

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
2006 Meeting #348  
May 3, 2006**

Subject to approval at the 350th meeting.

Senators present were: Julia Ballenger(1), Parker Ballinger(2), Chair-Elect, Chris Barker(3), Linda Bobo(4), John Boyd(5), , Debbie Bush(7), Treasurer, Deborah Dalton(9), Troy Davis(10), Deborah Dunn(11), Gina Haidinyak(13), Secretary, Kayce Halstead (14), Lu Yu(15), Wanda Mouton(16), Chair, Brian Oswald (17), Debbie Pace(18), Jeana Paul-Urena(19), Anita Powell(20), Kelly Salsbery(21), Elton Scifres (22), Brian Utley(24), Michael Walker (25), Elizabeth Witherspoon(26) Leisha Bridwell(27).

Excused absences: Mary Nelle Brunson(6) Warren Conway(8) Mark Guidry(12) Dan Unger (23)

**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 reported on the following topics:

- His memo to faculty senators regarding the 1% salary pool
- Fall enrollment predictions which are very positive
- Introduction of Debbie Baisden, the new VP for Finance and Administration
- President's Spring picnic for staff and faculty

He asked for questions. Senator Walker asked if there was a campus contingency plan for bird flu. **A:** A report issued by the federal government will be considered, and an Emergency Management Plan policy (D-11) was updated this year.

Someone asked if there would be a tuition increase this fall? **A:** Yes, it will go up by \$9/semester hour. One third of that amount will be consumed by the 1% salary pool. Senator Barker asked whether there could have been money available for better raises if money had not been taken from the reserve for the new baseball program. **A:** Yes and no. The one million redirected from operating costs for both new programs could have been utilized for other purposes. However, he doesn't know if the BOR would have dipped into reserve funds for salary raises. University should always have a 3-month contingency fund.

Chair Oswald thanked President Guerrero for his honest interaction and candor with the Senate this year.

*PROVOST MARY CULLINAN*

The Provost had several announcements:

- There should be a new Associate VP for Graduate Studies hired this summer.
- Approval from the BOR for merging the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Applied Arts and Sciences should occur at the July meeting. New name will be College of Liberal and Applied Arts
- Work on the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Experience is continuing. Plans are underway to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> freshman convocation on August 31<sup>st</sup> in the coliseum. Feedback from last year was positive.
- The list of books for the Summer Reading Project needs whittling, and ideas are welcome.
- Moving ahead on the doctoral program in Environmental Science—wants to bring in consultants, and send the proposal to the coordinating board by summer's end.
- Deans and departments will be working on meeting requirements for the 120-hour legislation. A plan needs to be in place by fall 2008.
- The technical consultant presented his report at the last BOR meeting. He stated a need for a reorganized and more efficient deployment program, and a process that will not infringe on the flexibility needed by departments.
- Work on the new Web site is going forward—with a launch date of July 1<sup>st</sup> planned. This should leave more time for beta testing.
- There are plans for many construction projects over the summer: renovating parts of Ferguson and L.A. North; beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library renovation; constructing residence halls on Starr Avenue; and building a new parking garage. Repaving College St. will be the most disruptive project.
- 3D/I will come back in June so there may be another chance to meet with them. They intend to return in September, and have a plan ready for the BOR meeting in October.

She asked for questions.

Senator Salsbery asked her to address the issue of the organizational structure concerning distribution of hardware and software? **A.** Provost hopes the reporting structure will not change significantly and that the changes will have more to do with acquiring site licenses.

Senator Scifres asked for clarification about faculty recruiting students—is it encouraged, but not required? **A.** Provost is letting the deans handle it in their respective colleges. There are many ways to go about it, and in her view we all need to figure out our gift for recruiting and retention and realize that they will vary.

Senator Walker asked about excessive hours and how it relates to the 120-hour situation? **A:** How do we replace state funding lost for various reasons? Our objective will be to try to keep students from going over 120 hours. We need to consider how SFA101 affects it—currently the state coordinating board is struggling with the issues too. There is no clear answer available yet.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Dalton extended an invitation to the upcoming Mozart's "Mass in C minor" concert on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Oswald reminded everyone of the President's picnic, and the upcoming commencement.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Senator Utler to approve the minutes from meeting #347. 2nded by Senator Boyd. Minutes were approved as written.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Oswald had the following items to discuss:

- There was no formal response from the BOR regarding the senate's Faculty survey
- The Tech consultant had no new information in his report to the BOR. His background was not in academic technology
- He recommends that a senate representative try to attend all sessions of Board of Regents meetings. He also suggested that Chair Barker try to meet with Joe Max Green, the local regent, in an effort to improve communication with campus entities
- He dissolved the academic computing ad hoc committee
- He thanked all the senators revolving off the senate, and the senate committees for their hard work
- He thinks that salaries will remain an issue, and the BOR report essentially supports what we already said
- He thought the **3D/I** meeting was very useful and productive

Vice-Chair Barker has much to report, but will save it for the next meeting. He is on the Graduate VP search committee, and feels there are three very good candidates. The recommendation from the search committee is ready to go to the provost.

Treasurer Dalton does not have the current month's statement yet, so does not have a balance to report at this time.

Secretary—nothing to report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Election committee had items to report. Senator Bobo resolved the situation of having too many representatives from nursing. Sally Ann Swearingen will be the representative from the College of Education.

Senator Bobo has a person willing to be a representative from the College of Business and asked if the Senate has the power to appoint or elect a Senator?

Parliamentarian Salbery answered yes. Senator Bobo moved to elect Joe Ballinger to fill the position from the College of Business. Senator Boyd 2nded the motion. Motion passed.

Admin and Finance--\_Senator Scifres will continue researching the university budget to try and identify where the money is going for athletics

Chair Oswald presented the Outstanding Senator award to Gina Haidenyak for all of her work preparing and successfully completing the Faculty Survey this year.

In New Business, Chair-Elect Barker recognized the hard work done by Senate Chair, Brian Oswald.

A motion made to adjourn at 3:25pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayce Halstead  
Secretary