

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 157
November 14, 1984

1. Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.
2. Announcements:
 - a. The chairman discussed the main issues reported in the October 1984 "Faculty Governance News," published by the Texas Council of Faculty Governance Organizations. The spring meeting of CoFGO is scheduled for February 1 and 2 in Austin; our Senate's 1985 membership fee of \$100 will be due at that time. Chairman Price asked if the Senate had any comments about continuing our membership in this organization. Senator Arscott noted that CoFGO meetings were a useful source of information exchanges with other Texas universities. After a brief discussion, the senators approved by voice vote the Senate's continuing its membership. A copy of the CoFGO report is available on request.
 - b. Chairman Price reported that the last Deans Council discussed the following matters: (1) a successful suit brought by a student against Southwest Texas State over a change in that university's admission rules; (2) plans to have on-line registration in place by 1990; (3) the recommendations made by the Deans Council in regard to procedures for awarding released time for thesis direction (based on the number of students enrolled in thesis writing courses rather than on the number of theses completed) which has now been forwarded to the office of the President; (4) the questionnaire sent out by Dr. Gaston to other universities, asking about policies on computing GPA's, dropping classes, and accepting transfer credits, which will produce results within the next month.
 - c. The chairman asked for volunteers to act as marshals for the fall graduation ceremony; Senators Clipson, Smith, and Shows volunteered.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting No. 156 were approved as distributed.

4. Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Balance for O & M	\$3,364.67
Payroll	1,168.53

5. Old Business:

- a. Senator Arscott, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, distributed copies of a letter from the Faculty Senate to the Deans Council. The purpose of the letter is to clarify the Senate's drop policy recommendations which were passed by the Senate at its meeting on February 8, 1984. The policy, which eliminates WP and WF grades, makes clear that students are committed to all courses in which they are enrolled at mid-semester, but it does not affect W or WH grades or preclude the Deans from establishing criteria for exceptional circumstances which may warrant a student's dropping a course between mid-term and semester's end.

The letter was approved by voice vote.

- b. The Faculty Government & Involvement Committee, chaired by Senator Shows, submitted its report on proposed constitutional changes. The report makes two recommendations: (1) that Article I, Section 9 of the Senate's constitution be revised to establish a Committee on Elections; and (2) that Article I, Section 4 be revised to permit the creation of senator-at-large positions as needed to maintain a balanced apportionment, and that Section 5 be revised to establish a procedure to correct such imbalances by calculating the term-years of current senators, projecting on the basis of that calculation the membership of the Senate for the next two years, then making the necessary adjustments by designating the election of senators-at-large for two-year terms.

Chairman Price noted that once a resolution for amending or revising the constitution passes the Senate, the resolution must be presented within 30 days to the entire faculty for its vote. In this case, the Senate could vote on these proposals at its January meeting. Several senators suggested that the procedures for electing senators-at-large need to be more precisely detailed. A motion to table the report for consideration and vote at the Senate's January meeting was approved by voice vote.

- c. The Professional Welfare Committee II, chaired by Senator Reeves, distributed copies of its recommendation that the University employ a statistical consultant. The committee's report noted that many faculty indicated a need for such a consultant, and that "most universities provide some form of statistical help to faculty doing research." The committee recommends that the person filling this position should have a Ph.D. in applied statistics and substantial experience in statistical consulting, that the position should not hold faculty rank or tenure, but that its title should indicate "a professional position analagous to that of 'Research Associate' as that term is used in Federal grants." Senator Speer moved to table the recommendation for the Senate's vote at its January meeting. Senator Smith seconded; the motion passed.

