

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 96
February 14, 1979

1. Chairman Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.
2. After the call of the roll, the Senate approved the Minutes of Meeting No. 95.
3. Reports of Officers:

A. Chairman's Report:

- a. Chairman Jeffrey reported that the Senate office now has a telephone. The number is 569-4701; if no one answers, the number to call is 564-1761.
- b. At this time, Mr. Jeffrey asked President Johnson to give the Senate a progress report on events in Austin affecting SFASU.

President Johnson said there is currently a great deal of talk, particularly on the Senate side, about providing some sort of cushion for those institutions which had a decrease in semester credit hours in the base period. He mentioned some of the alternatives under discussion and said he believes the Coordinating Board will make some sort of recommendation for a cushion in at least the first year of the biennium.

He announced that in his presentation to the Senate Finance Committee, scheduled for February 20, he plans to dwell on the adjustment problems that we have and to talk about faculty salaries and other parts of the budget that relate to semester credit hours. He plans to ask for additional appropriations for the University Police Department, in an attempt to stem the high turnover rate there, and for \$500,000 for elevators to meet the needs of the handicapped. He feels the Committee will be more receptive to his plea if he dwells only on those items recommended by the LBB; therefore, he will not make a strong plea for any item not recommended.

In response to a question from Senator Rodewald whether the administration thought that SFASU was in better shape now than it had anticipated in December, President Johnson replied that the figures currently available indicate we are very close to the previous estimate.

President Johnson said he will keep the Senators as well informed as he can on happenings in Austin and reminded them that things change day to day and we can only hope for the best.

Chairman Jeffrey thanked the President for coming to the Senate and sharing his information.

- c. Chairman Jeffrey announced that there have been three meetings of the Deans' Council since the last meeting of the Senate. In the January 23rd meeting, the Council approved a motion to make appointment titles

uniform. The policy will be published when final approval is given. In the Council meeting on January 30, the Deans approved a proposal for a data processing major in the Bachelor of Business Administration program. There were no action items from the February 6th meeting.

- d. Chairman Jeffrey informed the Senate that he, the Director of Admissions, and the Director of the Counseling Center attended a very informative workshop on student retention in Houston on January 25-26. The workshop, conducted by ACT, presented information which may prove valuable in SFASU's efforts to retain students.

B. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Snyder informed the Senators that elections for the Faculty Senate will begin on March 1st. He reminded faculty members to return their nomination forms as soon as possible.

C. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bowman reported that the balance in the treasury is \$3,730.69.

4. Committee Reports:

- A. Senator Spreadbury, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Revision of the Faculty Handbook, announced that her committee has submitted a draft to the Deans' Council and is currently awaiting its recommendations and suggestions. When these are received, her committee plans to write a second draft and present it to the Senate.
- B. Senator Snyder, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, distributed his committee's report on the Graduate Program Survey to the Senators. He moved and Senator Sartin seconded the motion that the Senate accept the report. MOTION PASSED. There will be an open hearing on the report, designated Senate Bill #96-1 (see ATTACHMENT #1, sent under separate cover), on February 28, 1979, at 2:30 p.m. in Rusk 301.

5. Old Business:

- A. At this time, Senator Bos, Chairman of the Faculty Senate Constitutional Revision Committee, distributed copies of Senate Bill #95-1, Constitution of the Faculty Senate, which incorporated the revisions his committee had made based upon the comments and suggestions from the open hearing on January 31.

He pointed out the revisions, which were: I-4: deleted the word "six," eliminated numbering, and reinserted the second sentence. I-7: added Library Director to ex officio members. I-11(b): added "following his/her term of office" to end of statement. II: transposed the words to "formulate and recommend" in the first line; added "written" before petition and "full-time student" in the first sentence of the second paragraph. III-1: inserted "regularly" and "May" in the statement. III-4: inserted "to the Senate" in the fifth line. III-8: added "Newly Revised."

IV-2: changed last word of first sentence to "approved" and inserted second sentence. V-2: changed last word of first sentence to "approved" and inserted second sentence.

