

Stephen F. Austin State University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes December 11, 1996 Meeting #262

The meeting was called to order by John Dahmus, Chair. The following senators were absent: Crouch, Elliot-Howard (excused), Goodall (excused), Gotti, Kronrad, Shows, and Watts (excused).

The minutes for meeting #261 were approved as written.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Dahmus and several senators had spoken to Roland Smith, Vice-President for Business Affairs, concerning expenditures by the university. Smith stated that housing and bookstore profits do not support athletic programs at SFA. Also Smith stated that the Board of Regents had instructed the administration to conduct a study of class size, average faculty cost, and full-time equivalents and the study is 65% complete with a projected completion date in the spring. The study will provide a wealth of information. Smith further stated that the on-line budget will be available by September, 1997.

The Legislature has sent a suggested policy on core curriculum to the Coordinating Board for review and discussion at its January, 1997 meeting. The policy has the following requirements:

- all universities and colleges will be required to have a minimum core curriculum of 42 credit hours
- if a student completed the entire core curriculum block of one institution, the core would transfer to all Texas institutions in total and must be substituted for the receiving institution's core curriculum
- if the receiving institution has a larger core curriculum than the sending institution then additional credit hours may be required
- if the student had not completed the entire block of core curriculum, the receiving university could require the student to meet its core curriculum requirements

According to Mike Jennings, 160 hours, including Saturday and Sunday, are scheduled to allow faculty to enter grades into the computer. However, grades may not be entered after 8:00 p.m. because of the computer center's need to work with data that has been entered.

Dr. Angel will look into the possibility of having Regents Professors make presentations to the university community.

Seventy-five percent of the graduate assistantship budget allocated to a department will be available in March or April with the remaining 25% to be allocated later.

Dahmus had sent a copy of the Faculty Senate Resolution on the Wellness Center, adopted in October, 1996, and a letter requesting a response to Kevin Lykens, Director of the Wellness Center.

The Faculty Senate Web Site is being worked on and progress is expected during the holiday break.

In the future, faculty will be immediately notified about the death of one of their students.

As a follow-up on post tenure review, Kansas is working on a policy that requires all faculty members to go into a review process if they do not receive merit. One of the results could be the revocation of tenure. Dr. Ashley stated that only 14 individuals at SFA had not received some type of merit reward last year. Two of the 14 individuals will be retiring.

Dahmus had assigned each senator to one committee, but committee chairs had asked for additional help. Senators were asked to indicate a willingness to serve on either the Administration and Finance, Professional Welfare I, Elections Committee, or Academic Affairs committees.

The Academic Affairs Council has proposed a change in the number of days a student would be allowed to add classes. The proposed change would allow 4 days in a long term and only 2 days in a summer term. Also, the Academic Affairs Council proposed that supervision of twelve hours contract students should be equivalent to supervision of six thesis writing students. Both proposals require the approval of Dr. Angel.

Dr. Ashley has recently received the final report from the Core Curriculum Committee. The Coordinating Board presently requires a core curriculum of a minimum of 45 credit hours. The SFA report suggested 49-53 credit hours. Ashley's intent is ultimately to distribute the report to the faculty.

McDonald reported that the Graduate Council is currently looking at and seeking input on changing the selection process for representatives to the council. The proposed change would be from proportionality to having three at-large members appointed by Dr. Jeffrey. One should contact his/her Graduate Council representative with suggestions or expressions of concern.

Dr. James Speer, Dean of Liberal Arts, addressed the Senate concerning the Center for East Texas Studies. The Center for East Texas Studies is a part of the College of Liberal Arts and was established one and one-half years ago as a special item funded by the legislature with a purpose of facilitating research on all aspects of East Texas. Further, it is charged to communicate research results and to foster information in general about East Texas. The center's mission extends beyond the history of the region and has funded small research projects on a variety of East Texas concerns such as geographic information stems, literature, and music. It is governed by a board of faculty members selected from the College of Liberal Arts and a Community Advisory Committee. Dr. Jere Jackson is director of the center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Finance Committee

Rushing reported that the committee is currently gathering information about the duties of the Athletic Committee by interviewing former and present members of the committee. The Athletic Committee had been involved in coach searches and is currently serving as the steering committee for the NCAA Self-Study. The four subcommittees for the self-study are:

Physical Integrity - Dr. Jack McCullough, Chair
Governance and Compliance - Dr. Archie McDonald, Chair
Academic Integrity - Dr. Raymond Eastman, Chair
Equity - Dr. Suzy Weems, Chair

In response to a question as to how the athletic self-study would benefit the campus, Dr. Ashley stated that it is a new requirement of the NCAA and must be completed to have an athletic program.

Elections Committee

Dumesnil reported on the constitutional amendment concerning voting members. One hundred ninety-nine ballots were returned and the amendment carried with 164 votes in favor and 35

votes against. She further stated that the Elections Committee was charged with clarifying the definition of "voting members of the faculty". The Elections Committee interpreted this charge to be in keeping with the original intent of the constitution neither broadening or limiting the definition. The amendment will be submitted to Dr. Angel for his approval.

Faculty Government and Involvement Committee

Choate reported that the committee had been assigned the responsibility of looking at policies and procedures relating to faculty and dean searches as well as shared governance. Copies of the Faculty Search Policy (Index E-24A) and Departmental Administration (Index E-10A) were distributed to the senators. Choate reviewed and pointed out the concerns that the committee had and proposed changes the committee felt would allow for a more democratic, shared governance approach. The committee welcomes feedback on both procedures.

Codispoti distributed copies of the procedure for Academic Complaints by Students and a Proposed Academic Appeals Procedure suggested by the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee. The rationale for reviewing the procedure was to simplify the procedure and to place responsibility for insuring the integrity of the grading procedure with the faculty. The suggested appeals procedure would have only three levels of appeal rather than seven and would allow for drawing the appeal to a conclusion in a timely manner. The committee further believes that the proposed policy changes are broad enough to cover student challenges other than grades. Discussion followed with specific questions and suggestions being given to the committee.

Professional Welfare I Committee

Price stated that the committee had no formal report, but that the committee is studying the Position Analysis statement on page 1 of the Faculty Search Procedure (Index E-24A) and expects to have an expanded draft at the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rushing, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, passed out copies of the proposed Faculty Senate Resolution in Support of Recommendations by the Texas State House Higher Education Committee Regarding Student Fees and Athletic Expenditures. She moved that the resolution be adopted and that the background information and two spreadsheets be distributed with the resolution; Codispoti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to be adjourned was made by Moore and seconded by Choate. The motion carried; the meeting was adjourned.

Janie Kenner, *Secretary*