

Faculty Senate Summary
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Meeting #250
13 September 1995

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Chair Richard Berry.

The minutes from meetings #248 and #249 were approved as written.

The Chair commended Dr. Pat Barton for a successful years' work as Chair of the 1994-95 Faculty Senate.

Dr. Ashley was not in attendance because of a conflict in scheduling as she is involved with legal work for the University.

PRESIDENT ANGEL'S REMARKS

The disposition of the 1990-92 Insurance Fund was explained. Dr. Angel estimated that the fund at \$1.4 million. Board of Regents members, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Brookshire developed a plan which was presented and approved at the August Board of Regents meeting. The plan consists of the following components: 1) Annuities for faculty members (\$676,000.00) which meet eligibility requirements; 2) monies for a Health and Wellness program (\$623,000.00); and 3) funds to establish an academic scholarship (\$100,000.00).

The annuities will allow faculty to shelter the money. Faculty eligible to receive the annuities must have been on the payroll 31 August 1991 and 31 August 1992 as well as 1 September 1995. The annuities will range between a low of \$600.00 to around \$1,400.00 depending on the coverage a faculty member had during the self insurance period. The annuities will be delivered 1 November 1995 for those who have not reached their maximum for the year; while the rest of the faculty will receive their annuities on 1 January 1996.

Senator Daley raised a question about the level of enrollment for the fall semester. Dr. Angel stated enrollments most likely will be lower much like other similar size campuses in East Texas. Budget reductions will reflect this loss in revenues. This year's budget is more able to adjust to lower revenues than previous instruments. The 1st move will be a hiring freeze. But because of the approach to planning the budget this year, budget adjustments will be more "manageable."

The employment cap for SFASU will be 1266 but more information is being requested as to how this number will be implemented.

Dr. Angel stressed that despite a drop in enrollment there was a significant increase in funds for SFASU this year while other regional campuses received less monies, for example, Lamar which lost \$1.8 million.

Dr. Angel stated that he supported the work of the Faculty Senate and concluded by saying the ACT program selection will be a positive experience for the University and that the University was in a reasonable position for this fall.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Chair Richard Berry reported on the August Board of Regents meeting. The new Vice President for Financial Affairs is Roland Smith.

The Academic Affairs Council will sponsor the faculty service awards this year after a hiatus of some five years. Berry pointed out that a Faculty Senate committee pursued the issue last year but had problems acquiring information about length of employment of faculty. Dr. Ashley's office helped to fix this situation.

UIL students will be on campus this year and will give the University an opportunity to show the campus to a select group of students with fine academic abilities.

The 1997 academic calendar is being finalized (the week of 18 September 1995).

At the meeting, Al Cage discussed the new catalogue system for the library and that it is available for use by faculty and students. He also mentioned that the needs identified by the library collection committees last spring cannot be fully met because there are not enough funds.

Dr. Jones, Dean of Fine Arts requested that MFA candidates be allowed to wear a tam rather than the mortar board.

The Council also discussed the issue of faculty seating at graduation. In the last 3 years, the faculty has been moved from the rear to the front; some would prefer moving back to the back.

Chair Berry reported on the Pugh Round Table Discussions that have been held on campus. The Pugh Charitable Trust provides funds for about two dozen campuses to discuss their status at all levels. Dr. Frank Turner, Yale University Provost, was the facilitator. The SFA group was made up of Faculty, Vice Presidents, Deans, and other University employees. Higher education issues which affect the local campus were discussed. There were three days of meetings held; 1.5 days in June and 1.5 days in July. Dr. Turner will issue a final report through the Foundation. Berry mentioned several high points of the sessions: need for enhanced communications across campus; how to work with public influence on the University; affects of Community Colleges on University strategic planning; enhancing student employment success after graduation as an indicator of University success and examining the strengths and weaknesses of SFASU. The report will be available later this fall.

Treasurer DuFerne reported that the Faculty Senate balance began at \$4,460.00. Expenditures were COFO dues of \$250.00 leaving a balance of \$4,185.60. DuFerne will purchase a notebook computer this fall to carry out Senate business. Software was purchased out of last year's funds.

The next item of business was committee assignments. Berry emphasized that the committees were given issues that affect faculty and University activities. He stressed that the role of the Faculty Senate was to function in supporting faculty to have the best environment within the University to work. He emphasized that the faculty's role is unique in the creation and maintenance of concepts through teaching and research.

Initial items to be handled by committees include amending the constitution and pursuing a self-study of Faculty Senate effectiveness.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Berry reported that the General Education Requirements Revision committee was finalizing their recommendations. The document will be available for review by the faculty in the near future. He added that the Faculty Senate should prepare to respond to the document in a timely fashion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections were held to replace Senator Tom Benoit who resigned the Senate to leave the University.

Senator Kenner moved that Dr. Jill Dumesnil be elected. Senator Price seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for Dr. Dumesnil.

Secretary McDonald asked that Senators recycle envelopes.

Senator Choate moved the meeting be adjourned with a second from Senator McKaig. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.