Senator Bos moved and Senator Reeves seconded the motion that the Senate approve Senate Bill #95-1, Constitution of the Faculty Senate. After the Senators discussed the bill, made a few editorial changes, and defeated a motion by Senator Mathis to amend Article II to read "recommend and formulate," they PASSED the MOTION unanimously.

The Constitution (ATTACHMENT #2, sent under separate cover) will be sent to the voting faculty for approval, or disapproval, before the next meeting.

- B. Senator Bos then presented Senate Bill #95-2, Revised Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate, and reported on the revisions made since the open hearing, which were: the second sentence under "Number of Senators" was returned to the Constitution and the last part of the first sentence, beginning "other than . . .", under "Roll-Call Votes" was added.

In the discussion of the bill, Senator Rodewald pointed out the redundancy of the phrase following the comma under "Number of Senators" since it is already dealt with in the Constitution. The editorial change will be made. Also, Senator Rodewald moved, Senator Blocker seconded, and the Senate PASSED unanimously the MOTION to amend the bill by deleting the first sentence under "Roll-Call Votes" and the word "such" from the second sentence. Then Senator Bos moved and Senator Adams seconded the motion to adopt the Revised Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate as amended. The Senators voted unanimously to PASS the MOTION, and the rules will go into effect as of February 14, 1979.

Chairman Jeffrey thanked Senators Bos, Jones, Mathis, Reeves, and Rodewald for their work on the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

6. Comments from Ex Officio Members:

Mr. Mark Burroughs spoke again in favor of some student input into the tenure process. He asked as a compromise that the Senate endorse a proposal to ask that if a faculty member takes student evaluations in his classes, he must submit them in his packet in application for tenure. The Senate discussed the matter, but took no action.

7. Announcements:

- A. Senator Walker asked about the status of the tenure policy, and Chairman Jeffrey replied that President Johnson had prepared and submitted a tenure document to the Board of Regents and they had approved it. In response to Senator Walker's question whether the policy was substantially what the Senate had submitted, Chairman Jeffrey said that it was, but it included two significant changes that he knew of: namely, the University Grievance Panel was reestablished in the document, and the administration

chose to follow a guideline derived from the Coordinating Board's Policy Paper No. 1 in which the phrase "but is not limited to" was inserted in the section on good cause for dismissal of tenured faculty members.

- B. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for March 21, 1979, at 2:15 p.m. in Rusk 301.
8. Senator Adams moved and Senator McCune seconded the motion for adjournment. Chairman Jeffrey, after the MOTION PASSED, adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Absentees:

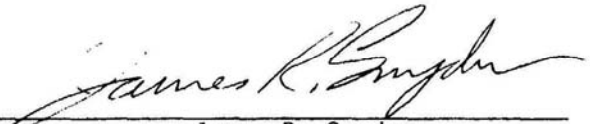
Langston Kerr--Excused, Prof. Con.
Jerry L. Irons--Unexcused
Larry Pollock--Excused, Prof. Con.

Ex Officio Members Present:

William R. Johnson
James Reese

Visitors:

Janelle Ashley
R. G. Dean
Susan Harwood
Jerry Vincent
Mark Burroughs
K. Smith



James R. Snyder
Secretary, 1978-79 Senate

Approved
2-14-79 #95
no minutes

S T E P H E N F. A U S T I N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y
C O N S T I T U T I O N
O F
T H E F A C U L T Y S E N A T E

PREAMBLE

A University is a community of scholars engaged in the free discussion, research, and dissemination of ideas and knowledge. To the end that governing this University shall embody the full freedom of discussion, participation and examination of ideas by faculty, students, and administrators in the search for truth, the administration and the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University hereby establish this Constitution of the Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University.

ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. A Faculty Senate is hereby established by Stephen F. Austin State University.

SECTION 2. The Faculty Senate shall be elected by and from the voting members of the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University.

SECTION 3. Voting members of the faculty are defined as those holding faculty rank and employed full time by the University, including professional librarians.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of electing members of the Faculty Senate, the University shall be divided into the following groups: Business, Education, Fine Arts, Forestry, Liberal Arts, Library, and Science and Mathematics. Each group shall have at least one representative; no department shall have more than two representatives; apportionment shall be adjusted every three years. Representation from each group shall be determined by allotting to each group one representative for every four percent, or major fraction thereof, of the faculty of the University.

