

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting No. 155  
September 12, 1984

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

2. Announcements:

- a. The Senate office is in LA 344, telephone 4701 box number 6176.
- b. Senator Clipson will continue to serve as Parliamentarian for the Senate during the 1984-85 academic year.
- c. Chairman Price has scheduled the following meetings with Dr. Johnson and Dr. Gaston during the fall semester:

September 17  
October 1, 17, and 31  
November 12 and 26  
December 12 (tentative)

Any suggestions the senators may have for topics to be discussed at these meetings will be welcome.

- d. Copies of the Senate's Constitution, Standing Rules, 1984-85 roster, committee assignments, and departmental representation assignments were distributed.
- e. The Council of Faculty Governments has made an informal agreement with the Texas Commission of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board that university faculty may be appointed to serve on various committees established by these state agencies. The Council therefore asks that its member governments maintain a list of faculty names and individual areas of expertise from which to nominate two people who would be effective spokesmen for faculty interests.

Senator Clipson moved that the names of those who wish to volunteer for such committee service be submitted to the Senate Executive Committee, and that the Executive Committee be empowered to choose nominees from that list. Senator McCune seconded the motion which passed without opposition.

- f. The Council of Faculty Governments will hold its first meeting this year in Austin on October 5 and 6; the principal speaker will be Larry Temple, Chairman of the Coordinating Board. The Senate Chairman acts as one of two voting delegates representing SFASU. Senator Mace was elected as the second delegate, Senator Arscott as alternate.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes for Meetings No. 153 and 154 were approved as distributed.

4. Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Balance for O & M	\$3,200.00
Payroll	1,200.00

5. Old Business:

- a. The Senate's recommendations for revising the drop policy have been returned to the Senate by the Academic Deans Council for further consideration, in particular to establish viable alternatives for students who may have legitimate reasons to drop a course after mid-semester, and to specify criteria for evaluating these exceptional cases. Chairman Price assigned the matter to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- b. The Senate's recommendations about computing student GPA's and about establishing competency exams in English and mathematics are both still pending in the Deans Council.
- c. The Senate's recommendations on the student evaluation of faculty teaching have been approved by the Deans Council and by the President. Dr. Gaston, who is now drafting a policy statement on student evaluation procedures, asked the senators to comment to certain administrative details:
  - (1) frequency of evaluation: whether evaluations should be required each semester or only once a year;
  - (2) faculty options: if evaluations are required only once a year, whether faculty should be able to choose the semester in which they wish to be evaluated;
  - (3) protection of privacy: if requiring department chairmen to submit non-quantitative summaries of evaluations data to the deans would serve as adequate protection of the individual faculty member's right to privacy.

Senator Hallman moved that the Senate recommend requiring student evaluations only once a year; the motion passed without opposition.

- d. The problem of part-time faculty's loss of insurance coverage during the summer has been resolved at the departmental level.

6. New Business:

- a. Chairman Price announced that the Committee on Elections, chaired by Senator Wright, will conduct an election to fill two vacancies on the University Grievance Committee.
- b. The Faculty Government and Involvement Committee, chaired by Senator Shows, will study the feasibility of and proper methods for changing the Committee on Election's status from ad hoc to standing in order to transfer the responsibility for conducting elections from the secretary to the committee.

- c. The complex questions raised by 5-week summer sessions were assigned to two committees:
  - (1) the Academic Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Arscott, will study the effects of the shorter sessions on academic standards;
  - (2) the Committee on Administration and Finance, chaired by Senator Speer, will analyze cost factors of the 5-week summer terms.
- d. The Committee on Faculty Government will analyze current distribution of senatorial terms of office in order to recommend appropriate action to redress any imbalances.
- e. Senator Russell called the Senate's attention to a number of problems having to do with inaccurate editing of university publications, inefficient operation of university vehicles, and unnecessary delays in distributing first-day class rosters. These matters were assigned to the Committee on Administration and Finance for further study.
- f. Senator McCune noted the increasing amounts of time that the Mathematics faculty spend in response to requests from other faculty and graduate students for advice on setting up and interpreting statistical data. Senator McCune suggested hiring a qualified statistician who would function as part of the Technical Support staff at the Computer Center and who would also be available for consultation on any graduate thesis dealing in statistical data. The matter will be referred to the appropriate senate committee.

7. Comments from Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Gaston said that he hoped to have specific recommendations from the two Senate committees which will study the 5-week summer terms; he suggested that such data might reasonably include a faculty opinion poll. In the general discussion that followed, Dr. Gaston pointed out that a savings from \$85,000 to \$100,000 had been effected last summer by the shorter sessions and by having the staff report at 7:00 a.m. and leave at 4:00 p.m.

In response to a question from Senator Arscott, Dr. Gaston said that the University had to make a 2-year commitment on summer schedules in order to comply with State regulations about instituting energy savings plans as well as to follow the usual procedures for making changes in the University Bulletin. The University is therefore already committed to 5-week terms for the 1985 summer sessions. However, Dr. Gaston also noted that the University could never schedule a summer term shorter than 5 weeks and that the University must technically comply with the Southern Association's guidelines which call for a 6-week summer term.

Chairman Price thanked Dr. Gaston for his comments.

- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Absences:

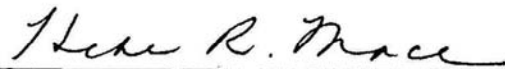
Senator Carr (excused)  
Senator Kellerhals (excused)  
Senator Payette

Vistors:

Dr. Connie Spreadbury  
Dr. William Brophy  
Steve Payne, SGA Representative

Ex Officio Members Present:

Dr. Gaston



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Hebe Mace  
SECRETARY, 1984-85, SENATE