

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting No. 95  
January 17, 1979

1. Chairman Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.
2. After the roll call, the Senators made two corrections to the Minutes of Meeting No. 94: (1) In 3. D., second sentence, the word "Applied" was inserted so the phrase will read, ". . . a School of Applied Arts and Sciences will be established . . ."; and (2) James M. Bowman's unexcused absence was corrected to excused due to illness in immediate family. The Minutes of Meeting No. 94 were then approved as corrected.
3. Reports of Officers:
  - A. Chairman's Report:
    - a. There have been no Deans' Council meetings since the last meeting of the Senate, and Chairman Jeffrey reported no action items from the January 16th meeting of the Academic Affairs Council.
    - b. In response to a query from Senator Johnson at the last meeting, Chairman Jeffrey assigned to the Senate Administration & Finance Committee the task of studying the long-range enrollment situation and making recommendations to improve student retention.
    - c. The study of the implementation of the new promotion policy will be assigned to a Senate committee at a future date, probably at the next meeting.
    - d. Since Mr. Jesse Richardson was SFA's representative to the State Advisory Committee on Insurance and Chairman of its Research Group on Medical Insurance, Mr. Jeffrey asked him for a report of his experiences. Under the requirements of State Senate Bill 95, his research group was charged with studying medical insurance and making recommendations for a uniform benefit insurance program for employees of Texas state junior colleges, colleges, and universities.

The plan his research group formulated is roughly equivalent to SFA's current low-option plan with these differences: the deductible is \$100; maternity has a front-end deductible of \$500; and psychiatric care is limited to 21 days in the hospital and \$1,000 per year for the doctor. The plan finally adopted by the Advisory Committee and recommended to the legislature differs only slightly and is similar to the state plan for other state employees.

Some of the facts that his committee found were that: medical insurance costs have been increasing at the rate of 15%-25% per year; the state of Texas provides its employees in higher education with \$180 per year to cover the cost of all insurance while the

surrounding states typically give \$277 per year; on an average, according to a U. S. Chamber of Commerce Report (1975), business and industry provide their employees with \$582 per year. The committee's survey of local business and industry showed that they typically provide \$900-\$1,000 per year for insurance programs for employees and their families. However, State Senate Bill 95 specifically states that the new program must be equivalent to what the state plan for state employees is or what private and local industry provide for an individual employee.

In order to provide the individual employee what private industry provides, the cost would be between \$30-\$40 per month, or \$360-\$480 per year, for all insurance. It is Mr. Richardson's understanding that the Legislative Budget Board is recommending \$35 per month for insurance for the first year of the biennium and \$40 per month for the second year.

Mr. Richardson responded to a question from Senator Murdock that the LBB proposal of \$35 will about cover the current monthly premium for the high-option medical plan for an individual employee. He also pointed out that the Administrative Council has adopted a rule which spells out what kind of insurance SFA must have by September 1, 1979, and he has a copy of these requirements.

Mr. Richardson said he believes the insurance program at SFA is as good as or better than that at any other four-year institution of higher education in Texas. On a statewide basis, he said that insurance costs at SFA are very similar to those at other four-year institutions and only the junior colleges, due to fewer limitations on spending and the existence of taxing districts, have a better deal as far as costs are concerned. Currently, statewide and at SFA, the family plan members are in effect subsidizing the individual base-plan member because the \$15 per month does not cover the cost of all his insurance. Perhaps the increase to \$35 per month will relieve some of this burden.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the insurance program, he may contact Mr. Jesse Richardson in the Department of Economics and Finance.

Chairman Jeffrey thanked Mr. Richardson for his report.

#### B. Treasurer's Report:

Senator Bowman reported \$4,485.49 in the Senate treasury.

#### 4. Committee Reports:

Mr. Bos, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Constitutional Revision, thanked Senators Jones, Mathis, Rodewald, and Reeves for their work on his committee. He handed out his committee's report (see ATTACHMENT #1, sent under separate cover) and pointed out to the Senators the changes

between the old and the new Constitution. The majority of changes involved grammar, rewording, addition of phrases for clarity, or as is the case in Article III, rearrangement and division of sections.

The major addition to the Constitution is Article V, Revisions, which is all new. Also, Section 4, second paragraph of Article I, was transferred to the Standing Rules; a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer are added to the officers of the Senate in Article I, Section 12; the President of the Student Government Association is made an ex officio member in Article I, Section 7; and Article III, Section 1, adds a September meeting and changes the number of Senators who may call a meeting of the Faculty Senate from three to five.