Should the officially recognized duties of a faculty member be divided so as to place him/her in two or more groups, he/she may choose the one in which he/she will be placed for representation.

SECTION 5. The term of membership on the Faculty Senate shall be three years. To provide for continuity of organization and function, one-third of the membership shall be elected each year. Upon the completion of a three-year term, or a two-year unexpired term of membership, no faculty member shall be eligible for reelection until the expiration of two academic years.

SECTION 6. To be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate, one must be a voting member of the University faculty.

SECTION 7. The President of the University, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, academic deans (whether or not they are also members of the teaching faculty), the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Library Director, and the President of the Student Government Association shall be ex officio members of the Faculty Senate, with all the privileges of membership except the right to vote and to hold office.

SECTION 8. The apportionment of the Faculty Senate of the faculty group indicated in Article I, Section 4, shall be adjusted at three-year intervals.

SECTION 9. An election shall be held during April of each year. Election to the Faculty Senate shall be from the six faculty groups named in Article I, Section 4, and from the group of professional librarians. In March of each year, the Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall notify all who are eligible for election to the Faculty Senate. Any eligible person may submit his/her name for nomination by indicating to the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, prior to April 1, his/her willingness to serve. The Secretary shall submit to the faculty of the group concerned, a ballot for nomination to the Senate consisting of the names of all eligible faculty who have signified a willingness to serve. Two candidates for each available Senate position shall be elected as a consequence of receiving a plurality of the votes cast for that position. These candidates become the nominees for the available Senate position. Balloting shall be by mail. The candidate who receives the majority of votes for that position shall be declared elected to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 10. The term of a member of the Faculty Senate shall expire at the end of his/her elective term, upon the seating of his/her successor, in May.

SECTION 11.

(a) Whenever a vacancy exists in the Faculty Senate for any reason whatsoever, it shall, until the next regular election, be filled by vote of the Faculty Senate from the respective group in which that vacancy exists.

Such vote shall be taken at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate within two weeks of the time that the vacancy exists. In the case of a faculty member elected to fill out a vacancy, if the period of the unexpired term is two academic years or longer, the one elected shall, upon completion of the term, be ineligible for election to the Faculty Senate for two academic years.

(b) A category of temporary vacancy from membership on the Senate will be established for persons on leave of absence. This vacancy will be filled for the duration of the leave by appointment of the Senate from the respective group. When the member returns from leave, he/she shall fill out his unexpired term and he/she and his/her temporary replacement shall be ineligible for election to the Faculty Senate for two academic years following his/her term of office.

SECTION 12.

(a) Officers of the Faculty Senate shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, each chosen by and from the membership of the Senate.

(b) Other officers may be elected by the Faculty Senate as it sees fit.

(c) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Faculty Senate shall elect a successor for the remainder of the term (one academic year).

(d) All Faculty Senate officers shall be elected in May of each academic year and shall serve until the seating of their successors.

(e) No person shall be elected to the same Faculty Senate office for more than one consecutive term (one academic year), but each officer shall hold the office until his/^{her} successor takes office.

(f) The Chairman shall be the principal executive officer of the Faculty Senate and shall have such powers as are appropriate to his office. He/^{she} shall be ex officio member of the Faculty Senate committees which he/^{she} shall appoint with the consent of the Faculty Senate.

ARTICLE II. FUNCTIONS

The Faculty Senate shall formulate and recommend academic policy for the University, acting with due regard to the autonomy, requests, and needs of the specific departments, divisions, schools, and colleges, to the advice of the President of the University and to the regulations of the Board of Regents of Stephen F. Austin State University and the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. Such policies become official when signed by the President of the University.

