

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
2008 Meeting #364
February 13, 2008**

Subject to approval at the 365th meeting.

Senators present were: Senators present were: Norjuan Austin (2), Joe Ballenger (4), Vikki Boatman (5), Erin Brown (7), Parliamentarian, Ken Collier (8); Lani Draper (11), Deborah Dunn (12), Secretary, Jeanie Gresham (13); Al Greule (14), Chair, Marc Guidry (15); Scott LaGraff (16), Kevin Langford (17), Perry Moon (19), Clint Richardson (20), Lee Stewart (23), Elton Scifres (22); Chair-Elect, Sally Ann Swearingen (24); Ken Untiedt (26); Robert Allen substituted for Randi Cox (10)

Excused absences: Neill Armstrong (1), Sara Bishop (3), Dennis Bradford (6), Randi Cox (10), Rose Powell (21)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

GUESTS

PRESIDENT DR. BAKER PATTILLO

Dr. Pattillo discussed the following:

- He thanked the Senate for the support during the selection of the provost position. He felt that a job search was needed to fill this position.
- He discussed with the Board that he would not name Dr. Brunson as assistant provost. Dr. Berry will make that selection when he deems necessary.
- Vice President of Finance – He is waiting and observing that situation. Dr. Gallant is now in that position. He is comfortable with using him for the time being. He has not set a timeline for this decision.
- Vice President of Development – This position will be responsible for raising money. A job search is ongoing. He is now considering using a search firm because we have not been able to locate an individual for this position.
- Executive Director of Alumni Affairs – The Alumni Board has recommended that the name be changed from Assistant Vice President of Alumni Affairs to Executive Director of Alumni Affairs. A search is ongoing. The search committee was asked by Dr. Pattillo to look for an SFASU graduate to fill this position if possible.
- Enrollment – He stated that enrollment is very important to the state legislature. Rating agencies that set bond rates are also very concerned with enrollment. Growth is important if we are going to have additional money for salaries, etc. It is a requirement for additional funding.
- SACS – He stated that this process is very important to the university. The focus of SACS is accountability. This issue will change everything that we do at the university.
- Housing – An outside group is reviewing housing. He said that in the auxiliary world, you pay your own way. There will be a report in about six months or so concerning housing issues.

- Baseball – The issue is not over. Just one part is over. Altogether about 1.5 million was raised. The funds necessary to keep this issue alive was not raised. In Austin, the issue is affordability. Dr. Pattillo stated that he was not willing to raise designated tuition to fund the baseball complex. The Board allowed him to make the decision to recommend not building the complex. He contacted the individuals donating the funds. Some will allow the university to keep the funds, and others want their money back. He believes that we need to work with the city to keep playing in their fields. If we retain the money, it will be used in the city park complex.
- Board Nominating Committee – There is a nominating committee to determine the Regent's chair position. The present chair is eligible to serve again. This will be determined later.
- University Funding Issue – He said that there is a move to change funding procedure timelines. Funds would come in after students are taught not prior to when students are taught. This is a controversial issue. Some universities would prosper, and some would be hurt. SFASU would lose around one million dollars.

PROVOST DR. RICK BERRY

Dr. Berry was absent.

INTERIM ASSISTANT PROVOST DR. MARY NELLE BRUNSON

Dr. Brunson discussed the following:

- Summer Offerings – She said to keep in mind that many are involved in creating the May semester. Students seem receptive.
- Assessment and Accountability – The changes in assessment and accountability will begin now because of SACS, but the changes are occurring nationwide. SFASU is gaining information from national organizations concerning assessment issues. The changes for SACS are ongoing.
- Questions:
 - Dr. Guidry asked if the chairs from the departments were talking about the May semester minimum enrollment of 15 not 10? Is that true?
 - Dr. Brunson said that the guideline for the May semester is 15 so that the faculty salary can be paid. It is not an absolute. You can hold classes with 10 for undergraduate and 5 for graduate, but it is not recommended.
 - Pool pass? – The word is that the pass issue will be decided before Spring Break.
 - Dr. Guidry asked how faculty was involved in the decisions for the summer offerings?
 - Dr. Brunson stated that the task force was composed of deans and others. The committee researched the possibility of changing the summer offerings. Deans went to chairs and discussed the possibilities. Faculty was involved through the chairs, the senate, students were surveyed, faculty was informed of the student survey, and faculty was given the opportunity to email the Provost office.
 - Senator Dunn commented concerning students living off campus. She stated that we may need to look at the process because we are now

