

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 193
8 Mar 89

1. The Senate convened in Rm. 113 of the Ferguson Building. Chairman Markworth called the meeting to order at 2:30.

2. The minutes of meeting 193 were approved.

3. President Johnson addressed the Senate concerning legislative activities and proposals affecting higher education and SFASU. His presentation included:

A. The Legislative Budget Board (LBB) has recommended a 5% cut in appropriations for higher education. If the LBB position prevails, the effect on SFA will be softened by funding increases due to greater enrollment. There has been no official movement away from the LBB proposals, however, statements from leaders in both houses suggest that the cuts may not occur.

B. Assistance is being sought from the legislature for relief from costs associated with the settlement of the Annie M. Carpenter suit. Some assistance should be forthcoming. The division of the University most affected by the settlement will be auxiliary enterprises. The academic programs should not be affected.

C. President Johnson also announced that the architects are at work on the library expansion plans. Construction contracts may be signed by the first of the year.

2. Chairman Markworth noted the following points of interest from the most recent Academic Affairs Council Meeting.

A. Computer generated letterhead should not be used for correspondence which represent official University Business.

B. The process for nominating Regents Professors is being reviewed. Persons with recommendations concerning selection procedures should contact Dean Adair in the School of Forestry.

C. Dean Brophy will be chairing a committee to determine who should have access to student records. Persons who wish to submit recommendations in this area should contact Dean Brophy.

3. Chairman Markworth announced that 48 faculty development grants were submitted this past year. Nineteen or about 40% were funded. Expenditures for the grants amounted to some \$18,000. There were 97 requests for faculty micro-computers. Twenty two or about 23% of the requests were granted at a cost of about \$73,000.

4. Treasurer Murdock reported a balance of \$2564.75.

5. Old Business.

A. Senator Mueller moved that the Senate submit for faculty approval an amendment to the Senate constitution creating the position of "Chair-elect", and extending the term of the senate chairman from three to four years, (see enclosure). The motion was seconded by Senator Mitchell.

B. Senator Devine moved and Senator Holliday seconded the motion that the titles of Senate offices as they appear in the proposed amendment be changed from "chair-elect" and "Chair" to "Chairman-elect" and "Chairman". The motion passed.

C. Senator Adams moved that the amendment be altered to eliminate the fourth year of service for the chairman, and that the progression from chairman-elect to chairman occur only with majority approval of the Senate. The motion failed.

D. The question was called for Senator Mueller's motion. The motion passed.

6. Committee Reports.

A. Senator Price, chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee, and Senator Mace submitted written proposals to the Senate describing the possible role and structure for a "Faculty Senate University Budget Committee". The proposals were submitted for discussion and consideration prior to the passage of a Senate resolution supporting the creation of such a committee. Chairman Markworth charged the Administration and Finance Committee with supplying a specific proposal to be submitted to a Senate vote at the next meeting.

B. Senator Devine, chairman of the Professional Ethics Committee submitted for the Senate's approval a "Policy on Research Ethics". Senator Devine moved and Senator Roberson seconded the motion that the Senate endorse the committee's proposal as policy for SFASU. Following discussion, Senator Mace moved that the motion be tabled. Senator Callaway seconded the motion. The motion to table carried.

C. Senator Voigtel of the Professional Welfare Committee announced that on April 19, there will be a luncheon where faculty members with 10, 20, and 30 years of service will be recognized and honored.

7. New Business.

A. Senator Roberson moved and Senator Mace seconded the motion that Senate funds be made available to send a representative to the National Council of Faculty Governance Organizations in Chicago. The motion passed.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Absences:

Dr. John Goodall

Visitors:

Dr. Jerry Vincent

Ex Officio Members Present:


Dr. James Reese

Dr. Jim Howard

Dr. James Standley

Mr. Don Henry

Dr. William Johnson


Jerry K. Lackey, Secretary '88-'89

Stephen F. Austin State University

P.O. Box 6176, SFA Station • (409) 568-3908
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-6176



Faculty Senate

M E M O R A N D U M

To : All Full Time Faculty
From : Dr. N. L. Markworth, Faculty Senate Chair *ML*
Date : March 23, 1989
Subject : PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Attached to this memo you will find a brief description of an amendment to the constitution of the Faculty Senate passed at our regular March meeting. Such amendments require the approval of two-thirds of the full time faculty and of the President before becoming a part of the constitution. The intended change is extensive enough that I felt a few words of explanation were in order.

In my brief term in office I have had the opportunity to talk with many other representatives of faculty governance organizations from across the state. Their experiences as well as my own have amplified an opinion that I have been developing for some months, namely that the present system of electing officers to the Senate each May for a term of one year virtually guarantees that these officers cannot be as productive as they would like nor can the Senate have as forceful a voice as is possible in University affairs. It takes time to develop a rapport with key administration offices. The Faculty Senate chair has biweekly meetings with the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs. By the time a working relationship is beginning to emerge and issues of importance are being discussed, the Spring term has arrived, a new chair is elected, and the process must begin anew.

The proposed constitutional change would allow for the election of a Chair-Elect. This person would have basically the same agenda as the chair, thereby learning the duties and responsibilities of the position. More importantly, the Chair-Elect would begin developing a sense of the issues and personalities he or she will be dealing with in the following year. As chair, this person would, of course, have his or her own goals and priorities, but the working relationships would have already begun to grow.

On the negative side the proposed change would produce one Senator who serves for four years. Does this limit the number of faculty who would be willing to serve? Would the

school represented by this person have undue influence during his/her term? (We have tried to address this issue in the amendment.) Is the Faculty Senate creating a "mini-administrator" by extending the effective term of the Chair-Elect/Chair? If you feel that the rationale behind the proposal is sound, but that the implementation is faulty, I would appreciate your vote and comments for next year's Senate to consider.

