

Stephen F. Austin State University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

2005 Meeting #338

April 13, 2005

Subject to approval at the #339 meeting.

Senators present were: Julia Ballenger(1), Parker Ballinger(2), Chris Barker(3), John Boyd(5), Leisha Bridwell(7), Mary Nelle Brunson(6), Debbie Bush(8), Deborah Dalton(9), Greta Euginia Haidinyak(11), Kayce Halstead(12), Roy Joe Harris(13), Jere Jackson(14), Jeana Paul-Ureña(20), Parliamentarian, Kelly Salsbery(21), Elton Scifres, (22), Treasurer, Sarah Stovall(23), Brian Utley(24), Michael Walker(25), Elizabeth Witherspoon(26), Chair, Gary Wurtz(27)

Unexcused absences: Gary Mayer(16), Sue Ormsby(19), Tommy Matthys (15)

Excused absences: Troy Davis(10), Lisa Mize(17), Brian Oswald(18),

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:31p.m. by Dr. Gary Wurtz at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

II. PRESENTATIONS

PRESIDENT TITO GUERRERO

President Guerrero opened the meeting by discussing the current tuition increases. At the Austin meeting revenue was discussed. Designated tuition costs may also be raised. A possible salary increase from the State was also discussed, where it seemed that university employees were included, but again emphasized to not count on it.

Chair Wurtz asked if the salary increase was going to be 5%.

President Guerrero responded it may only be 3.5%.

Senator Halstead asked if what was stated in the paper, higher education was not included with the salary increase, was correct.

President Guerrero answered that it did include higher education.

Senator Salsbery wanted clarity of the state budget in regards to SFA, as to whether or not the budget had been reduced by one million dollars, or was it an ugly rumor.

President Guerrero replied that most everything heard is a rumor; unfortunately, some could come true. SFA is looking for a funding increase of one million for the

nursing program, but fears the legislature will tell us to find it internally. Legislature will dictate to SFA how the budget is to be appropriated. Also, there may be a decline of HEAF allocations by about one million dollars because a redistribution of funding. Schools that have a marked increase in enrollments benefit financially. We are being cut back because of our enrollment decline. However, we are still showing good numbers for retention rates. SFA also has shown good results for graduate testing scores and completion of undergraduate degrees in six years.

Administration has also met with students who have inquired about the status of our enrollment. We have encouraged all to not push the panic button. Reflecting over the past 30 years, our numbers have remained around 10-12 thousand, establishing a very narrow band. We do have reasons to be optimistic about the fall enrollments. More students have applied than in the past, and more students are meeting or exceeding the admission criteria. We will not know numbers until fall enrollment.

Senator Ballinger asked if tuition is going up.

President Guerrero stated that it will be recommended. He went on further to explain that state mandated tuition is going up \$2 per semester credit hour from \$48 to \$50, which is a normal mandate. We are also proposing that designated tuition be increased by \$12 a semester credit hour, raising it to \$76. One-fifth of that revenue has to be reserved for financial aid. We will only receive 80% of the generated dollars. A future hearing with the Boards will be held with the following topics to be presented by Roland Smith: 1) we will meet with the finance committee of the Board of Regents; 2) we will request an increase of tuition to the students. This information was forwarded to Chair Wurtz and Chair-elect Oswald. We are excited about the new data released by the Texas Coordinating Board with our two position increase with average faculty salaries, but we still have a lot of work to do.

President Guerrero made reference to statements he made on his arrival on SFA's campus, changes will occur, but they will not occur over night. He felt that progress has been made.

Senator Ballinger continuing with the first inquiry, wanting to know how much revenue will be generated from the tuition increase.

President Guerrero was unable to provide a dollar amount because of other sources. After meeting with the President's cabinet, it was made apparent that everyone's requests would not be met. The approach being taken was to raise the designated tuition, not to just get more money, but to raise it a certain dollar amount in order to provide for what is needed, and then delegate what projects should receive funding.

The President stated that he had two priorities: 1) to increase faculty salaries; 2) to better the Office of Research (ORSP). ORSP has functioned for three years

without an administrative head. This department is integral for our re-accreditation.