losing students to community colleges because of our housing requirements. Dr. Brunson stated that this was a part of the housing study. Dr. Boatman asked if married housing was involved in the study? Dr. Brunson stated that she thought that it was in the study.

DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS DR. ADAM PECK

Dr. Peck discussed the following:

- He stated that he is new and is still in a listening mode. He wants to show us his priorities. He looks at resources and moving them to impact students. He is trying to find ways to engage students outside of the classroom. His priorities are:
 - Increased collaboration with faculty.
 - Creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue.
 - Developing student-learning outcomes.
 - Involving students in their co-curricular education.
 - Collaborating with the SFASU community to enrich first-year student experiences.
- He delivered a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the cognitive domains of student learning, why we integrate learning, and six attributes of high impact programs.
- He invited the Senate to participate in his endeavor to engage students outside of the classroom.
- Questions:
 - Senator Untiedt stated that he was interested in service learning. He wanted to know if there would be a central office for service learning. He stated that we need to write more student learning courses. Dr. Peck stated that he now has Student Life and Student Activities. He intends to pull interested faculty together to discuss this type of learning. He is interested in creating a data base of sites that are willing to engage in this type of conversation.
 - Chair Guidry reviewed that by the end of the summer there would be a web base of resources for students to access if they are interested in service learning. Dr. Peck said that a beginning to this site would be available by the end of the summer. He also said that he is working with some national data bases.
- Michael Preston came with Dr. Peck. He works with Dr. Peck in Student Affairs. He reviewed what is presently happening in this area at SFASU and how faculty can help make these experiences richer for students.

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY DR. MARK LUDORF

Dr. Ludorf discussed the following:

- He stated that Chair Guidry was doing an excellent job of representing the Faculty Senate at Regents' Board meetings.
- He reviewed Banner, SFASU's new administrative software system. The impact on faculty will be relatively marginal. The implementation will be a three-year project. First, the financial system will be put on the new system in fall 2009. Next, added will be the student related activities and admissions. Financial aide will then be added. The last to go onto the system in Human Resources. The

new system will allow us to do the administrative computing business more efficiently and effectively.

- The kick off will be on February 29 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm in the Student Center by Starbucks. He invited the Senate to attend.
- He stated that all functions that we now complete in P2V will ultimately move to Banner. He wants the faculty to know that many of the individuals involved in building Banner will not be as available as they are now. They will essentially be completing two jobs, what they do now and building Banner.
- The top three names sent to the executive committee for Banner are:
 - Connect
 - Synergy
 - Axxess

The name will be chosen soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Senator Boatman to approve the minutes from meeting #363. The motion was seconded by Senator Dunn . Minutes were approved as written.

Chair's Report

Chair Guidry discussed the following:

- By May, the Strategic Plan initiatives will be announced. Dr. Berry was very firm in saying that faculty salaries should be one of those initiatives. He will support that initiative.
- Richard Boyer, Regent, sent Chair Guidry an email stating that the faculty relationship is more solid now than was previously. Chair Guidry feels that all believe that SFASU needs to do something about the salary issue.
- Chair Guidry stated that we needed to be positive and supportive.
- He said that the president and provost work well with the Board. He believes that the Board will not impose items onto the administration but will follow the Strategic Plan.
- Senator Guidry asked if we could move one Board meeting to a Friday so that Regent members could attend. This was requested by a Board member. He will send out an email to all Senators confirming this change. The Board will be invited to address the Senate, and then, they may remain.