There are issues of great concern to many faculty (allocation of equipment budgets, use of surplus accounts, faculty workload changes, computer networking, etc.) that may require a concerted, long-term effort by the Faculty Senate. Continuity in the Senate (by whatever means) is the key to allowing direct faculty input into the affairs of their university. Thank you for your time.

**Proposed Amendment, to Faculty Senate Constitution,
(Approved by majority vote of the Faculty Senate,
Stephen F. Austin State University, March 8, 1989)**

An amendment to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate,
Stephen F. Austin State University to:

1. Delete the office of Vice Chairman of the Faculty Senate.
2. Create the office of Chairperson-Elect of the Faculty Senate
3. To provide that the Chairperson-Elect shall be elected by the members of the Faculty Senate from among the second year membership of the Senate.
4. To provide that the Chairperson-Elect shall serve one academic year in that position, during which academic year shall become acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson.
5. To provide that the Chairperson-Elect shall assume the duties of the Chairperson upon the completion of the term of office of the Chair, for the following academic year.
6. To provide that the Chairperson-Elect shall in the absence of the Chairperson shall act as the Chair at meetings of the Faculty Senate and shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson.
7. For the purpose of the academic year 1989-1990 only, the Chairperson shall be chosen by and from the membership of the Senate, in May of 1989, along with the Chairperson-Elect in accordance with this Amendment, and in subsequent academic years the office of the Chairperson will be filled as provided by this Amendment.
8. To provide that the member of the Faculty Senate elected to the office of Chairperson-Elect shall serve a term on the Faculty Senate of four (4) years, or until the completion of the term of office of the Chairperson.
9. To provide that for the purposes of apportionment of representation among the schools of the University, the Chairperson will not be counted as a representative of any school.

A full text of the Amendments is attached, with the ballot to indicate a vote in favor or against the proposed amendment.

Proposed Amendment, to Faculty Senate Constitution,
(Approved by majority vote of the Faculty Senate,
Stephen F. Austin State University, March 8, 1989)

TEXT

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate, Stephen F. Austin State University shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 4. For the purposes of electing members of the Faculty Senate, The University shall be divided into the following groups: Applied Arts and Science, Business, Education, Fine Arts, Forestry, Liberal Arts, Library, and Sciences and Mathematics. Each group shall have at least one representative; no department shall have more than two representatives; apportionment shall be adjusted every three years. Representation from each group shall be determined by allotting to each group one representative for every four percent, or major fraction thereof, of the voting faculty of the University. For the purposes of apportionment or allotment of representatives, for the academic year 1990-91 and thereafter, upon the Chairperson-Elect assuming the office of Chairperson, the office of senate from the group from which the Chairperson was elected shall be deemed vacant, and an election shall be held to elect an additional Senator from the group in question.

2. Article 1, Section 5 (a), of the Faculty Constitution shall be amended by the addition of the highlighted words:

SECTION 5

(a) The term of membership of the Faculty Senate shall be three years, with the exception of a member of the Faculty Senate elected to the position of Chair-Elect. The term of membership of the Chair-Elect will end at the completion of his term as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

3. Article 1, Section 12 of the Faculty Constitution shall be amended by the addition of the highlighted words, and the deletion of the strike-over words

SECTION 12. (a) Officers of the Faculty Senate shall be Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, each chosen by and from the membership of the Senate.

(b) The Chair-Elect shall be chosen by the membership of the senate from among the second year membership of the senate. The Chair-Elect shall become acquainted with the duties and responsibilities of the Chair during the following academic year and assume the duties of Chair the next academic year after election.

(c) For the purposes of service in the academic year 1989-1990, in May of 1989, the Chair shall be chosen by and from the membership of the Senate. For subsequent academic years, the office of Chair will be filled as provided for above.

(d) [Former paragraph (b) unchanged] Other officers may be elected by the Faculty Senate as it sees fit.

(e) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Chair-Elect shall assume that position for the remainder of the term (one academic year). Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Faculty Senate shall elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the term (one academic year).

(f) The Chair and Chair-Elect shall be elected as provided for above. All other Faculty Senate officers shall be elected in May of each academic year and shall serve until the seating of their successors. [Amending former paragraph (d)]

(g) [Former paragraph (e) unchanged] No person shall be elected to the same Faculty Senate office for more than one consecutive term (one academic year), but each officer shall hold office until his/her successor takes office.

BALLOT

Proposed Amendment, to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, Stephen F. Austin State University to:

(1) Delete the office of Vice Chairman of the Senate, and (2) Create the office of Chairperson-Elect of the Senate. (3) Providing for the election of the Chairperson-Elect by the members of the Senate from among the second year membership of the Senate. (4) Providing that the Chairperson-Elect shall serve one academic year in that position, and, (5) shall assume the duties of the Chairperson upon the completion of the term of office of the Chairperson, for the following academic year, or (6) in the absence of the Chairperson, or in the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson. Specifically providing (7) that for the academic year 1989-1990 only, the Chairperson shall be chosen by and from the membership of the Senate, in May of 1989, along with the Chairperson-Elect, and in subsequent academic years the office of the Chairperson will be filled as provided by this Amendment.

(8) To provide that the member of the Senate elected to the office of Chairperson-Elect shall serve a term on the Senate of four (4) years, or until the completion of the term of office of the Chairperson. (9) In order to adjust for the added term of the Chairperson-Elect, to provide that for the purposes of apportionment of representation among the schools of the University, the Chairperson will not be counted against the number of representatives of any school.

Amendment approved

Amendment Not approved