The Faculty Senate may consider all other matters of general welfare to the University, including matters raised by Senators, by Senate committees, and by the President of the University and, through written petition, by any other administrative official or body, and by any full-time faculty member or full-time student who shall then have the right to speak to the petition. Decisions on all such matters shall be final when approved by the President of the University and the Board of Regents of Stephen F. Austin State University.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. The Faculty Senate shall meet regularly at least once during the months of September, October, November, February, March, April, and May of each year and at the call of the President of the University, the Chairman of the Senate or five or more of its members.

SECTION 2. The Faculty Senate must give consideration to any recommendation by any eight members of the faculty. Such recommendation must be written.

SECTION 3. To be present at all meetings of the Faculty Senate is the basic duty of every member during his/her term of office. The Secretary shall call the membership roll at each meeting of the Faculty Senate and enter the names of absentees on the Minutes of the Faculty Senate. Absentees may be excused for cause by the Chairman. In each case, the reason for the member being absent shall be entered on the Minutes of the Faculty Senate. If and when a member has three unexcused absences during his/her term of office, the right of membership in the Faculty Senate is forfeited for the remainder of the unexpired term and for one year thereafter.

SECTION 4. If there should be occasion for calling of meetings of the faculty (other than meetings called by the President or Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University), such meetings may be called by the Senate, either upon its initiative or upon the written petition to the Senate by eight voting members of the faculty. Notice must be given to the faculty at least forty-eight hours in advance of any meeting called under this provision, and the notice must include a statement of the issue to be considered.

SECTION 5. In the Faculty Senate or in meetings of the faculty called under Section 4, a quorum shall consist of one more than one-half of the voting membership.

SECTION 6. A simple majority shall be necessary to pass upon recommendations in the Faculty Senate or in meetings called under Section 4 of Article III.

SECTION 7. ~~One-third~~ One-third of the members of the Faculty Senate at a Faculty Senate meeting or one-third of the members of the voting faculty at a meeting called under Section 4 of Article III ~~may~~ call for a secret ballot on substantive questions.

SECTION 8. Except as otherwise provided herein, procedure shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by one of the following methods:

- (a) Vote of the Faculty Senate, or
- (b) Petition to the Faculty Senate by eight voting members of the faculty.

SECTION 2. Proposed amendments accepted by the Senate, or amendments proposed by the Senate, must be voted upon within thirty days after the Faculty Senate meeting in which they are approved. Petition amendments must be acted upon within thirty days of their being received by the Senate. Copies of the proposed amendments must be distributed to voting members of the faculty at least seven days prior to balloting. Balloting will take place within thirty days after the petition has been approved by the Senate; and the process must be completed within the academic semester in which it is proposed.

SECTION 3. Amendments shall be ratified by secret ballot by two-thirds of the votes cast on the amendment by the voting faculty.

SECTION 4. Amendments become official when approved by the President.

ARTICLE V. REVISIONS

SECTION 1. Revision of this constitution may be proposed by:

- (a) Vote of the Faculty Senate, or
- (b) Petition to the Faculty Senate by eight voting members of the faculty, or
- (c) Order of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

SECTION 2. Proposed revisions accepted by the Senate, or revisions proposed by the Senate, must be voted upon within thirty days after the Faculty Senate meeting in which they are approved. Petition revisions must be acted upon within thirty days of their being received by the Senate. Copies of the proposed amendments must be distributed to voting members of the faculty at least seven days prior to balloting. Balloting will take place within thirty days after the petition has been approved by the Senate; and the process must be completed within the academic semester in which it is proposed.

SECTION 3. Such revision shall be ratified by secret ballot by two-thirds of the votes cast on the amendments by the voting faculty.

SECTION 4. Revisions become official when approved by the President.

SENATE BILL #95-2

REVISED STANDING RULES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Number of Senators

The total number of faculty representatives shall be twenty-six, ~~one of whom shall be a professional librarian elected by the professional librarians.~~

Duties Assigned to Officers

A. Chairman:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Senate or its Executive Committee
2. Sign all orders necessary to carry out the will of the Senate
3. Act as the representative of the Senate to outside persons or organizations
4. Appoint committees as directed by the Constitution, the Standing Rules, or by motion of the Senate
5. Perform all other duties that may be assigned by the Constitution or the Standing Rules of the Senate.

