

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting No. 99  
May 2, 1979

1. Chairman Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.
2. After the call of the roll, the Senators approved the Minutes of Meeting No. 98 as written.
3. Reports of Officers:
  - A. Chairman's Report:
    - a. Chairman Jeffrey reported that at the April 17th meeting, the Deans' Council passed a draft policy concerning leaves of absence. This policy draft will be published soon in the "Faculty Bulletin."
    - b. Mr. Jeffrey also reported that he and Senator Johnson had met with Mr. Jerry Johnson of the University Center on April 23rd to apprise him of faculty concern about the fact that the University Center expansion plans do not include a faculty lounge. A brief discussion of that meeting followed during which Vice President Franklin said that President Johnson has said there will be a faculty lounge in the new University Center.
  - B. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Snyder reported the final results of the Faculty Senate elections. The new Senators are: Duke Brannen, Sandra Cole, Wendall N. Spreadbury, and Thurman T. Thomas from the School of Education; Susan Harwood and C. Wayne Proctor from the School of Sciences and Mathematics; William J. Oliver from the School of Fine Arts; and Kurt B. Stanberry from the School of Business.
  - C. Treasurer's Report:

Senator Bowman reported that he had not received the budget control statement for the last month, but his records show \$2,797.82 in the treasury.
4. Committee Reports:
  - A. Senator Johnson, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grade Inflation, presented his committee's report to the Senate. The report consisted of a page of summary (see ATTACHMENT #1) and nine pages of tables and figures.\* After expressing his appreciation to his committee members (Jerry Irons, E. Wayne Murdock, Larry Pollock, and Connie Spreadbury), he singled out Senator Spreadbury for particular credit for her extensive work on the report. The committee made no recommendations at the present time. Senator Johnson moved and Senator Snyder seconded the motion that the Senate accept the interim report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Grade Inflation. MOTION PASSED.

\*Each Senator has a complete copy of this report.

Chairman Jeffrey announced that the Senate intends to ~~pursue~~ the investigation of the grade inflation problem at SFA.

- B. Senator Bowman, Chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee, reported that his committee will study next Fall the material contained in the Attrition-Retention Study which was presented to the Senate in March, 1979, by the 1977-78 Administration and Finance Committee. The main area of concentration will be in interpreting the data presented and in making recommendations and suggestions for long-range planning.

5. Old Business:

- A. Senator Bowman reported that he had heard some comments from Department Chairmen about the fact that the new Faculty Handbook gives comparatively detailed coverage to the duties and responsibilities of Department Chairmen while listing few detailed duties and responsibilities for Deans.

Chairman Jeffrey reported that this matter was discussed in the May 1st meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee, and Vice President Franklin said that the Academic Affairs Committee will study this problem during the summer and attempt to outline major areas of responsibilities and authority for all offices reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

- B. Chairman Jeffrey announced that the Faculty Handbook is in the process of being printed and will be available with holes punched in the left side so that it may be put into the Grade Record Book.

6. New Business:

- A. Senator Bowman reported concern from his constituency about the due date of grades in the Registrar's Office. Senator Bowman moved and Senator G. Thompson seconded a motion that the due date on semester grades be extended three working days after the end of final examinations. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

- B. Chairman Jeffrey recognized and thanked the retiring Senators: Jasper E. Adams and Austin Sartin from the School of Sciences and Mathematics; Jerry L. Irons, David L. Jeffrey, Langston Kerr, and Beverly S. Young from the School of Education; Charles W. Logan from the School of Business; and James R. Snyder from the School of Fine Arts.

- C. Mr. Jeffrey also announced the retirement of Ms. Gay Roach from the Senate and expressed the gratitude of the entire Senate.

- 7. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be immediately following the adjournment of Meeting No. 99.

8. Chairman Jeffrey adjourned Meeting No. 99 of the Faculty Senate at 2:45 p.m.

Absentees:

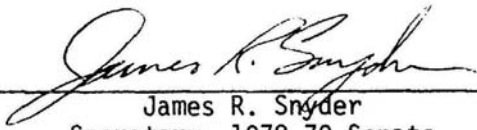
Beverly S. Young (Excused--Prof. Con.)  
Langston Kerr (Excused--Prof. Con.)

Ex Officio Members Present:

James Reese  
Bill J. Franklin

Visitors:

Janelle Ashley  
R. G. Dean  
J. Robert Singer  
Duke Brannen  
Sandra Cole  
W. J. Oliver  
C. Wayne Proctor  
Kurt Stanberry  
Thurman T. Thomas  
Susan Harwood  
Wendall N. Spreadbury

  
James R. Snyder  
Secretary, 1978-79 Senate

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE FROM THE  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GRADE INFLATION

Committee: Bobby H. Johnson, Chairman  
Jerry Irons  
E. Wayne Murdock  
Larry Pollock  
Connie Spreadbury

This report on grade inflation at Stephen F. Austin State University is intended to be informational in nature. Statistical data prior to 1973 are not easily available; hence the report focuses on recent years. The Committee offers no recommendations at this time.

The following observations are in order:

1. Table 1 presents the undergraduate grade distributions at SFA for the years 1967 to 1978. Grade distributions have been stable since 1973.
2. Table 2 shows the grade point averages at SFA for 1970 to 1977. Grade point averages experienced a continuous rise from 1970 to 1974, decreased slightly from 1974 to 1976, but appear to be stabilizing near 2.6.
3. Table 3 presents the number and percent of honor graduates (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) at SFA for 1970 to 1977. The percentage of honor students has also increased steadily between 1970 and 1974. It reached an all-time high in 1976 but stabilized at 8.9 percent.
4. Table 4 shows the number and percent of students at SFA on academic probation or on suspension for 1970 to 1979. The percentage of students on academic probation and suspension decreased substantially from 1970 to 1972 but seems to be stabilizing at around 9 to 11 percent.
5. Figure 1 shows a graphic comparison of grade point averages, percent of honor graduates, and percent of students on probation or suspension by year.
6. Table 5 presents the ACT Composite Scores for all SFA students for 1967 to 1978. The findings indicate that the ACT scores reached a high of 20.8 in 1972-74 and a low of 19.8 in 1977-78.
7. Appendix A shows the undergraduate grade distribution by departments and Schools for the fall of 1978. The purpose of this appendix is to provide comparisons with the University distribution only. Data for departments in 1967 were not available, so no inflationary trend can be shown.
8. Appendix B is the undergraduate grade distribution for 1978 by course levels.