

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERISTY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 156
October 10, 1984

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

2. Announcements:

Chairman Price wishes to devise a system to insure continuity in Senate actions from year to year. He asked for suggestions from the senators.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Senator Russell asked that the final sentence of section 6(e), in the Minutes of Meeting No. 155, be changed to read as follows:

These matters were assigned to the Committee on Administration and Finance for further study, in particular to find out if the aims of the University are being accomplished.

Chairman Price noted that the title "Council of Faculty Governments," in section 2(e), should read "Council of Faculty Governance Organizations."

The minutes were approved as amended.

4. Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Balance for O & M	\$3,200.00
Payroll	1,075.44

Delegates' Report, Council of Faculty Governance Organizations:

Senator Mace distributed a summary of the fall meeting of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations, October 5 and 6, in Austin. The Council was concerned mainly with hearing reports from various organizations and state agencies representing higher education about HB 72 (the education reform bill), projections for funding requests for the 1986-87 biennium, and controversies over tenure at Texas Tech University and UT Permian Basin.

5. Old Business:

- a. The Deans Council has ratified 2 of the 4 sections in the April 11, 1984, Senate recommendations on merit pay. The Council deleted the section which recommended that all faculty be considered for merit at the departmental level because it contradicts the policy adopted last year that tenured faculty do not have to be reviewed annually. In regard to the Senate's suggestion that members of school merit panels "should be told" that they do not have to rank applicants individually, the Deans Council changed the words "should be" to "may be" in order to preserve some flexibility in merit panel deliberations. The Deans Council accepted the Senate's recommendations to award merit on a dollar basis instead of a percentage of salary, and that the University study the possibility of decreasing the number of merit awards and increasing the amount of the award at the departmental level.

- b. Chairman Price reported that the Senate's recommendation to change the method of calculating student GPA's received considerable discussion in the Deans Council but no unanimity of response.
- c. Committee B of the Deans Council, reporting on the Senate's recommendations for instituting competency exams in English and math, pointed out a number of problems yet unresolved in designing these procedures. The matter has been assigned to another Council committee, chaired by Dean Reese, for further study.
- d. Senator Arscott, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, distributed copies of a proposed letter to the Deans Council; the purpose of the letter is to further clarify the Senate's recommendations for changing the University's policy on dropping classes. Attached to the letter was a history of the drop policy at SFASU from 1968 to present.

The letter specifies a cut-off date of "one week after mid-term" for dropping a class without receiving a WP or WF and again recommends that all students be evaluated before mid-term. It makes clear that "pressure for mid-term evaluation" is a departmental responsibility, and that the recommended drop policy does not preclude the Deans from establishing specific criteria for extenuating circumstances which may occur after the cut-off date. The letter also states that these recommendations in no way affect the use of the W mark to indicate withdrawal.

In the discussion that followed, Senator Arscott pointed out that these proposals eliminate the WP and WF grades, that the University's 1968 drop policy was more stringent than the Senate's current proposal, and that the major change toward greater leniency occurred in 1971-72. Dr. Gaston noted that the recommended drop policy could have some legal implications. The proposed letter will be submitted for a vote at the Senate's next meeting.

- e. Senator Shows, chairman of the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee, proposed that Article I, Section 9 of the Senate's Constitution be amended to read that the Committee on Elections, rather than the Secretary, be responsible for conducting the election of new senators in March of each year, and that the Standing Rules be amended in order to add the Committee on Elections to the list of the Senate's standing committees.

Senator Speer suggested that both changes are more matters of revision than amendment. The proposal will be presented for the Senate's vote at its next meeting.

- f. Senator Shows' committee also submitted a proposal for correcting a continuing imbalance in senatorial terms of office by conducting special, one-time elections for two-year terms for senators from the School of Forestry or from the Library, and from the School of Liberal Arts. It was suggested that the Constitution be amended to provide for such special elections now and in the future. The proposal will be submitted for the Senate's vote at the next meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. Professor Ronnie G. Barra, Department of Health and Physical Education, was elected to fill the third year of Senator Bruce Payette's unexpired term.

- b. The question of registration fees charged to faculty who wish to take courses was assigned to the Professional Welfare Committee I.
- c. The question of hiring a statistics consultant was assigned to the Professional Welfare Committee II, with Senator McCune as an ad hoc member.

7. Unscheduled Items:

Senator Arscott asked what effect House Speaker Gib Lewis's recent letter, urging a moratorium on capital equipment expenditures, might have on University disbursements for such needs. Dr. Gaston replied that the University is now meeting only emergency needs in order to honor the intent of Lewis's letter.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Ex Officio Members Present:

Dr. Gaston
Dr. Reese

Hebe R. Mace

Hebe Mace
SECRETARY, 1984-85, SENATE

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FACULTY SENATE MEETING NO. 156

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR A FACULTY SENATOR

RESULTS-- Barra--12

Thompson--9

Illegible--1