

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2001 Meeting #304
(Approved at October meeting)**

I. CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Joe Devine at 2:30 PM

Absent: None

Excused: Patti Nason, Aileen Smith

II. GUESTS

A. Tito Guerrero, President, Stephen F. Austin State University, indicated he was committed to making salary equity adjustments for faculty and improving academic standards and raising admissions standards for at SFA.

In addition, President Guerrero presented the Senate a memorandum from Al Cage, Library Director, requesting development of a grant application that would request funding for a Teaching Excellence Center. President Guerrero answered questions from Senate members regarding the organization and implementation of such a Center, its impact on individual departments, legislative funding, and how to determine which college would handle the probation and suspension of students in developmental of courses.

B. Karen Wielhorski, Associate Director for Information Services, and Al Cage, Library Director, presented the Senate with a proposal for establishing an Information Literacy Program at SFA. After a discussion period, Chair Devine indicated that this issue had been assigned to the Academic Affairs II Committee for further consideration.

III. General Announcements

Chair Devine introduced two new senators, Viola Alexander, representative from Education, and Charles Jones, representative from Fine Arts.

Committee appointments were announced.

Aileen Smith has been added to the Strategic Planning Committee.

IV. Approval/Correction of Minutes for Meeting #302 (May, 2001)

Approval of the minutes were postponed until the October meeting in order to identify the resolutions presented at the May, 2001 meeting.

V. Officers' Reports

A. Chair:

Fall, 2001 enrollment had increased. Retention for freshmen had improved to 62%.

In August, the Higher Education Coordinating Board determined that Texas universities no longer needed accreditation from the National Association of Developmental Accreditation.

The Academic Affairs Council approved the \$1 fee to support Study Abroad programs. President Guerrero will recommend the fee to the Board of Regents in April, 2002.

The Academic Affairs Council has not taken action on the Intellectual Property Policy approved by the Senate. A federal law dealing with the issues is pending.

HB #1839, the "Texas Excellence Fund", has given SFA \$189,000 to develop the university's capacity to conduct research.

SFA has adopted a Scholarship Program that will provide grants to Junior and community college transfer students to SFA. Students with a GPA of 3.0 will receive \$1,000 a year; students with a GPA of 3.5 will receive \$2,000 a year.

Faculty will no longer receive paper verification of final course grades. Faculty should refer to Screen 115 for final verification.

B. Chair-Elect: Announced that the new budget figures were being placed in the data base.

C. Treasurer: No report.

D. Secretary: No report.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs: No report.

B. Administration and Finance: No report.

C. Elections: No report.

D. Faculty Government and Involvement: No report.

E. Professional Welfare: No report.

F. Strategic Planning: No report.

VII. Old Business

The issue of identity theft and ways to prevent identity theft was re-visited. After a unanimous vote to continue studying this issue, Chair Devine assigned it to the Professional Welfare Committee.

Chair Elect King expressed his belief that the Senate should respond quickly to the Intellectual Property Proposal. Chair Devine noted that this issue has already been assigned to the Academic Affairs II committee for examination.

VIII. New Business

Senator Mercer responded to point (b) in Al Cage's memorandum that Dr. Guerrero presented to the Senate, noting that such a relocation would affect a small group of students. Senator Mercer raised the question of whether or not this policy was fair to these students.

Senator Ballenger expressed that the parking situation on campus is “A joke in my opinion.” Senator Ballenger explained that not enforcing the parking policies demonstrated a lack of respect to both students and faculty. Chair Devine responded that there were three actions he could take: 1. Speak with the campus Police Chief (name); 2. Invite Police Chief Marc Cossich to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting; 3. Assign the issue to a committee. Senator McDonald asked for clarification on the process by which faculty parking permits were provided to graduate assistants.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.