- d. Senator Wright, chairman of the Committee on Elections, reported that Jasper Adams, representing the School of Sciences and Mathematics, and Ellis Hunt, representing the School of Forestry, have been elected to positions on the University Grievance Panel.
- e. Senator Speer, chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance, said that his committee's report on financing summer sessions had been passed on to the Academic Affairs Committee. In general, the report concluded there were some ways to generate substantial savings in energy costs during a 6-week summer session: initiating efficient energy-savings measures and beginning classes at 7:00 a.m., for example. The report also suggested that the administration consider having a 10-week term running concurrently with two 5-week terms. Dr. Brophy noted that the schedule for summer 1985 allowed 26 days, including registration and final exams, and that summer 1986 is scheduled for 27-day sessions. Senator Dahmus asked whether or not the \$84,000 in savings, reported by the administration for summer 1984, took into account that both Ferguson and the Fine Arts buildings were closed during that period.

6. New Business:

- a. Senator Arscott announced that the Academic Affairs Committee is asking senators to distribute questionnaires requesting faculty opinion about the effect of the 5-week summer term on academic programs; the committee will report the results at the January meeting.

Senator Arscott also distributed copies of a memorandum from his committee to the Faculty Senate listing three issues which directly affect academic excellence: (1) interruption of teaching and normal advising duties by pre-registration advising at mid-term and by the admission of new students to a class for a week and a half at the beginning of the semester; (2) authorizing major capital expenditures from auxiliary funds while at the same time severely limiting funding for academic programs; and (3) delaying disbursements from current O & M funds for capital expenditures and faculty hiring. Senator Arscott pointed out that his committee raised these questions in an advisory capacity, not necessarily for the Senate's action. He noted that the committee did not object per se to spending money for such items as a new floor for the coliseum or artificial turf for the football field, but that they did object to the priorities implied in spending such monies while refusing money for the academic program. Such priorities make "academic excellence" a false motto. He reminded the Senate that these funding decisions are matters of choice, not law, since it is not illegal to transfer money from auxiliary to academic accounts; he also reported that a telephone survey of other Texas universities indicated that only SFASU was complying with House Speaker Lewis's request for a moratorium on capital expenditures.

Dr. Brophy remarked that a look at the university's long-range planning report shows that the football program has only received a small percentage of money spent on classroom buildings and new residence halls; Senator Arscott responded by saying that his committee was concerned with essential instructional equipment, not buildings. Dr. Brophy commented that the Deans Council has been told that requests for replacement expenditures will now be considered.

Chairman Price summarized his understanding of the administration's position in regard to the artificial turf: (1) the Board of Regents has asked for three bids, from engineering consultants, to study the feasibility of installing artificial turf; (2) work on the cinder track in the stadium will probably be bid as an auxiliary matter; (3) those in favor of purchasing the turf point out that its installation would permit the SFA band to use the field for practice and for competitions, thus releasing the 300 parking spaces reserved for the band in the stadium parking lot; that the stadium could also be rented to area high schools for play-off games; that generating such additional uses for the field would be beneficial to local merchants as well as provide an effective tool for recruiting new students. A reasonable guess is that the cost of installing artificial turf will be from \$650,000 to \$700,000; the money will come from the auxiliary fund.

- b. Senator Russell distributed copies of a letter addressed to Chairman Price and signed by 25 faculty members of the School of Sciences and Mathematics. The letter asks that the Senate consider several points in its discussion of the artificial turf problem: that the equipment essential to competent instruction in the sciences is now inadequate and/or out of date; that the School's request for \$658,000 to replace obsolete equipment has been denied, with only \$101,752 funded to date; that under these conditions no reasonable argument can be made in support of spending a minimum of half a million dollars for stadium turf; and that a decline in the quality of instruction will inevitably lead to a decline in enrollment. The letter concluded by requesting the Senate to urge President Johnson and the Regents to fund the football program only after the essential needs of the academic program have been met.

After further discussion, a motion was made to forward both the Academic Affairs memo and the Sciences and Mathematics letter to Dr. Johnson for his consideration.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Excused Absences

Dr. Carr
Dr. Ormsby

Visitors

Dr. Brophy
Dr. Spreadbury

Hebe R. Mace

Hebe Mace
SECRETARY, 1984-85, SENATE