each of those policies should fall within the three-year policy review rotation prior to fully affecting faculty members so I believe any issues can be addressed at that time. Our Faculty Government and Involvement committee will be archiving senate feedback on all policies reviewed in order to have a complete record as policies go through this review rotation.

The other important item of business covered since your last session was the election of incoming senators and officers. I am delighted to report that this last election cycle was extremely successful and all open Senate seats have been filled. I would like to thank Dr. Patillo, Dr. Bullard, Dr. Brunson, and the University Vice-Presidents for including the Senate in many of the committees throughout the university. I believe this involvement has helped recruit many of the incoming senators to the Faculty Senate.

Summer Preparations for 2016-17 Session

Throughout the summer myself and Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Associate Professor in the James I. Perkins College of Education and incoming Chair-Elect, have been working together to prepare for the 2016-17 Faculty Senate session. Continuing projects include our work on the Ombuds proposal that has been previously reported by Dr. Embry-Jenlink, my continuing work on the Concealed Carry Committee, implementation of the smoking cessation policy, and updating the website and committee appointments.

Faculty Accomplishments

I close my report by referring you to the Outstanding Faculty Accomplishments report located in your folders and soon to be posted on the Faculty Senate Website.

This concludes the July update from the SFA Faculty Senate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Regents.