Senator Ballinger furthered his inquiry by asking respect to the University Center funding, that it seemed SFA would fall short.

President Guerrero wanted to know how. He stated that the requested bond capacity was granted at \$28 million. **Senator Ballinger** noted that it will still be short by 2 million. The rumor was that the funding would be pulled out of tuition revenue.

President Guerrero continued his reply with that would not happen. Funding sources for this must come entirely from student fees. The University Center is not funded by the state. It has to be funded entirely by student fees.

The President continued that some people are under the mistaken impression that the tuition revenue bond funding for academically related efforts funded by the state (if the economy behaves) would pay interest and retire our debt. Someone had tried to calculate total dollar requests, 30 million for the University Center, 25 million for the Student Recreation Center, 5 million for the parking garage. That can not be done. Both the University Center and Student Recreation Center have to be funded by monies generated from student fees. Our requests are mutually exclusive funding bases. The tuition revenue bond request is for a nursing facility, an East Texas Early Childhood research facility, a black-box theater, and for significant deferred maintenance that has not been addressed in many years.

Senator Walker asked about the articulation agreement with Angelina College and our hesitancy to sign. "We" have heard Angelina is offering a general psychology course at the South street location.

President Guerrero adamantly stated that SFA has protested this action to the Coordinating Board. This is a very bothersome action. Angelina had problems with temerity, raising issues about SFA going beyond our designated recruiting school districts. The articulation agreement is not going both ways. It is very disappointing after forming a "gentle-persons" agreement.

Senator Barker asked from the perspective of a geologist, if the location of the baseball complex is feasible.

President Guerrero mentioned a study of feasibility that is being performed. We are currently awaiting a response from FEMA and the US Corp of Engineers. SFA does not want to be a part of a process that would cut down trees only to find out we can not use this site.

Senator Boyd mentioned the paper's announcement of Showcase Saturday having record numbers.

President Guerrero excitedly responded that we got a good feeling at the event. The numbers coming from the Office of Admissions are encouraging. It is hard to know if we are students' first or third choice. Monique Cossich has

pleaded to keep the increased numbers up. These numbers need to stay up with our increased tuition.

Senator Bobo asked about a report that was located on the Texas Coordinating Board website in regards to HEAF funding for 2006 that would be given to schools who would lose money. Is that being retracted because of the HEAF cutback?

President Guerrero asked if it was in reference to tuition revenue bond funding? It has been the tradition that if you did not get "served" during last legislation, you would move ahead in terms of priority. The past sessions there have not been tuition revenue bond funding offerings. HEAF funding is formula driven. We receive funding that is justified. If our enrollment remains flat, it is difficult to get funding.

Senator Stovall asked how every school can always increase enrollment.

President Guerrero replied that there are so many different actions occurring at one time. Imagine yourself as a member of Texas legislation getting lobbied by multiple constituents. They all want to know why "others" are growing, and SFA is not. Their belief is, why give to schools that are flat or decreasing in student enrollment. Some see it that if enrollment is not increasing there is a sickness that needs a cure. Their remedy is to place the school into a larger system. In 1969 SFA broke away from a system and achieved "University" status. There are future possibilities that more talk will be generated about SFA being placed into a system.

PROVOST MARY CULLINAN

The Provost opened with announcing the new Library Director being hired on April 18. She spoke of hopes for a new Director of International Programs. Also, we have a new Dean of Science and Mathematics. SFA has had three successful searches. Much appreciation goes out to those who participated. Gratitude also goes out to the committee members. She extended a "thank you very much" to all. The Provost then opened the floor for issues that will rise to the top for next year or current inquiries.

Senator Salsbery asked about this summer and fall's request to departments to increase enrollment a certain percentage. Is that correct?

Provost Cullinan mentioned that the request had been made for colleges to set reasonable summer targets based on previous years. Funding for summer pay is based on projections. We hope everyone increased summer numbers. A specific amount was not requested.

Senator Salsbery continued his inquiry by asking if we need only project and increase summer enrollment or enrollment for long term semesters as well. His department questioned posing a 5% increase over the previous year. The philosophy department tends to go over that amount. Recruitment is flat, so

essentially we are taking away from other departments, not bringing in new recruits, which makes it hard to departmentally increase enrollment.

