

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting #160
March 20, 1985

1. Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.
2. Comments by Dr. Johnson

Dr. Johnson reviewed the considerable lobbying efforts which have been required during this session of the Legislature. Currently the House of Higher Education Budget and Oversight subcommittee has completed its hearings and will recommend that higher education appropriations be maintained at 100% of the 1985 appropriation for all major academic and administrative line items. The subcommittee will also recommend appropriations of 10% less than the 1985 figure for line items from the Physical Plant on down, including security and utilities. If these recommendations are ultimately accepted by both houses of the Legislature, the standard funding formula would not apply for the next biennium. Two riders have been proposed for the appropriations bill: one would require faculty to fill out all prescribed forms requesting sick leave; the other would prohibit any salary increases for university administrative officers down through the academic deans.

The administration has reviewed staffing in each School for both academic and non-academic accounts. It seems probable that SFASU could accommodate up to a 6% budget cut by not filling vacancies which occur in the academic staff. The general assumption is that the Legislature will pass an appropriations bill during its regular session.

The President announced that SFASU is one of several state universities requested by Governor White to host a special summer program for high-risk high school students for 8 weeks of intensive education in mathematics, English, and various electives. The project will be federally funded.

In answer to questions from the senators, Dr. Johnson said that the administration planned to take no action on merit pay or promotion recommendations until July, when they were sure of knowing the details of the appropriations bill; they will act on tenure recommendations at the usual time.

Although 1984-85 DOE funds are still frozen, he expects that the balance will be spent before the end of the fiscal year; faculty research grants should not be affected at all. The spending freeze is not absolute for filling faculty vacancies; after review, a few departments have been authorized to fill certain key positions. As for the long term, the problems in funding higher education are built into the tax structure in Texas; the fact remains that Texas still ranks near the bottom in per capita expenditure per student. In the second year of the coming biennium, "the challenge will be even greater."

3. Announcements

- a. Chairman Price read a letter from Dr. Gaston notifying the Senate that parking places in front of the UC were being reserved for a major event scheduled there on March 20. Senator Russell remarked that he had requested such notice, but only to those faculty who normally park on Vista Drive.
- b. The Chairman asked if all senators had received a copy of the summary of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations meeting in Austin on February 22 and 23. He also announced that Senator Mace had accepted one of the two faculty internships awarded each summer by the Coordinating Board.

4. The Minutes of Meeting #159 were approved as distributed.

5. Officer Reports

a. Treasurer

O&M and Travel Accounts	\$2,425.81
Salary Account	686.41

b. Chairman

Chairman Price read a letter from Dr. Johnson notifying the Senate that he has accepted the Deans Council recommendations on calculating student GPA's, except that in the future all grades appearing on the transcript will be used for calculating the GPA.

6. Old Business

- a. Senator Speer, chairman of Administration and Finance, reported that according to a letter from David Fry, the 184 Food Service workers now employed by the University make up 13.1% of the Health Insurance group; analysis

of data from May through December 1984 indicates that the claims ratio (the percent paid in compared to the percent paid out for insurance benefits) of the Food Service workers was 54%, as compared to a claims ratio for the entire group of 80.8%. If the group of 184 employees were removed from the insurance group, the claims ratio would be 84.8%. The 4% difference would have a minimal effect on rates paid by those remaining in the group, according to Fry. Senator Speer commented that in his opinion, rates could increase by 4% to 5%, still a minimal amount.

- b. Senator Smith, chairman of Professional Welfare Committee I, moved that the motion, tabled at the last Senate meeting, to waive fees for faculty who register for courses be amended to read "for all faculty members holding the rank of part-time instructor or higher." The motion was seconded and passed without dissent. Senator Smith then moved that the Senate approve the amended motion that SFASU waive registration fees for all faculty members holding the rank of part-time instructor or higher and for professional librarians who are employed at least half time. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent. The motion will affect three registration charges: the student service, general, and student center fees.
- c. Senator Reeves, chairman of Professional Welfare Committee II, reported that the National Faculty Exchange is a non-profit network funded by the Exxon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and annual membership fees of \$350 from each participating university; membership is open to all 4-year and 2-year colleges in the United States. The central office at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana, will act as a clearing-house; specific arrangements for faculty exchanges will be made by participants. 1984-85 is the first exchange year. Legal problems exist in Texas, since no state university or college can pay a salary to someone teaching outside of the state; such exchanges might be funded by outside grants. Senator Speer reported that although Bill Sanford, staff member of the Coordinating Board, did not know of any plans for faculty exchanges within the state, he was not opposed to such a plan; Sanford suggested that Dr. Gaston raise the question at the next meeting of Academic Vice-Presidents.

Senator Speer moved that we join the National Faculty Exchange as a corresponding member for 1985-86, for a fee of \$75, then assess the situation after one year. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

6. New Business

- a. Chairman Price announced that Dr. Johnson has requested the Senate to review and advise about the Deans Council recommendation for accepting CEEB scores for advanced placement credit. The Chairman assigned this matter to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- b. Senator Wright, chairman of the Committee for Elections, announced that nominations lists have been mailed to the four Schools having Senate vacancies: Science & Mathematics, Business, Education, and Fine Arts.
- c. The Chairman announced that final tabulation confirms that the Senate Constitution revisions were ratified by a majority of faculty votes cast; the new rules will go into effect at the next required apportionment review.
- d. Senator Rayburn reminded the Senate that a Nominating Committee should be named in order to propose a slate of Senate officers at the April meeting. Since the Standing Rules require that such a committee be made up of all outgoing members of the Senate, Senator Rayburn so moved; the motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Absences:

Dr. Patsy J. Hallman


Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. William R. Johnson

Visitors:

Dr. William R. Brophy

Dr. Joseph A. Devine



Hebe R. Mace
SECRETARY, 1984-85 SENATE