

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
2006 Meeting #351  
October 12, 2006**

Subject to approval at the 352nd meeting.

Senators present were: Norjuan Austin(1), Julia Ballenger(2), Joe Ballenger(3); Chair, Chris Barker(4); John Boyd(5), Deborah Bush(7), Linda Calvacca(8), Deborah Dunn(10), Jeannie Gresham(11), Gina Haidinyak(13); Secretary, Kayce Halstead(14); Kevin Langford(15), Perry Moon (16), Wanda Mouton(17), Debbie Pace(18), Jeana Paul-Urena(19), Anita Powell(20), Karen Price(21), Elton Scifres(22), Sally Ann Swearingen(23), Mark Turner(24), Dan Unger(25), Brian Utley(26), Michael Walker(27); Treasurer, Elizabeth Witherspoon(28).

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Chris Barker at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

**Guests**

Provost Dr. Marlin Young

Dr. Young commented on the following information items:

- Teaching load credit calculations. A handout was distributed with information on how to calculate workload. Karen Hall in Institutional Research is available for assistance. Dr. Berry clarified some of the confusion related to music ensembles. Definitions of terms reside on the web—perhaps at the Coordinating Board site or the Texas Education Code site.
- Annual faculty activity report. Dr. Young had been asked if there was any way the annual reports could be simplified. Since we are faced with getting ready for SACs and other accreditations, we needed a uniform way of knowing what publications faculty have done, etc. The FAR allows for the generation of reports fairly easily, and he doesn't see how it can be further simplified.
- The 120-hour program. Dr. Young and the Dean's Council are still working on it, and he will be attending another meeting in Austin very soon. It is being taken seriously by many institutions. Where an area like Education or Forestry or Fine Arts needs more hours, we can make a justification for those programs and see if they will be accepted by the Coordinating Board. Senator Boyd asked how many students are needed for classes to make? Dr. Young clarified that it takes 10 undergraduates, and 5 graduates, and then elaborated on short classes.

President Dr. Baker Pattillo

Dr. Pattillo reported on the following items:

- He has been in Austin testifying before the Legislative budget board and the Governor's office, and will be doing more testifying in November. He was the first to testify and the

meeting went well. Also in attendance were VP Debbie Baisden and Dr. Young, along with a regent.

- Next week the Board of Regents will be meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. He can provide their schedule. The committee meetings will be first. Then, after lunch, they will go to the career center to talk to furniture reps. Senators are invited to all of those events. In the afternoon, the BOR will go into a closed executive session. At 6pm, they will tour the new Lumberjack village and hold a dedication, and again we are all invited. Then the regents will go to the President's house for dinner. On Thursday, the board meeting will be from 9-11am, and we are welcome to attend. Following that, the regents will visit the Math and Science building. Since it is homecoming weekend, some of the regents will stay over.
- There will be an article tomorrow in the Pine Log about the Homecoming bonfire. Although the city offered to provide a fire truck if we decide to have the fire, they recommended against it because of the burn ban in place. Dr. Pattillo will not approve the bonfire unless we have lots of rain in the next few days and the fire ban is lifted. Instead we will have a parade and officially start basketball season.
- Baseball complex project won't go away. He hears a lot about it. The project was approved a couple of years ago. The program and fundraising have moved to Athletics from the office of University Advancement. An effort will be made to raise the money. Dr. Pattillo will recommend to the BOR that we go ahead and try to raise money for the next year through December 2007. If the funds are not raised, he will recommend we drop the project.
- **3D/I** long-range planning group is not ready with their report. Dr. Pattillo has seen a preliminary report but he feels it needs more development. It may be presented to the BOR in January.
- Technology in regard to computer replacement. He will recommend nothing at this time. He has talked to many people involved, but has not received an actual report from the committee. There may be a draft policy approved by the committee, but no official plan. He has been advised about committee makeup, who it should report to, and whether there should be a CIO. In the meantime, Dr. Pattillo is not ready to make a recommendation, and will tell the BOR that at this meeting. He will try to have a report ready in January.
- The new University web site. There is a lot of discussion and dissatisfaction regarding this issue. It is something he will address at the January meeting also.
- Joe Ballenger asked about the recent news concerning the *cease and desist notice* issued by the university in regard to the SFA name being affiliated with the Timber Springs retirement community project. Dr. Pattillo said that although people associated the project with the university, there had been no commitment or contract from the school. We want a good relationship with them but are not associated with them. Senator Joe Ballenger then asked if companies or businesses use "lumberjack" or SFA colors, are there ramifications? Dr. Pattillo said that would be something the university attorney could answer, but probably any action taken would be on a case-by-case basis. Someone asked if SFA has a trademark. Dr. Pattillo answered that certain areas are

protected and items such as shirts and caps with the SFA logo are protected by licensing agreements.

