

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 14 , 1997 Meeting #266**

Faculty Senate meeting # 266 was called to order by Chair Dahmus. The following senators were absent: Andrew, Blalock, McCune, Stewart (excused), Watts (excused), and Williford (excused).

The minutes for meeting # 265 were approved as written.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Chair Dahmus reported on the Board of Regents meeting. New officers included: Murray Shaw, Chair; Jimmy Murphy, Vice Chair; R. A. Brookshire, Secretary; and Susan Robards, Ombudsman. President Angel's term was extended to the year 2000 and a number of promotions and faculty development leaves were approved. Two new degrees were approved: Masters of Music with majors in Performance and Conducting and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. The Wedgeworth/Wright Endowment was transferred to the SFA Foundation.

Chair Dahmus, on the Academic Affairs Committee, reported the following:

- Dean Speer announced that the German Program has been dropped due to lack of student interest.
- The Southern Association of Colleges Accreditation is coming up next year.
- The Social Work Department was elevated to the status of a School, still within the College of Applied Arts and Sciences, and will be known as the School of Social Work. Accreditation requirements were the motivating factor.
- In consideration of families, students who die while enrolled in classes will automatically be given W's in all their classes rather than receiving grades.
- Beginning with Summer I, 1997 semester, students who are enrolled in courses that begin at mid-term Second Session Courses) will be allowed to drop those courses with a non-punitive grade (W) until the mid-point of the second half course.

Dr. Ashley asked the deans to review approximately 40 different university policies and suggest modifications or perhaps deletion in some cases. Dr. Dahmus asked Dr. Ashley if it would be appropriate to forward the policies and procedures that had been worked on this semester by Faculty Senate committees. Dr. Dahmus will prepare final copies of the recommended changes and forward them to Dr. Ashley.

In a meeting with Drs. Angel and Ashley, a number of concerns were discussed including:

- Safety concerns included scheduling roofing changes to times of minimal use of a building and adding a painted pedestrian walkway between the Liberal Arts building and parking lot five.
- Concern was expressed that when a faculty member did not receive merit, tenure or promotion, appropriate feedback might not be given to the faculty member. Dr. Ashley said that a faculty member should contact their dean for feedback.

- A post-tenure review committee is working on a policy and it will be submitted to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents will likely wait for the completed committee report before reacting to the post-tenure review issue.

Chair Dahmus suggested to the Senators that they make a report to their constituents on the activity of the Faculty Senate for the last six months. He asked each committee chair to file a final report so that Chair-elect McDonald would be able to continue the work of the Senate in an orderly manner. Dahmus expressed appreciation to all Senators, committee chairs, and officers for all of their support and hard work.

Treasurer Rushing reported a balance of \$984.35.

Responding to a request by McDonald, Dr. Ashley said that the summer budget was the largest ever being \$2.1 million. This budget is an increase over the 1996 budget of \$2 million.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Shows had two status reports that were to be viewed as clarifications. One was the issue of scholarship management. After visiting with Dr. Ashley, the Office of Admissions, and the Alumni Office, the committee concluded that a concerted effort in managing scholarships by the three agencies would result in better service to the students. A brochure, listing all types of available scholarships, is now being distributed through the Admissions Office.

A second status report from the Academic Affairs committee concerned a student's transcript reflecting the true and accurate record of the student. Presently, when a course is taken and a bad grade is received, the bad grade is replaced when the student repeats the course and receives a better grade. Dennis Jones, Registrar, said the policy is that when a student retakes a course, they receive the better grade. Because the software is so powerful, it goes back and recalculates the previous semester's (with the bad grade) GPA, and even removes suspensions/probations from that specific semester in which the student received the less than adequate grade. The problem would require new programming; other universities using the same software are experiencing the same problems. Dr. Ashley reported that this is also a concern within the Administration. However, the software needs to be used for another year to determine the adjustments that need to be made. Also, the Academic Affairs Council will need to consider a policy change to correct the issue.

Administration and Finance

Rushing distributed a final written report from the committee. One of the issues studied by the committee was intercollegiate expenditures. A survey distributed in Spring, 1996 showed that 21.9% of SFA faculty thought that SFA had a satisfactory emphasis on athletics; 61% did not.

The committee interviewed the former and the current chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee as well as the Vice-President for Business Affairs. The interviews revealed that, as intercollegiate athletic expenses have increased, particularly with SFA entry into the Southland Conference and the NCAA in the 1980's, faculty involvement and information regarding those expenses appears to have declined. Members of the Texas legislature have also begun examining the impact of the cost of intercollegiate athletics.

The SFA Intercollegiate Athletic Committee formed the nucleus of the NCAA Self-Study team. The report should be completed by Fall, 1997. The Administration and Finance Committee recommends that the issue continue to be studied and that the NCAA Self-Study Report be reviewed when it becomes available.

Rushing stated that the committee was asked to update the salary survey but that data will not be available until June. At that time a salary survey will be developed.

Elections

The following new Senators were elected:

- **Three-Year Terms:**
 - Lauren Scharff -- Psychology -- Liberal Arts
 - Kandy Stahl -- Psychology -- Liberal Arts
 - Brent Burt -- Biology -- Science & Mathematics
 - Jeff Briggs -- Kinesiology -- Education
 - Becky Greer -- Human Sciences -- Education
 - Wilbur Clark -- Accounting -- Business

- **One-year Terms**
 - Bonnie Todd -- Modern Languages -- Liberal Arts
 - Jean Loving -- Counseling & Special Ed. -- Education
 - Brian Oswald -- Forestry -- Forestry
 - Jim Howard -- Economics & Finance -- Business
 - Dan Beaty -- Music -- Fine Arts

A three-year term is vacant for the College of Fine Arts.

Professional Welfare I

Price, reporting for the Professional Welfare I Committee, expressed concern of assuring that evaluations of administrators by faculty would be anonymous. To insure anonymity, proposed changes to the policy E-10A Department Administration and E-38A Performance Review of Officers Reporting To The Vice President For Academic Affairs would have to be passed. The proposed suggested changes will be forwarded to Dr. Ashley.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion of post-tenure review ensued. A draft of the post-tenure review policy, proposed by the university post-tenure review committee, has been reviewed by the faculty. The consensus is that the draft proposal is user friendly, utilizing many of the processes already in place and keeping it at the departmental level for decisions. Dr. Ashley believed that the Board of Regents will take no action until they review the policy formulated by the university committee. Dr. Ashley pointed out that the process is now called "Evaluation of Tenured Faculty."

NEW BUSINESS

McDonald reported that there is a plan to move Geography from Liberal Arts to Science and Mathematics.

ADJOURNMENT

Choate moved that the meeting be adjourned; Rushing seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Janie Kenner, *Secretary*