In discussing the report, Senator Rodewald pointed out that the new phrase, "of that school," in Article I, Section 4, last sentence of the first paragraph, is in error. It should be 4% of the voting members of the University faculty as defined in Article I, Section 3. He also pointed out that the Faculty Senate is apportioned according to voting members of the faculty, not according to full-time teaching equivalents, and this ought to be spelled out in the Constitution. Those who do not hold faculty rank, e.g., Interns, cannot vote and are not counted in apportionment.

Also, Senators Bos and Snyder pointed out that the new Constitution does not call for a May meeting in Article III even though a May meeting is specifically mentioned in the Standing Rules.

Senator Bos moved and Senator Snyder seconded the motion to accept the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Constitution Revision. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Bos then presented his committee's recommendations for revised standing rules for the Senate. (See ATTACHMENT #2, sent under separate cover.) The major changes are: the first section was transferred from the original constitution to facilitate reapportionment and a list of duties assigned to officers was added as was a section on roll-call votes.

After it was suggested that the edition of Robert's Rules of Order be specified, Senator Bos moved and Senator Sartin seconded the motion to accept the Revised Standing Rules for the Faculty Senate. MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Jeffrey designated the Constitution as Senate Bill #95-1 and the Revised Standing Rules as Senate Bill #95-2 and announced an open hearing on both bills scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 1979, at 2:30 p.m. in Science 135. The faculty will vote on the new Constitution by written ballot after it is approved by the Senate.

5. Comments from Ex Officio Members:

- A. Vice President Franklin welcomed everyone back to what promises to be an even more active Spring than last year. He mentioned the attempts of the administration to keep on top of the enrollment figures in spite of the computer breakdown. He said he cannot tell yet how close the enrollment will be to the projected figure of 9,348, which represents a 4% drop over last Spring.

He announced that there is no new information about the fiscal situation. Also, he said the administration intends to become actively involved in the research into the student attrition and retention problem. He asked for Senate cooperation in relaying the information that when the administration talks about student retention, it is not talking about lowering standards to retain students. The real challenge is to retain those students who are doing well at SFA and yet for some reason choose to leave.

Vice President Franklin informed the Senate that a draft of a tenure policy is scheduled to go to the Board of Regents on February 3, and he commended the Senate for its fine work on the document.

- B. Mr. Burroughs expressed his appreciation for the Senate's inclusion in the new Constitution of the President of the Student Government as an *ex officio member of the Faculty Senate*. He said that only with cooperation between faculty and students can the best decisions be made. He expressed his desire for student involvement in the tenure process, particularly in the evaluation of faculty members.

6. Announcements:

- A. Chairman Jeffrey reminded the Senators that if they have a student attending a class who is not listed on the roster, they should make sure that the student fills out a form obtained from the Department Chairman and takes it to the Registrar's office for confirmation that the student is officially enrolled.
- B. Senator Rodewald announced that he is receiving a weekly communication from the AAUP office in Austin apprising members of the status of legislation affecting higher education in the state of Texas. He has been posting The Friday Night Flyer on the bulletin board in the faculty lounge.
- C. Vice President Franklin announced that the Committee on Higher Education passed a resolution to withhold making any further recommendations on faculty workloads to the legislature until all the Spring data have been received and analyzed. The Committee feels that the actual workload data will be more impressive than any composite.
- D. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 1979, at 2:15 p.m. in Rusk 301.

- 7. Senator Bos moved and Senator Spreadbury seconded the motion for adjournment. MOTION PASSED and Chairman Jeffrey adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Absentees:

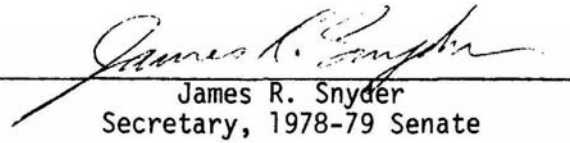
Langston Kerr--Excused  
Larry Pollock--Unexcused

Ex Officio Members Present:

Bill Franklin

Visitors:

Mark Burroughs  
Sandy Cole  
Patricia Read Russell  
R. G. Dean  
Jesse Richardson  
Janelle Ashley



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James R. Snyder  
Secretary, 1978-79 Senate