B. Vice Chairman:

1. Be prepared in event of the absence or incapacity of the Chairman to assume the responsibilities of the Chairmanship
2. Assume additional tasks of administrative assistance as directed by the Chairman.

C. Secretary:

1. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to preside at meetings of the Senate
2. Keep a careful and authentic record of the proceedings of the Senate
3. Authenticate all records by his/her signature

February 14, 1979

4. Furnish information from the Minutes as requested
5. Keep a roll of Senate membership and call it when necessary
6. Preserve all records, reports, and documents of the Senate which are not assigned to others.

D. Treasurer:

1. Serve as the official custodian of the operating funds of the Senate
2. Keep an account and current record of all receipts and disbursements
3. Give a brief report or summary at each meeting of the Senate and a complete report annually.

E. Parliamentarian:

(The Senate Chairman may, at his/her discretion appoint a Senate Parliamentarian.)

Committees

The Senate Chairman shall appoint the membership of all committees and their chairmen.

Standing committees of the Faculty Senate shall be: Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Faculty Government and Involvement, and Professional Welfare.

The Senate Chairman may appoint ad hoc committees at his/her discretion.

Every Senator shall hold membership in at least one standing committee. The Senate Chairman, ex officio, holds membership in all committees. Unless reassigned by the Senate Chairman, a Senator shall remain on the standing committee to which he is originally assigned for the duration of his term of office.

In the May meeting of the Senate, all committees, both standing and ad hoc, shall present to the new Chairman reports of the previous year's activities and the status of work still in progress. Unfinished business that is a matter of record must be considered by the new standing committee.

The Executive Committee of the Senate shall consist of the officers of the Senate and the standing committee chairmen. The Senate Chairman may also, at his/her discretion appoint other Senators

to serve the Executive Committee in a consultative or advisory role; but the voting members of the committee shall be only the officers and the standing committee chairmen.

Meetings of the Faculty Senate

Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate will normally be held on the second Wednesday of each month during the academic year, provided classes are in session on that date.

Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee.

The place of the regular meetings shall be determined by the Senate Chairman.

Regular meetings shall begin at 2:15 p.m.

Roll-Call Votes

~~Any Senator may request a roll-call vote on any motion, other than one for which there has been a call for a secret ballot. The results of a roll-call vote shall be published in the Minutes of the meeting.~~

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Amendments

These Standing Rules may be amended at any meeting of the Senate by a two-thirds majority vote, provided the proposed amendment is announced at the meeting preceding the one during which the vote is taken.

REPORT ON THE GRADUATE PROGRAM FROM THE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE

FACULTY SENATE

COMMITTEE: James Snyder, Chairman
 James Corbin
 Larry Pollock
 Patsy Spurrer

George Thompson
 Ben F. Walker
 Elizabeth Wallace

Introduction:

The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with a study of the Graduate Programs at SFASU to isolate problems that are occurring and to recommend possible solutions to those problems.

An extensive survey was sent to the entire full-time faculty in the Fall of 1978, and much of the information and many of the recommendations contained herein are a direct result of those surveys which were returned.

The survey of graduate programs at SFA seems to indicate a need for improvement. Some problems seem to stem from the graduate school, but most seem to be departmental in nature and probably should be rectified there. The following is a general summary and does not necessarily reflect problems in all departments.

Tabulation:

210 surveys were returned from 413 full-time faculty members, for a 50% return rate divided as follows:

12 Instructors
 58 Assistant Professors
 62 Associate Professors
 72 Full Professors

Of these, 23 are not members of the graduate faculty, 3 are temporary members, 5 are uncertain, 15 are associate members, and 158 are full members.

The faculty returning surveys taught 1,537 courses in the past 5 years and 225+ students were graduated.

Out of those responding, 47 have served on the graduate council and 162 have not; 187 have terminal degrees, and 26 have master's.

Of 316 Graduate Assistants, 173 are Teaching Assistants, 37 Research Assistants, and 106 are engaged in such things as soil labs, lab preparation, gallery assistants, slide collection, tutors, etc.