Provost Cullinan replies that all we can do is hope for increases; there is only so much one can do. We have asked chairs to look at scheduling by not competing with outside factors, to try and offer friendlier course times. We need to realistically look at what students want to take in the summer, as opposed to what the instructor wants to teach. The Provost mentioned she enjoyed attending Showcase Saturday and very glad to see a high attendance of students. We received wonderful feedback from participants. We are hopeful that the "need for enrollment" conversation will not keep surfacing.

Senator Salsbery emphasized that this is a constant worry. What other initiatives are there?

Provost Cullinan eagerly answered, many things. If anyone is interested, please invite Monique to come talk to you and your department. She is extremely pleased to hear of different departments becoming more engaged with recruiting tactics. In the past departments would host on-site events without realizing these were valuable recruiting tools. Departments are seeing these in a very different light. Monique has also mentioned how excited she is to hear of departments responding to prospective student lists sent out by recruiting offices, which have always been done, but were chided. Another implementation is the creation of a series of communication contacts from student inquiries. From the initial contact, contact is continued periodically until the student makes a commitment.

Provost Cullinan reminded all present that summer 06 and fall 06 are crucial for future funding.

Senator Scifres mentioned that talk has spawned of recruiting becoming a major component of service work for annual reports and asked for comments.

Provost Cullinan replied that this was addressed to departments to put together their own criteria. It is up to individual departments.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. SFA Men's Club picnic will be tomorrow night. All men are invited. One can respond as late as tomorrow morning.
- B. Commencement: Faculty Senate has been asked for two volunteers to serve as Marshals for commencement. Please contact Chair Wurtz.
- C. Committees: Please send your committee preferences for next year to Chair-elect Oswald via e-mail for those who are returning. This is your one opportunity to voice to what committee you would like to be assigned.

- D. Provost committee replacements: The Senate is able to elect these members. The Senate tries not send Senate members because of the already present responsibilities; however, it is the Senate's responsibility to forward names. Committees that need replacements are: Academic Technology (2 – 2 year term); Distance Education (2 – 2 year term); Policy Committee (1 – 2 year term)
- E. Announcements from the floor:
Senator Stovall announced that the Teaching Excellence awards reception and convocation is tomorrow from 3:45 – 5:00pm encouraging people to come. The University recipient will be announced.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Meeting #337

Chair Wurtz noted the correction to the numbering of the Senate meeting minutes. The minutes were now in correct order with thanks to Roni Lias, the web-master for the Senate web-page. Points of discussion were made in regards to misspelled name, correction to statements made by Senator Salsbery, and a "double" motion made by Senator Boyd. Motion was made to accept minutes after addressing the correction by Senator Dalton, seconded by Senator Boyd. Motion accepted.

V. OFFICER'S REPORT

a. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Wurtz read off several issues that had arisen since the last meeting.

Articulation agreement breach by Angelina:

Dr. Wurtz, I am greatly disappointed that Angelina College has scheduled the Psychology course for this fall. I spoke with President Phillips yesterday, saying I thought we had an agreement that AC would offer only vocational courses in Nacogdoches and that SFA would offer dual-enrollment classes at Nacogdoches High School but not at other high schools in the AC area.

Dr. Phillips agreed verbally that this would be a once-only offering without further consultation. He made it clear, however, that he very much wants to offer an array of lower-division classes here in the future. President Guerrero has sent a letter to Commissioner Paredes at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to protest AC's offering academic classes in Nacogdoches.

As I told Dr. Phillips, the timing of this entry into Nacogdoches couldn't be worse. The course offering, plus our protest to the Coordinating Board, will put a chill on our relationship with Angelina College. I just hope our protest

will lead to a fair and reasonable outcome.

Mary C.

Salaries:

Institutional research issued a report earlier this week showing the status of our salaries compared to the rest of the state. There was some confusion at first as the report indicated we had moved from 33rd of 35 to 16th. Thanks to several senators, it was discovered that the "16th" ranking was for percentage of change for FY05, not actual salaries. Salaries appear to remain low, though slightly better, at 31 of 35.