- Senator Guidry asked for clarification about the money raised for the baseball project. Is it 25% of the total project? Dr. Pattillo answered that when this project first began, it was estimated to cost 10 million, which would mean raising 2.5 mil in order to receive Coordinating Board approval and then finance bonds for the remaining 7.5 mil. Now, the project is estimated to cost 14 mil at the current bid. Considering the cost of inflation of building materials, it will go up further. So even if they can raise 3.5 mil, the cost will rise even more. There are different kinds of bonds, but with regard to the baseball project, there is no revenue string to pay the money back, so the 75% would come somewhere out of the university budget.
- The baseball team is a separate matter. Currently we pay the city to use their facilities. There are some disadvantages—the lack of adequate lighting means that the games held here have to be in the afternoon—making it difficult for our students to attend games if they have afternoon classes. But those things will be addressed later depending on the outcome of the fund raising. Bo Pilgrim has committed 1 mil toward the project.
- Faculty/staff picnic will be held sometime this autumn. No date has been set.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Chris Barker has contacted the BOR secretary about their meeting agenda. When he receives it, he will distribute it to senators.

He recommended that anyone who is available should show up at the finance committee meeting in a show of support for the salary issue.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved with a reminder to make a distinction between Senators Joe and Julia Ballenger when either is acknowledged in the minutes.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Chair's report

Chair Barker reported on the computer replacement committee. A revised policy, worded very generally, has been approved to go forward to the VP of Finance and then on to the BOR—although it may be too late for their upcoming meeting. Details will be mostly in an implementation plan.

The good news about implementation is that most of the wording concerning using a single vendor has been changed, and there is now a list of computer vendors approved by the state of Texas, which provides much more flexibility.

We will have to wait and see what happens at the VP and BOR levels.

The Systems study committee chaired by Dr. Larry King has not yet met, but plan to begin that process soon.

The Salary planning committee, chaired by Brian Oswald, has met and will soon have a recommendation to bring before the BOR.

The ad-hoc committee on Academic computing, chaired by Kevin Langford, will be meeting to discuss its charge. Basically they want to make sure that the interests of faculty regarding campus technology issues, are being represented on the various committees. Senators who have to miss meetings should notify Kayce and/or Chris, in order to have an excused absence.

Chair elect—no report

Treasurer's report Last month there was a question about subscribing to the Chronicle of Higher Education so that we could access it from our offices in order to start doing research on academic trends. Senator Halstead commented that she thinks it is already available electronically through the library, and will check to make sure of the dates covered. The Provost's office has offered to pay for our refreshments.

Secretary—no report

Academic affairs—no report

Professional welfare—no report

Ethics—no report

Election—no report

Administration and finance—no report at this time, but Senator Scifres plans to update what the committee worked on last year regarding athletic money sources.

Faculty governance and involvement—no report

Old business  
none

New business

Senator Walker led a discussion regarding the current Faculty Workload policy. Points raised were:

- The policy doesn't seem to be followed or enforced uniformly.
- Although the policy states there will be some type of compensation for extra workload—money or a lesser workload the following semester--nothing is forthcoming.
- Faculty who leave or retire are not always replaced—which compounds the problem.
- Is there any action the Senate could take on the matter?

Academic Affairs committee will study the issue, and produce a short report outlining the main concerns with recommendations for correcting the problem. The senate will then send it forward.

Another issue for consideration involves who determines the courses that make up the core curriculum. The decisions had been made by the Core Curriculum committee at one time, but now the responsibility lies with the Dean's Council. Senator Guidry, who sits on the Core Assessment committee, reported that it is less contentious when the deans make the decisions.

Nevertheless, a motion was made by Senator Guidry to study the issue of whether the Dean's Council is the proper entity to determine what courses belong in the core, and whether faculty should have input into the matter at some level. Senator Haidinyak seconded the motion, which passed and will be assigned to the Faculty Governance committee.

Chair Barker wants to recommend that new faculty be able to get a pay advance after the 1<sup>st</sup> week of class, perhaps by having the option of getting part of the September paycheck in advance. Senator Dunn recommended the option of having one's salary spread over 13 months instead of 12. Senator Walker suggested that new hires get a \$1500 dollar moving allowance to be paid on Sept 1. Senator Conway mentioned that since the Fall semester starts in August, new faculty could get paid for the weeks worked in August on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Chair Barker assigned the issue to the Professional Welfare committee.

Chair Barker plans to write a resolution on the issue of academic computing and its relationship to ITS. The University Technology committee is chaired by Bill Wagner, who is Head of ITS. Barker will distribute the resolution for comment. He also wants the senate to consider whether to sponsor a resolution concerning departments maintaining their own web sites without being required to use the new template.

Senator Moon commented on the policy having to do with withheld grades. He thinks it is too vague and better guidelines are needed. A motion was made to address the issue, but failed to carry.

Senator Haidinyak announced that nursing students have a booth at Piney Woods Fair and are distributing free flu shots.

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Haidinyak. Seconded by Senator Guidry. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayce Halstead  
Secretary