

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2000 Meeting #298
(Subject to Approval at February Meeting)

I. CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Kandy Stahl at 2:33 PM

Absent: Donice McCune, Rick Abel, Jim Howard

Excused: Arthur Sementelli, Jerry Williams, Mike Pickard (university business), Aileen Smith (personal business)

II. General Announcements

Visitor Jill Still (representing Hoops for Scholars): please get the word out about Hoops for Scholars; it will be January 11, 2001 (before the semester starts). We have a \$177,000 endowment, resulting in about \$5,000 per year to National Merit Scholars/Finalists. It would be nice if we could offer more than one per year. (This year's recipient is Philip Womack.)

The March meeting of the Faculty Senate will be during the third week of March to avoid a conflict with Spring Break. There is no January meeting.

The newest catalogs have the same cover as some older ones. The newest ones, however, have incorrect page numbers in the index on the back.

Darrell McDonald and Scott Beasley are faculty representatives on the new presidential search committee.

III. Approval/Correction of minutes of Meetings #296 (November 2000)

Deferred to February 14, 2001 meeting.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. Chair:

Report from Academic Affairs Council meetings (there were two):

November meeting:

Grades from developmental courses will be included in the calculation of GPA's. The arguments in favor of this were 1) it will improve retention, and 2) the benefits outweigh the boost to the GPA. Dean Standley offered an alternative: Students must complete their developmental work before taking over 12 hours. This proposal to include developmental grades in GPA calculations passed with one opposing vote; it is to take effect in the spring semester of 2001.

The commencement policy for faculty attendance has been amended to say that each faculty member must attend one commencement ceremony per calendar year; if the faculty member teaches in the second summer session, that attendance must be at the summer ceremony.

We will not know our summer budget until we know our spring enrollment; it appears that it will be short of the usual 3% increase.

December meeting:

As of the fall semester, 2001, a C or better will be required in 9 lower-level courses in order to earn a Bachelor of Music degree.

Senator Sullivan agreed to research a bill that seemed to say the following: if a student fails TASP, that student must enroll in a developmental course. If the student fails TASP again, the student becomes TASP exempt.

Re: the cheating and plagiarism policy: see old business.

Our resolution from November on the university calendar has been assigned to the students' committee.

A change in awards for AP English was passed: formerly, a student scoring 3 or better on the composition or literature AP exam placed out of ENG 131 and ENG 132. Now, a score of 3 or better on composition will earn credit for ENG 131, and a score of 3 or better on the literature portion will earn credit for a 200-level literature course. Senator Zagrodnik said she would double-check on the effects of this on ENG 133.

SFA will begin employing the services of a foreign credential evaluation service to evaluate coursework of foreign students. The cost (\$75-\$125) will be borne by the applicant. SFA will offer the names of 3 recommended services to the student.

The 2000 fall semester is the last semester for which hardcopies of grades will be mailed to students.

The rehearsal hall in the music building will be named for G. Darrell Holt.

It has been determined that telecommunications can be relocated without purchasing any property. Senator Devine attested to the value of the property to students and faculty, but his input was not well-received.

We have been reaffirmed by SACS.

B. Chair-Elect:

The graduate council endorsed the Senate's resolution that graduate stipends be raised.

C. Treasurer: We have money and the budget seems to be correct. We have received \$1800 from Dr. Ashley's office.

D. Secretary: No report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs:

Perry Moon met with the Academic Affairs committee about a \$1 per semester fee that the University is permitted to collect to support study abroad. (UT has been collecting this fee for some time.) All of the money raised in this way must go to student costs; none may be used for overhead. All students are eligible to apply for study abroad.

B. Administration and Finance: No report. Chair Stahl: There was a discussion of faculty salaries in executive council meeting. The Senate may retain the services of a consultant to study faculty salaries on campus, provided the expenditure is no more than \$15,000.

C. Elections: No report.

D. Faculty Government and Involvement: No report. Senator Horn has resigned from the Senate due to additional responsibilities elsewhere. Senator Caffery will chair this committee henceforth.

E. Professional Welfare: The committee decided to pull the distance/distributed learning materials they had prepared. We are asked instead to examine the materials of UNT for February's meeting.

F. Strategic Planning: No report.

VI. Old Business

Senator King requested that the issue of developmental courses be referred to the Academic Affairs committee. Objections to allowing developmental grades to be included in calculating a student's GPA include the following: It is not reasonable or fair that a student's 4.00 GPA include developmental courses, or that the student make the Dean's list on the basis of developmental coursework. The courses themselves are at the high school or middle school level. Senator Zagrodnik disagreed: students in developmental courses are often writing at a higher level than students in credit courses. Senator King responded that having university courses at a lower level than developmental courses could be a problem. Academic Affairs requests input from the departments involved.

The Academic Affairs Council voted in favor of anonymous faculty evaluations of administrators. Senator Devine moved that we pass a resolution endorsing their action. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Students can (and do) buy papers off of the internet to turn in as their own. The website turnitin.com is a resource faculty can use to discover whether this has happened. The service is not free, but the first 5 searches are.

Chair Stahl met with the students' committee to discuss the issue of the withdrawal of a cheating student before the drop date. He made the following points: 1) faculty should be notified when any student withdraws from the faculty member's course. 2) Faculty should be able to proceed with the charge even after the student has withdrawn. 3) Faculty should be able to change the grade of W to WF if the student is found guilty. A motion stating that these are agreeable passed unanimously.

The students' committee insists that faculty must Mirandize students suspected/accused of cheating or plagiarism. Chair Stahl will invite Yvette Clark to the February Senate meeting.

Should we hire a consultant to investigate faculty salaries and benefits? Senator Devine indicated that we already know they are low and that it would be wasteful to spend money to determine that fact. We need support from the upper level administration before any progress will be made. Senator King said that the opinions of an objective outside observer are often weighed more heavily than the opinions of those directly concerned.

Senator Devine moved that the Chair appoint a committee of five people (including two senators at SFASU) to study salary inequities and compression, and to compare us to other comparable universities. Motion failed after some discussion.

The details of the budget are available in the East Texas Research Center in the library. Senator King asked whether the budget could be made available online.

Motion to seek an outside agency to investigate our salary woes passed. The administration will be asked to cover the cost of the outside agency. Senator Oswald suggested gathering information before approaching Dr. Ashley; it was requested that this information be made available to the Senate before the February meeting.

VII. *New Business*

A new search committee has been appointed for the SFA presidential search. Scott Beasley was appointed as a faculty member; however, many feel that Dr. Beasley is primarily an administrator. A resolution requesting that the board of regents appoint an additional faculty member passed unanimously with a few friendly amendments to the phrasing. (Resolution (on paper) was handed to the senators present.)

VIII. *Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.*