Vice-Chair Swearingen discussed the following:

- Vice-Chair Swearingen stated that Chair Guidry was doing a great job of showing how much faculty is doing. She said he is making a positive impact on the board.
- Senator Ballenger asked how the Regents reacted to not building the baseball complex. Vice-Chair Swearingen said that they accepted it well.

Senator Dalton stated that we have the same amount of money as we did the last month. No money was spent since the last meeting. He reported for Secretary Scifres.

Secretary Gresham – No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs: No report.

Administration and Finance: No report.

Communications: Senator Collier stated that the committee is considering ways to connect and support the Board. They are discussing a common event to connect the Senate and the Board. Chair Swearingen asked if the SFASU food services provider could support the event. Senator Boatman asked if we could consult the Pattillos to see if they would sponsor the event. She stated that the press box might be an appropriate site for the event. The event would be a tail gate on a Saturday. It was suggested that the event be on April 19. Discussion concerning the timing of the event, and the May Senate meeting continued. Chair Guidry said that we are talking about moving the Senate meeting in April to the 18th and holding the tailgate meeting on April 19th.

Elections: No report.

Faculty Government and Involvement: No report.

Professional Welfare: Senator Langford discussed teaching and work loads. The committee is looking at the issue as faculty recruitment and retention. Salary and workload are recruitment and retention issues. He stated that new workload policies would not be addressed at the same time as salary equity issues. He said that Dr. Berry told him that we would be looking at several years before both were addressed. He stated that his committee could be planning a work load policy to implement after salary equity is addressed. He reviewed why the work load policy would not be possible to implement at this time. He stated that faculty development might be a way that we could begin addressing this issue because reducing loads for faculty development, etc. is now in place. Some departments already have a split track (teaching and research). Presently, faculty with increased responsibility has reduced loads.

Senator Langford continued: Other options are a banking system. If you go over your load, you can bank your credits. Once you have banked three credits, you can ask for your load to be reduced. You would not be in control of when your load is reduced. Discussion continued. A concern with a dual track (teaching and research) would be that teaching is diluted. He said that we must have a plan that would not reduce our effectiveness as teachers. The big selling point would be that more and more institutions are moving to this versatility. He believes that this would help us to recruit more faculty. He believes that the quality of the students we produce relies on a stable, quality faculty. He proposes that we come up with a plan that is a stop-gap measure and that we begin to put together a sequential plan if we believe that we need a split track. The plan might take a three to four-year timeline. He believes that we need a crafted plan before we go forward.

Chair Guidry asked if we, the Senate, should work on a plan involving a banking system. Discussion continued. Chair Guidry asked if we should ask Senator Langford to write a resolution. Senator Langford asked to have more time for research and discussion. Then, he would put a proposal together. Chair Guidry stated that we would need to have the proposal together for voting in the April meeting. Senator Dunn asked if we would continue to look at other ways to solve this problem. Senator Langford said that this plan was to solve an immediate issue. He is in favor of working on a long-term plan.

Ethics: No report.

Strategic Planning: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: Chair Guidry said that the advising center idea to reward faculty is now off of the table. Colleges are working on this issue. College is coming up ways of assessing advising.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Guidry stated that the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee is to make recommendations for the handbook. We are to review it and see if it needs revision. He asked this committee to make recommendations in March.

Chair Guidry also stated that the Provost office asked us to review the FAR software. Some of the areas are not working. We are to report this to Institutional Research. He wants us to ask faculty what kind of problems they have encountered with FAR. Email these concerns to Chair Guidry.

Chair Guidry asked if we could do something to recognize the Board and other administrators for supporting us. The Senate approved the idea. It was suggested that we ask the art faculty to design an award that we present and continue this award for years to come.

A motion was made to adjourn at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Gresham
Secretary