

**Stephen F. Austin State University**

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 1996 Meeting #259**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dahmus. The following senators were absent: Glen Blalock (excused), Joe Gotti, Gary Kronrad, and Darrel McDonald (excused).

Senator Carbajal moved to accept the minutes as written for meetings #257 and #258; Senator Choate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

Dr. Bettye Myers, Texas Woman's University, will speak to the Faculty Senate and all interested faculty. Her focus will be empowering faculty senate to be an effective body. Dr. Myers has a distinguished background at Texas Woman's University and in the Denton community. In addition, she has served on the TWU Faculty Senate and was one of the active founders of the Council of Faculty Governments Organization. The event is scheduled from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on October 3, 1996 in room 142, Liberal Arts North.

***REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT ANGEL***

President Angel stated that he was encouraged about the next budget year since it has been reported in newspapers that Texas is expected to have a surplus of roughly \$2.3 billion. The amount of surplus money, as well as the strong economy, is encouraging but everyone is sizing up how to spend the money, including higher education. He believes that the fight for the surplus money would likely be a two year argument.

Senator Bill Ratliff, former Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and is currently on the finance committee, will seek to revise the entire education code, perhaps this session. The Education Committee held a series of summer hearings and the findings are summarized in a booklet of recommendations for the legislature. President Angel highlighted several categories that may heavily impact SFA. The categories included:

1. Look at a change in Coordinating Board's role in terms of what they do. The Board would be asked to carve out some roles for each institution. President Angel shared that in a summer hearing he attended, Senator Ratliff used SFA as an example. Ratliff stated that SFA would not be a research one institution, but possibly an institution with 5 or 6 doctorates.
2. Outcome measures will be created for higher education that would include a student performance rate on a national rising junior test.
3. Find appropriate peer institutions to compare with every institution. The institutions would be similar in nature and size.
4. Review the effectiveness of the Coordinating Board's authority to review course offerings, and approve new departments and undergraduate degrees. The suggestion is to take the Coordinating Board out of many of those activities.
5. Propose the elimination of Coordinating Board's authority to restrict distance learning courses.
6. Recommend establishing a faculty evaluation policy that includes an annual review of performance of all faculty including tenured faculty. The review would include the use of peer and student evaluations; below standard reviews for two consecutive years would

provide cause for tenure revocation or dismissal.

7. Recommend that over the next three bienniums (six years), Texas would meet the ten most populous state average pay for faculty salaries.
8. Implement undergraduate instructional formula that provides a higher level of funding for courses taught by tenured or tenure-track professors. President Angel commented that of the 36 institutions in the state, SFA ranks number six in this area.
9. Allow governing boards at all university systems to set tuition rates for undergraduate programs. SFA is counted as a system even though it is only one university.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Rushing presented a summary report for last year. The expenses included \$770.50 for student wages, \$332.00 for travel, and \$2,556.53 for O&M, for a total of \$3,659.03.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Juanita Finkenberg addressed the Faculty Senate about a new program on campus called the Employee Wellness Connection. She came on board September 1, 1996, as the Coordinator of this organization. She passed out a report from the Surgeon General, "Physical Activity and Health", and a one-page summary sheet about the Employee Wellness Center. Referring to the information in the Surgeon General's report, she stressed that it was an opportune time to begin.

Finkenberg stated that the objective of the SFA Employee Wellness Connection is to increase the well-being and productivity of all faculty, administrators, and staff through the enhancement of all aspects of health. The Employee Wellness Connection program is a voluntary program of structured activities and is available free of charge to all faculty, administrators, and staff.

The program will utilize the expertise of a variety of individuals at the university and various facilities throughout the campus such as classrooms, exercise physiology laboratory, biomechanics laboratory, gymnasias, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. It was stressed that the Wellness Center is only a small part of the organization. Offerings of the organization will be various, including providing information about wellness, newsletters, one-time events, nutrition education, stress reduction, health fair, fitness classes, water aerobics, weight training and other related activities.

The organization has a budget of \$18,000 and was developed in accordance with the State Employees Health Fitness and Education Act of 1983. Finkenberg encouraged Senators to return to their respective departments and encourage co-workers and staff to participate in the program.

Kevin Lykins serves as strength conditioning coach at SFA and has been appointed Director of the Wellness Center. He was approached by the Board of Regents to have input into the design of the Wellness Center. The building contains 10,000 square feet with a 5,800 square feet exercise area. The facility also contains offices, lockers, and a laundry area.

State-of-the-art equipment will include 20 cardiovascular machines such as stair-steppers, eight computerized bicycles, pre-core transports, two commercial Nordic Tracks, and three treadmills. The middle of the facility will house pin-selected equipment with approximately 20 pieces of machine-oriented weights. The other end of the facility will be predominately made up of free-weight orientation including power-racks, eight olympic style lifting platforms, and a dumbbell area.

The scheduled hours for the use of the facility are from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the use of facility is free of charge to individuals with a valid SFA I.D. Lykins stated the staff will be available to assist all qualified participants free of charge. Lykins stated that the scheduled hours Monday through Friday for the Wellness Center are:

6:00 - 7:00 a.m. athletes exclusively 7:00 - 11:30 a.m. open to everyone on campus 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. faculty/staff exclusively 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. athletes exclusively 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. faculty/staff exclusively 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. open to everyone on campus

Hours on Saturday have not be set. September 30 is the projected opening date. He further stated that faculty was given the prime times according to a study of use in similar facilities.

A brisk discussion followed in which a variety of views were expressed and a number of questions posed. Both Finkenberg and Lykins responded to the questions.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Watts. The motion carried; the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Janie Kenner, *Secretary*