

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 190
12 Oct 88

1. Chairman Markworth called the meeting to order at 2:30.
2. The minutes of meeting No. 189 were approved.
3. David Fry, Director of Personnel Services, addressed the Senate concerning the pending changes in the insurance program. He noted that for the SFA group Blue Cross spent 107% of the previous year's premiums. As a consequence, premiums are increasing. Available alternatives to minimize costs are being examined. It is very likely that there will be an increase in the deductible amount under the new plan. As of this date, the University is not committed to any particular plan or provider.
4. Announcements
 - A. Dr. Reese was asked to comment on his reactions to the Graduate Council's recommendations concerning graduate assistants. He reported the following:
 1. He concur's with the Council's recommendation that a graduate assistant orientation program be given a top priority this year.
 2. Dr. Reese is willing to listened to any specific proposals concerning extending the library privileges of graduate assistants.
 3. Graduate teaching assistants will receive the "Faculty Bulletin".
 4. The recommendation to provide free dormitory rooms is not viable.
 5. The question of the status of the position of Graduate Dean will have high priority. The Council will make its recommendations in the spring semester.
 6. There are problems which will likely prohibit including graduate assistants in the University health plan.
 7. Expense prohibits free graduate assistant child care in the Early Childhood Lab. Funds will not allow day care for full-time faculty and staff.
 8. The creation of a new parking lot on University property on Caroline St. may allow parking permits for graduate teaching assistants.

B. The chair announced the following items of interest from meetings with the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs:

1. Re: Graduate admissions.

a. All undergraduate work will count in calculating GPA for graduate admissions.

b. Departments are allowed the option of calculating last half GPA, or they may allow the admissions office to do so.

2. A new position has been created in the development office. The person in this position will focus on the endowment campaign.

3. There are two fund raising offices on campus:

1. The alumni association is currently raising about \$450,000 per year. This money is primarily for scholarships.

2. The Development Office explores sources of funds not tapped by the Alumni Association. This office is currently raising about \$150,000 per year.

4. The Development Office has an \$11,000,000 endowment campaign is under way. Organizational efforts are being initiated in the Dallas area.

5. The Development Office wants to organize each school to explore fund raising possibilities. The most significant progress to date has been in the schools of Business and Forestry.

6. Decisions concerning the library expansion are still awaiting Coordinating Board sanction.

7. Senators Markworth and Mace attended the recent Council of Faculty Governance Organizations meeting in Austin. Senator Markworth submitted a written report of highlights to the Senate.

C. Vice-Chair White reported the following items from the Academic Affairs Council meeting:

1. There is a new admissions form for the graduate school. The new form includes an admissions category for "post-graduate students". Such students are enrolled for graduate courses, but are not in a specific degree program. Courses taken by post-graduate students may not count toward degree credit at

SFA.

2. Current procedures for graduate admission are:

1. Students submits admission forms and transcripts to the Graduate School office.

2. These materials are forwarded to the department to which the student is applying.

3. The department and/or the dean of the department's school are responsible for making decisions concerning admissions.

3. Courses taken by graduate students on suspension or probation cannot be applied toward a degree until the Graduate Dean approves a change in student status.

5. Committee Reports.

A. Senator Thornton reported that the Academic Affairs Committee will meet on Oct. 19. Interested Senate members are invited to attend. The committee will deal with the following issues:

1. Recommendations for graduate faculty membership.

2. Policy and recommendations concerning student retention.

3. Recommendations concerning the honors program.

4. Recommendations for academic residency requirements.

B. Senator Murdock gave the treasurer's report. The senate expended all but \$170.67 of last years allocation. Funds available for the 88-89 Senate will be the same as for the previous academic year.

C. Reports from the Professional Welfare Committee:

1. Senator Voigtel reported that faculty and staff will have separate service recognition ceremonies in the spring. The Alumni Association will provide a luncheon for the faculty recipients.

2. Senator Hackard presented the committee's recommendations for simplifying check-out procedures for departing faculty. The committee recommends consolidating several check-out sites into one, and adding an exit interview to be conducted by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, (see enclosure).

Senator Hackard moved and Senator Voigtel seconded the motion that the senate endorse the committee's recommendations. The motion

passed. Chairman Markworth will forward the recommendations to Vice President Reese for his remarks and recommendations.

3. Senator Hackard reported the results of the committee's survey of faculty who received university microcomputers this past year. The survey revealed the following:

1. Faculty reactions were uniformly positive.

2. Many faculty were unsure of monetary constraints on requested systems. As a consequence, some faculty limited their requests for fear of exceeding cost limits. The committee recommends that future faculty requests for P.C.'s should reflect system needs rather than cost considerations.

3. The faculty computers are being used for a wide variety of applications, including research writing, class records, inventories, etc.

4. Dr. Rayborn, Manager of Academic Computing, is available to provide assistance in the use of P.C. software. Mr. Randy Askew of the Computer Center staff will assist faculty with questions concerning hardware.

4. Senator Hackard distributed a paper containing the Professional Welfare Committee's response to the Graduate Council's recommendations concerning graduate assistants, (see enclosure).

5. Senator Evans, chair for the Election Committee, reported that elections to fill the two vacant Senate seats are underway. Results should be known by the next meeting.

6. Dr. Ann Doyle of the University Honors Program Committee, addressed the Senate concerning the committee's progress. She invited faculty input concerning the development of an honors program. Interested faculty may contact her by phone at 569-8855.

6. New Business.

A. Senator Mace noted that his constituency housed in the Science and Chemistry Buildings are having parking problems due to non-academic, non-university functions scheduled in the University Center.

Senator Mace moved and Senator Evans seconded the motion that non-academic University Center functions be scheduled for evenings and weekends only.

Following discussion, Senator Devine moved and Senator Evans

seconded the motion that the preceding motion be tabled. The motion passed.

Senator Evans moved and Senator Devine seconded the motion that the parking problem be referred to the Professional Welfare Committee for further study and subsequent recommendations to the Senate. The motion passed.

7. Announcements from Ex Officio Members.

Dr. Reese announced the following:

1. The University will have no feedback from the Coordinating Board concerning the Library expansion until January.
2. The committees dealing with TASP policies and procedures will begin their work the third week in October.

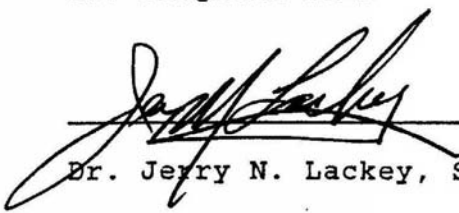
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Absences: none

Visitors:

Mr. David Fry
Dr. Ann Doyle
Dr. Langston Kerr

Ex Officio Members:
Vice President Reese
Dr. Jim Howard



Dr. Jerry N. Lackey, Secretary '88-89