Wireless computing issues:

Apparently a new "policy" has been written by ITS regarding wireless computing, and passed at the last BOR meeting. It contains some strong, if not offensive, language, and did not include any input from the academic side. According to the provost it will be rewritten immediately, and the new Head of the Library will be involved as well as the Provost's office. As has been done with recent policy revisions, there will be efforts to post policy changes on the web for feedback from all effected.

Graduate dean:

Dr. Jeffrey has made it known that he will retire in the very near future. Upon his retirement it is possible, or even likely, that the head of the graduate school in terms of name, duties, jurisdiction, etc. will be revamped.

Senator Bobo asked Chair Wurtz if he was knowledgeable if monies were there for merit this year.

Chair Wurtz replied that the common answer given is, "I don't know."

b. CHAIR-ELECT'S REPORT

Senator Oswald was not present since he was at a convention. No report was given.

c. TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

d. SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

e. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections – Lisa Mize

1. Senate needs to vote on Adjunct Senator: Chester Geiselman-Art; Deborah Bush-English (willing to repeat 2nd year).

2. Voting for other colleges is this week – online. These are the nominees by colleges:
 - Applied Arts & Science (1 vacancy) – no nominees, only write-ins
 - Fine Arts (1 vacancy) – Anita Powell (Art/Fine Arts)
 - Agriculture/Forestry (2 vacancies) – Dan Unger (Forestry); Warren Conway (Forestry)
 - Business (1 vacancy) – Deborah Dunn (Computer Science)
3. These people NEED to vote, more nominees than vacancies:
 - Science/Math (2 vacancies) – Linda Calvacca (Nursing); Dennis Gravatt (Biology); Debbie Pace (Math/Stat); Lu Yu (Math); Alexandra Van Kley (Chemistry)
 - Liberal Arts (1 vacancy) – Najuan Austin (English/Liberal Arts); Marc Guidry (English/Liberal Arts)
4. Asked if anyone got notification via e-mail about elections.

Administration and Finance – Senator Scifres

No report.

Faculty Governance and Involvement – Senator Salsbery

1. Had been charged to find out about wireless communications. The Academic Technology committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 6 concerning this. A commitment for the University to go wireless has been made. ITS is set to do it. It will begin with common areas and then go to department buildings. Problems that arose were with individual departments that have their own wireless systems already intact. ITS wants to be able to coordinate with those groups. The committee found out that there are two different policies regarding technology, one from 2003 and the new one created this year, 2005. The two contradict each other in a way that it is confusing with legal ramifications. All parties are trying to clear this with a re-work of policy. Conflicts are also arising with Library Science. ITS wants control of all servers. The Library wants to remain in control over their server in case the mainframe was to go down.
2. Policy D-49 is conflicting. ITS had created.
3. The Computer Network Policy of 1995 was created, but revised in 2003. It read nicely. We are wondering why a new one was created.
4. The committee is meeting again.

Ethics Committee – Senator Mayer

Absent, no report.

Academic Affairs – Senator Jackson

1. Most topics were discussed via e-mail. All policies have played on larger, university scale. No report.

Professional Welfare – Senator Davis
No report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Educational Assistance Plan: This is also extended for employee assistance. Status is still the same. We are trying to get \$1000 per semester and \$500 for summer, per family. This has been approved and accepted, just not financially funded. Contact Dora if any questions.
- B. Faculty compensation resolution: This issue was sent out by Professional Welfare committee. We were told, "thanks."
- C. Opened for comments from the floor?

Senator Bridwell asked if office hours were discussed.

Chair Wurtz commented that it was brought up to the Provost during the Senate Executive meeting. The Provost believed it was at the chair's discretion. Found it too difficult to make a general policy that would fit everyone's needs.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comments from the floor: None

Chair Wurtz announced that the Executive Committee will meet May 4. Two short meetings will follow beginning with meeting #339, ushering in the new Senators.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, a motion for adjournment was made by Senator Witherspoon, seconded by Senator Boyd. The Senate stood adjourned at 3:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Linda Stark Bobo
Secretary