

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 116
February 11, 1981

1. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

2. Reports of Officers:

President's Report:

Items of general interest to the faculty can be found in the February Faculty Senate Report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Cole reported a balance of \$3,999.90.

Secretary's Report:

Faculty Senate elections will commence March 1.

3. Old Business:

Proposed Policy on Appeal Procedures for Resolving Student-Initiated Academic Complaints:

Chairman Mathis opened the floor to discussion on this policy. Action will be taken concerning this policy at the March Senate meeting. (See Attachment #1 in January minutes)

4. New Business:

A. Report on the Reapportionment of Senate Representation:

Senator Connie Spreadbury, Chairman of the Faculty Governance Committee, presented the reapportionment report. The School of Applied Arts and Sciences will have representation (one senator) beginning in April. The School of Education and the School of Liberal Arts will have one less senator each, reducing the number of the Faculty Senators to twenty-five. The next reapportionment will take place in the Spring of 1984. (See Attachment #1)

B. Proposed Policy on Class Attendance and Excused Absences:

Senator Richter of the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee, submitted a report on suggested revisions. The proposal under consideration was initiated by the Academic Deans Council and submitted by President Johnson to the Senate for review. (See Attachment #2)

C. Proposed Faculty Evaluation Bill:

Mr. Ivy Brush presented a proposal from the Student Government Association for a faculty evaluation bill. The Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Consult With Student Government will work with the SGA on this proposal and report to the Senate in the March meeting.

D. Merit Pay Recommendation:

The Professional Welfare Committee presented a recommendation on faculty salaries and merit pay increases for Fiscal Year 1983. (See Attachment #3) Senator Schoenewolf moved that the recommendation be adopted and Senator Thomas seconded the motion.

Discussion of the proposal followed. A motion was made and seconded to table the recommendation until the next Faculty Senate meeting. Motion Passed.

5. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on March 18, 1981, Wednesday, at 2:15 p.m. in Rusk 303.
6. A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Absentees:

Robert Blocker - excused
Duke Brannen
Wayne Murdock - excused



Kurt Stanberry
Secretary, 1980-81, Senate

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Governance Committee: Connie Spreadbury (Chair), Joe Devine, June Irwin,
Cue Jones, Don Richter

Reapportionment Report

School	Voting Faculty including chair		Representation for every 4% of the University Faculty	1981 - 1984	No. of Senators	1977-1980
	Number	%		No. of Senators	to be elected in April, 1981	No. of Senators
Applied Arts & Sciences	12	3.0	.75	1	1	0
Business	51	12.8	3.2	3	1	3
Education	98	24.6	6.2	6	0	7
Fine Arts	47	11.8	3.0	3	1	3
Forestry	18	4.5	1.1	1	0	1
Liberal Arts	89	22.4	5.6	6	2	7
Science & Math	65	16.3	4.1	4	2	4
Professional Librarians	18	4.5	1.1	1	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	398	99.9	25.0	25	7	26

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY GOVERNMENT AND INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Connie Spreadbury (chairman)
Joe Devine
June Irwine
Sue Jones
Don Richter

INTRODUCTION: The Committee was charged with reviewing the draft of a POLICY ON CLASS ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSED ABSENCES for the Student Handbook. The draft which we reviewed was prepared by the Academic Affairs Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee recommends one change in wording and two additions, all underlined on the attached:

1. Substitute the word "absence" for "attendance" in the original draft. (second sentence under Class Attendance)
2. Add the sentence "It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence." (second paragraph under Excused Absences)
3. Add the phrase "or for a reasonable time at the discretion of the instructor." (at the end of the document)

POLICY ON CLASS ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

Class Attendance -

Regular and punctual attendance is expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. For those classes where absence is a factor in the course grade, the instructor shall make his/her class policy known in writing at the beginning of each term and shall maintain an accurate record of attendance.

Excused Absences -

It is University policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in certain University-sponsored events.

Students are responsible for providing to the instructor of each class missed satisfactory documentation for an excused absence. In the case of absences caused by participation in University-sponsored events, inclusion in the University's public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence. Students with acceptable excuses will be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester or one week of a six-week summer term when the nature of the work missed permits, or for a reasonable time at the discretion of the instructor.

(Attachment #3)

FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION

The current school year finds the faculty generally continuing to experience a loss in the buying power of their salaries at the same time that they are suffering the main burden of an increased student enrollment.

The Faculty Committee to Review the Southern Association Reaffirmation Report learned from its recent questionnaire that only 44% of the faculty believe that the criteria and procedures for faculty evaluation are clear, and that only 36% believe that they are fair.

The Faculty Welfare Committee learned from another questionnaire that 62.7% of the faculty believe that the present system for awarding merit raises is inequitable and that more than half of the faculty believe that all funds available for salaries in the near future should be used for general raises.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate recommends to the President that in the second year of the coming biennium no merit increments be paid, but rather that all funds available for faculty salaries, including an appreciable portion of growth money generated by enrollment increases, be given as general raises and that the Senate be given that time to formulate a system of evaluation that is acceptable to both the Administration and the Faculty.