Admissions--General:

One hundred and forty-six faculty felt that graduate faculty should be involved in admission to the graduate program; 49 felt they should not. An

Report on Graduate Program

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overwhelming number chose selection committee (103) over resume (35), GPA (33), other (29)--for example, participating in setting standards, determination of criteria, etc.

Admissions--Special:

Respondents reported teaching a substantial number of graduate students (537) for whom English was not the native language. Of course, this is not a count, as most students take more than one professor, but it shows that the average professor has had two or three such students in 5 years. Responses were split quite evenly as to how the English mastery problem should be handled: 52 felt there should be an optional course but the students should be required to take it if they are placed on academic probation; and 36 had no opinion.

Most faculty indicated that foreign students are graded by the same standards as anyone else; 3 felt they were graded more harshly; 41 felt they were graded easier; and 62 had no opinion.

As to special admission standards and procedures for groups such as minorities, physically handicapped, etc., 45 said yes; 198 said no. If normal admissions standards are waived, 30 felt they should be uniform for all departments, 79 felt they should be individualized for departmental needs, 36 said they should be administered strictly by the Graduate Dean, 19 said they should be administered by individual academic schools; and 24 had no opinion.

Comments on admissions policy were quite numerous:

"The biggest problem is that once a student is admitted, he can usually get an advanced degree by putting in his time in courses," "the department now has a good workable admissions policy," "we must maintain some higher standards," "too much slack and too many exceptions," "why penalize the good 'ole American student in order to cater to the foreign student," "open admissions for all students," "too liberal," "flexible and fair as it stands," "requirements should be met fully," "the trouble with a liberal admissions policy is that faculty are reluctant to weed out a weak student," "standards are too low," "should be uniform," "should take English proficiency test," "too lenient," "academic standards are already low enough," "there is none. It seems anyone can qualify."

Graduate Assistants:

Forty-nine faculty indicated there have been times in the past 3 years when their departments were unable to award available assistantships because of a lack of eligible students; 69 indicated no problem; and 65 did not know.

Thirty-three faculty felt that an assistantship should be held for only two semesters; whereas 139 felt four semesters should be the limit. Four thought that 4 semesters should be the limit for M.F.A.'s and/or terminal degrees; 12 indicated that 6 semesters should be the limit; three of these proposed 6 semesters and the M.F.A. or terminal degrees. Eighteen others said 3 semesters and two set no limit.

Comments on Assistantships:

"Must recruit harder and pay better," "more care in awarding teaching assistants," "utilize T.A. in ways other than teaching," "faculty must have a hand in selection process," "find funds other than T.S.O.," "need to be better utilized, and include written contracts of duties," "I have no use for them," they should be monitored closely," "we need to pay these people a decent wage," "overuse of G.A.'s as teachers and lab assistants is not good," "they should be awarded for scholarship and ability," "pay too low to attract quality," "without them we cannot retain top quality graduate students."

Comprehensive Exams:

On the issue of whether comprehensive exams are a meaningful evaluation of a student's mastery of general principles and concepts, the faculty is divided: 83 said they are, 89 felt they are not, and 25 had no opinion.

However, the faculty did not feel that comprehensives should be abolished and graduation based strictly upon academic course performance. One hundred and thirty-two said they should not be abolished, 42 said they should, and only 19 held no opinion.

Some individual comments on comprehensives follow:

"Comps. should be administered after completion of 12-18 hours. Students should be informed of their status--this is the time to discourage marginal students, not at the end of 36 hours," "how can a faculty member justify not allowing a student to finish after his department has granted a grade of B or better in 36 hours of course work," "they need an overhaul," "comps are the domain of the department," "they should be fair, but rigorous," "eliminate them," "they cause undue anxiety," "students should demonstrate some competence," "better guidelines for uniformity would help," "should have them," "exams should be rigorous and graded strictly," "abolish for master's candidates, retain for Ph.D.," "if administered, graded, and constructed properly, they are a good and valid evaluative tool," "I would like to see a written comp," "improve or remove," "ne. an at large member for comps."

