

**Stephen F. Austin State University**

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**2005 Meeting #343**

**November 9, 2005**

Subject to approval at the 344th meeting.

Senators present were: Parker Ballinger(1), Chair-Elect, Chris Barker(2), Linda Bobo(3), Leisha Bridwell (4) Debbie (Bush(5), Warren Conway(6), Troy Davis(7), Deborah Dunn(8), Greta Haidinyak(9), Secretary, Kayce Halstead(10), Lu Yu(11), Wanda Mouton(12), Chair, Brian Oswald (13), Sara Stovall for Debbie Pace(14), Jeana Paul-Urena(15), Amy George for Anita Powell(16), Elton Scifres(17), Dan Unger(18), Brian Utley(19), Michael Walker(20), Elizabeth Witherspoon(21)

Excused absences: Julia Ballenger, Deborah Dalton, Deborah Pace, John Boyd, Mary Nelle Brunson, Marc Guidry, Kelly Salsbery

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Brian Oswald at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

**GUESTS**

PRESIDENT DR. TITO GUERRERO

Dr. Guerrero did not bring prepared remarks so he asked if there were questions from the group.

Q: Senator Oswald asked about the building plan. A: Dr. Guerrero had a meeting with John Rulfs that morning to discuss the topic. He and the Vice Presidents are looking at short and long term needs in order to anticipate and guide the direction of the growth, or perhaps the transformation, of the campus.

Q: Senator Walker wondered about any verdict of the anticipated baseball field. A: No verdict now but the Board of Regents made a commitment to the architect for plans because potential donors won't give without knowing what it will look like. Also, a more definitive form is important to see if it can be instituted. Unless we have a form or shape of what the complex will be, no one will give—there is also the question of how realistic that current location will be with regard to the wetlands issue. The Pine Log article has generated lots of discussion—even former alums are participating. So there is no actual assurance it will happen until a study is done.

Q: Senator Oswald asked about moving the physical plant off campus. A: Aesthetically, and philosophically it might be better to have that building moved.

Looking ahead, it would be nice for the “footprint” of the campus to be academic in nature.

Dr. Guerrero had one final remark having to do with the enrollment increase—John Rulfs pointed out that the increase in semester credit hour production might possibly lead to having a deficit in space instead of an excess—which indicates we are going in the right direction for enrollment, and gives us a good reason to ask for funds from the legislature.

### PROVOST MARY CULLINAN

Dr. Cullinan had several topics to discuss:

- *Technology planning:* We were reminded that last summer a group went to Orlando, FL to a technology conference—which was very informative, and pointed out that we need to form a vision for the campus. Therefore, the Provost and the VPs will be holding a technology retreat to get a good discussion going about campus technology—probably on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. The morning will be devoted to presentations, and the afternoon will consist of roundtables where visions and goals can be formulated. A video will be made of the technology planning process
- *An academic technology plan* was put together last year and has not been implemented—it can’t operate in a vacuum, so we need an overall plan.
- *Banner* is a software system that is the infrastructure for connecting the various database systems on campus. We have an older version of the Banner product which will eventually not be supported and we need to think ahead. There are prefabricated programs on the market, but none are perfect for the campus without some tweaking. Conversions are always messy, and it will require working with every dept. on campus to get what we need. Q: Will this replace WebCT and Pipeline? A: No. Isn’t sure if it will affect campus Pipeline. Q: Senator George wondered if there will be a plan to include upgrades for labs and classrooms on some rotating basis. A: yes.
- *Web planning process:* Tiffany Evans, Library Director, has been given the responsibility to work on a new University web site architecture—one that is more intuitive and more easily negotiated—while still being attractive, flexible, and useful. Dr. Evans has been meeting with deans and chairs to discuss it, and a message regarding the process should be coming from Dr. Guerrero soon. Dr. Evans and her staff will be supporting the pages that faculty create. She is very receptive to ideas. Q: Senator Stovall asked who will maintain department and faculty web pages. A: Colleges and depts. can maintain their own, and support will be provided from the library if needed. Q: Senator Dunn asked if we can maintain our own “look.” A: There will be some consistencies—it must be obvious you are part of the university web site.
- *FARs*—The Provost appreciates everyone’s patience as we move to an electronic version of the report—there are always glitches—but once we are through this year, we can bring back issues not resolved. Suggestions and concerns can be sent to Chair Oswald, who will forward them to the

- Provost. It looks like the PDF format will be ready next week, and after this year, the updates can be made as the year progresses—not all at once. Q: Senator Barker asked who created the current form. A: The Provost thought maybe Oracle—but not sure.
- *120 hours issue*: Having been to Austin to talk to the Coordinating Board and fellow provosts, it doesn't look like we can avoid complying with this. The state is going to keep us on a track to maintain 120 hours—except for compelling academic reasons. There is not going to be a major revolution within the state. Most provosts are asking for plans from their deans. There probably won't be an audit of the hours—but if something comes up, the Coordinating Board will not protect us if we are not in compliance. In general we will have to comply. Q: Senator Bridwell wondered about general program changes. A: There shouldn't be any changes to the core for 05-06. Q: Senator Dunn asked what the curriculum committee is doing. A: They are assessing the core classes currently offered. Q: Senator Bobo asked about professional programs like nursing or athletic training having more hours. A: If there is a compelling reason, we may be able to support it, but if other state universities are complying, we don't have a good argument. Other states work within these limits. Master's programs may not be affected.
  - *VP for Graduate Studies position search*: The committee is getting ready to have their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Dr Beasley is chair. The thinking group has been looking at the overall process of the position and dealing with one major question—should the process be more centralized or not? The group found disagreement—people felt strongly both ways. The Provost has no vested interest in either model. She wants a process that works for all graduate programs, and is timely. The current system is not working very well for international graduate students. She has good recommendations from the thinking group and appreciates their work.
  - *Teaching excellence center*—Drs. Lauren Scharff and John Moore are co-directors and are excited about it. They moved into the former Senate office in the library. Contact them with ideas for programs. There will be a launch in the spring.

