

MEETING NO. 51

NOVEMBER 17, 1974

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

Absent:

Bennet Mullen (Excused)
Kenneth Watterston (Excused)

Ex Officio Members Present:

Vice Pres. John T. Lewis III
President Ralph Steen

1. Chairman Arscott called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.
2. Minutes of meeting #50 were approved.
3. Chairman Arscott's report:

Chairman Arscott clarified some confusion that had accompanied the recent Pine Log articles concerning the creation of a standard form to be used by the University Health Center for certifying health-related absences of students from classes where such notices were required. Mr. Arscott had discussed the policy innovations with interested persons, and a subsequent clarifying story on the subject should be forthcoming in the Pine Log.

Mr. Arscott reported on recent Deans' Council meeting:

Friday, November 8: The Deans' Council attempted to state more clearly the use of the word "equivalent" in the Faculty Handbook with regard to promotions. The Deans' Council passed a resolution stating: "...The word equivalent for promotion, as stated in the Faculty Handbook be not interpreted to mean wholly equivalent to a degree, but be interpreted in a broad sense of equivalent."

The Faculty Senate voted to approve of the Deans' Council resolution.

4. Dr. Wayne Johnson (Faculty Senate Vice-Chairman) reported to the Faculty Senate on his survey of other colleges and universities in Texas with regard to their policies on faculty evaluation of administrators. Dr. Johnson had queried the other institutions about two things: (1) did they have a policy of faculty evaluation of administrators and (2) were department heads eligible to serve on their faculty senate. The answers to question one were substantially negative, and the answers to question two were substantially affirmative. Dr. Johnson discovered that the other colleges and universities were interested in what S.F.A. was doing and expressed a desire to keep in contact with their counterparts at S.F.A.
5. Dr. Diane Ford reported for the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee about the questionnaire which the Committee had sent to faculty members concerning their interests and concerns and in what ways the Faculty Senate can address itself to these needs. Dr. Ford further noted that the Stewart Bloodmobile would be on the S.F.A. campus for purposes of faculty donations on

Tuesday, December 3rd. The mobile unit would park by the S.F.A. Post Office. Members raised questions about student blood donations at this time; it was decided that other arrangements were being made for this purpose.

6. Dr. Sue Jones presented a report for the Student Affairs Committee. The Committee had conducted an inquiry into the costs and procedures for processing student absences in the Student Life Division. Existing procedures were shown to be costly and time-consuming. The new forms and procedures for providing notices to faculty concerning health-related absences of students resulted from the Committee's study. Dr. Jones admitted the Committee's written report to the Senate, stating the obligations of faculty members and a copy of the form itself.

After changing some of the wording of the Committee's report, the Faculty Senate approved the Committee's report.

7. Chairman Arcsott asked the Student Affairs Committee to investigate the feasibility and cost accounting factors concerning eliminating the policy of sending mid-term grades for Freshmen. The Student Senate had expressed an interest in such a study. The report of the Committee was to be submitted by the January meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Lewis noted the practicality of sending Freshmen mid-term grades to parents. It is the only contact the University has with the families of Freshmen during the course of a semester, and is therefore a useful public relations instrumentality. Dr. Lewis informed the Senate that the students could specify where the grades were to be sent.

8. Dr. Ralph Eddins presented a report of the Professional Welfare Committee. Dr. Eddins' report dealt with the procedure for faculty evaluation of administration, in light of Texas' public records law. Dr. Eddins submitted a written statement of the Committee setting up a procedural system for initiating a vote of confidence or no confidence by faculty and administrators within the University hierarchy. The system would function at three year intervals, give the University discretion in making on a no-confidence verdict, and provide the faculty privilege of recall at any time.

The Faculty Senate voted to accept the Committee's proposal.

9. Dr. James M. Garrett presented a report for the Administration and Finance Committee. The report pertained to salary ranges and merit raises in the University. The Committee had also consulted the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs concerning the deferral of insurance premiums from faculty salaries during the nine month term, rather than the summer. Dr. Garrett submitted correspondence from the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs which stated the unfeasibility of deducting premiums for the 12 months in 9 month installments.

The Faculty Senate adopted the Committee's report.

10. Dr. Lewis addressed the Faculty Senate concerning University tenure policies and situations. Dr. Lewis noted that by the fall of 1976, 83% of the faculty might be tenured. Department heads are now being instructed to inform prospective employees that they can expect to be guaranteed employment for a Maximum of 3 years for inexperienced persons and 7 years for persons with experience. This applies only to prospective employees.

11. Dr. Steen remarked to the Faculty Senate about the continuing prospect for faculty salaries in the impending legislative session. Dr. Steen also informed the Faculty Senate about the recent addition of certain University publications to the open status by the Attorney General's interpretations of the Texas open records law.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.