Master's thesis:

Twenty-seven faculty rated the theses in their departments as excellent, 80 rated them good, 33 fair, 7 poor, and 58 had no opinion. On the other hand, however, the respondents rated SFA theses in general as excellent--10; good--50; fair--49; poor--6; and no opinion--94.

Forty-seven faculty indicated that the graduate faculty in their department encouraged students to write theses, 48 said their graduate faculty discouraged students from writing theses, 70 said their graduate faculty had a neutral attitude toward thesis writing.

Ninety-one returns indicated that the defenses of theses are a genuine effort to evaluate a student's knowledge and ability, 28 indicated they are not, and 78 had no opinion.

Ninety-five returns indicate the faculty is satisfied with the procedures followed at SFASU (deadlines, rules, committees, etc.), 32 indicated they were not satisfied, and 71 held no opinion.

One hundred returns indicated the Graduate Dean and/or Graduate Council should take constructive steps to improve the quality of master's theses at SFA, 20 indicated they should not, and 72 held no opinion.

Comments on master's theses varied from: "No substitute for a thesis," "M.A. students discouraged from writing thesis," "more faculty members should be involved," "the quality of writing is generally mediocre to poor," "the Graduate School should have a reader," "some would be poor competition for a good high school comparison," "viable options to the writing of theses . . . should be developed," "thesis writing is nothing but intellectual masturbation," "it should be assumed that all graduate students will write theses," "The Dean should insist the theses be literate," "my major complaint . . . lies in the quality of writing," "vary from excellent to terrible," and "students should be encouraged to write."

Course Offerings:

One hundred and twelve faculty members felt that 400G courses are an essential part of their departmental program; 96 did not feel that 400G courses were essential; and 12 others had no opinion.

Ninety-three faculty members felt that their department could not reduce the number of 400G courses without adversely affecting their graduate program; 81 said they could not reduce the number of 400G courses without adversely affecting their undergraduate programs.

Fifty-three faculty members felt they could reduce the number of 400G courses without adversely affecting their graduate programs, and 72 said they could reduce the number of 400G courses without hurting their undergraduate programs.

One hundred and twenty-nine faculty members felt that 400G or 500-level courses which are introductory courses should be allowed to count toward a master's degree; whereas 44 felt they should not.

Comments on courses offerings are listed in part below:

"400G courses are often more beneficial to the individual's needs," "reducing 400-level courses reduces the scope and quality of graduate offerings," and "too much emphasis on trivia."

Library:

One hundred and twenty-seven responses indicated that library resources are adequate for graduate courses now being offered; 74 felt they are not adequate in all cases.

One hundred and five faculty said that library resources are considered when new graduate courses are planned, 39 indicated they are not taken into consideration, and 43 had no opinion.

A research methods course for graduates is considered to be essential by 94 respondents, 63 for both graduates and undergraduates. Research methods for just undergraduates was indicated by 15 and for neither group by 42.

Comments on the Library went from "excellent service," "needs larger budget to acquire a more professional collection in art," "more than adequate," to "not always satisfactory."

Recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee:

The following recommendations are general and are meant to be flexible enough so that each department can effectively work within the guidelines without undo hardship to their specific programmatic needs.

1. That the Graduate Council monitor the quality of the graduate program at both the department and university levels. This should include taking steps to upgrade admission standards to graduate school and improving the quality of comprehensive exams.
2. That the Graduate Council review admission standards university wide and see that each department utilizes its graduate faculty in the selection of candidates and the selection of graduate assistants.
3. That the Graduate Council take an active role in working with departments by offering advice when asked and requiring departments to review their total graduate program periodically.
4. That graduate students be eligible for assistantships for two academic years, or four semesters only.
5. That each department update its comprehensive exams and its thesis procedure at least every five years.
6. That all students pass an English competency test prior to graduation from undergraduate school or prior to admittance to graduate school.
7. That each department be required to demonstrate that library resources are adequate to support graduate courses being proposed prior to acceptance of that course into the graduate curriculum.
8. That the Graduate Council study the area of departmental research methods courses and work with departments in implementing and/or improving such courses.
9. That summaries of departmental surveys be sent to the Graduate Dean, the Graduate Council, and the appropriate departments.

JRS/ghr