In answer to a question regarding the new VP of Graduate Studies position, Dr. Cullinan said that the job description was not specific about how the office will operate.

Concerns and questions still exist regarding the tenure and promotion processes. Dr. Bobo had a question about tenure committee membership which had not been adequately answered through recommended channels.

Dr. Cullinan said that specific questions or concerns about particular departments need to be addressed in a different forum. Send concerns to Violet Rogers or Larry King. Currently there is a tenure policy approved, but the promotion policy still has room for debate or further clarification on specifics.

Chair Oswald introduced JIM JETER—Associate VP for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director of the Alumni Center

Mr. Jeter wants the Alumni office and staff to be available to the campus community. The office is primarily focused on raising funds for scholarships. A capital campaign is underway. He anticipates a legacy for the school, and thinks that in 10 years we may see 20,000 students on campus. He talked about the various ways and ideas his office has for promoting the university and raising funds.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Norton will come to discuss the International Program. Chair Oswald will also invite Dr. Evans from the library to meet with the Senate.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Senator Dunn moved to approve the minutes as written. They were seconded, and the motion carried.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Oswald reported the following:

- Dr. Barker presented our report to the Board of Regents at their October meeting. In a follow-up telephone conversation Chair Oswald had with Mr. Wulf regarding the survey, Mr. Wulf said that some Board members felt that bringing up the survey right after discussing the issue of salary compression, was a slap in the face. Chair Oswald responded that not mentioning the survey would go against our goal of improved communication. He also reminded Mr. Wulf that the BOR had set up a committee to study the faculty salary issue after former Chair Wurtz had presented all of the official data at the April 2005 board meeting—which could be interpreted as a slap in the face to the faculty. He offered to present all of the information on our survey development to the board—along with the findings when they are compiled and analyzed. Mr. Wulf wondered if they would be ready for the January meeting. Oswald said they would not be ready that soon.
- Two finalists for the VP for Finance and Administration position will be on campus at the end of the week, and the BOR may decide on one of them by Saturday.
- The University Budget building process continues. The committee hopes to have a draft policy to the President by the end of the semester. If the President accepts their recommendations, open sessions will be held on campus to describe the process. They foresee the outcome as a great improvement to what presently exists.
- Everyone is reminded to review and send comments to Dr. Larry King or Dr. Violet Rogers regarding the Promotion and Tenure policies.
- Linda Bobo has volunteered to be a Marshal for the December graduation. Another volunteer is needed.

- When faculty members receive an email requesting acknowledgement of a policy via MySFA, please respond. Failure to do so may result in loss of email, etc. because some of the requests are state driven.

### **CHAIR ELECT'S REPORT**

Senator Barker reported on the *Council of Faculty Senates* meeting he attended in Austin.

- The big topic of discussion was the disbanding of the Faculty Senate at Kingsville by order of the President, following a vote of no confidence for him. Subsequently, the A&M Chancellor sent a message supporting the President's action. The Regents appointed an investigative committee to see what should be done. The Senate Chair was not consulted by the committee. The committee recommended that a new constitution be written and a new Senate be installed. The main speaker, Robert McTeer, Chancellor of the TAMU Board of Regents, reported his side of the story and said the Faculty Senate at Kingsville had disgruntled members that had been on the Senate for years, through reappointment, and they had chased off previous presidents.
- The 120-hour bill was discussed, which limits the number of semesters that the state will support to get through school.
- There was discussion about the voucher system in Colorado. Students get \$2500 dollars apiece which they can use in a variety of ways, such as attending junior college if they prefer.

Senator Barker also mentioned that the graduate VP thinking group felt that the most critical thing the program needs is money, not just changes to policy.

### **SECRETARY**

No report

### **TREASURER**

Chair Oswald reported that \$661 dollars have been spent so far.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Elections

No report

#### Administration and Finance

Asked to look into athletic spending. Hopes to be able to tell what is spent on athletics when we look at the more "transparent" budget.

#### Faculty Governance and Involvement

Survey is nearly ready to go. The committee will provide information to faculty when the survey is put online. There was some discussion about the accompanying information. There will be a two week window to take the survey online.

Ethics Committee

Members are serving as a screening committee for Piper Professor award. Three possible nominees will be reviewed next week and the final choice submitted in two weeks.

Academic Affairs

No report

Strategic Planning Committee

No report

Professional Welfare

Senator Utlely distributed a draft of policy D-12 on Faculty/Staff traffic appeals. The committee charge was to change wording in the policy to allow appeals to be made through several avenues. They will investigate the larger policy (D-24) at a later time. The item will be taken up again at December meeting.

Administrative Technology

No report

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chapel on campus plan--nothing has happened in the last year. Draft resolution is prepared in case.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Davis moved to adjourn at 4:15. Senator Paul-Urena 2nded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayce Halstead  
Secretary