

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Meeting #376  
May 6, 2009**

Subject to approval at the 378<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Senators present were: Norjuan Austin(2), Joe Ballenger (3), Sara Bishop (5), Vikki Boatman (6), Dennis Bradford (7), Leland Thompson for Erin Brown(8), Susan Clarke (9), Parliamentarian, Ken Collier (10); Carolyn Conn (11), Randi Cox (12), Secretary, Jeanie Gresham(13); Carol Harrison (14), David Howard (15), Keith Hubbard (16), Scott LaGraff (17), Chair-Elect, Kevin Langford(18); Cynthia McCarley (19), Perry Moon (20), Carl Pfaffenberg (21), Treasurer, Elton Scifres(22); Daniel Scognamillo (23), Chair, Sally Ann Swearingen(25); Ken Untiedt (26).

Excused: Kathleen Belanger (4) substitute attending for Senator Belander (Emmerentie Oliphant)

### **Agenda**

I. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Chair Swearingen at 2:30 pm.

II. Presentations:

Dr. Baker Pattillo – President: He announced that there is a new Dean of Forestry. Dr. Rogers will leave her Dean's position. The interim deal is the Associate Dean. There will be a national search. The Graduate Dean is Dr. Stanley. The Vice President of Development search is open again. Dr. Lewis wants to return to teaching. If the search is not successful, an outside search firm will be employed. The board voted to begin work on a new parking garage and residence hall. The tuition fee is set to increase by \$5.00 per hour. This will help with pay raises and additional costs. Regent committee assignments are assigned.

He said in Austin it is not popular to raise faculty salaries. He said that his responsibility is to the SFASU family. The state does not intend to give raises to state employees except for prison guards. The budget process will begin the last week in May. Then, he will know about salary increases. There will be additional costs with the new Elementary Education Research Center and the new nursing building. In Austin, the feeling is to freeze tuition rates. Also, it is being discussed to keep the freshmen fee the same throughout their career. Dr. Pattillo sees problems with this also. The Senate version is that tuition will not increase for than five percent per year. The House side is similar but it is a six percent increase per year. He hopes that he will know by May 14 what will happen from the state point of view. The House is slow to act this session. The gun bill has much support. It has not made it out of committee yet. It may die.

Graduation will be a week from Saturday. It will be the largest class in the history of the university.

He was in Washington, D.C. last week. He visited with our senators and representatives. The final event of the day was to visit with the superintendent of the Washington, D.C. school district. She is a graduate of SFASU.

Dr. Rick Berry – VP Academic Affairs: He said that they did have a good trip to Washington, D. C. The Regents acted on promotion and tenure. He said that over 30 SFASU individuals have just received their OIT certification this semester. He said that Dr. Pattillo congratulated the SFASU staff on their work with assessment to the Regents. Next week, we will have a site visit from the authorities that are looking at the Doctorate of School Psychology. This would be the third Doctoral degree on campus. The Early Childhood Research Center will open in July and the nursing building in January. The Early Childhood Lab will be split between the Department of Kinesiology and the School of Human Sciences. When nursing vacates their space, preprofessional programs, advising, and some math programs will move into that facility. The McKibben building plans are still in development. He said that this has been a good year, and we have met some challenges. He stated that he appreciated how the faculty meets the challenges.

Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson – Assistant Provost: She said that the first loop of the cycle is almost complete. We have had about 50 people go through TracDat training. There is one training left. Curriculum changes, course modifications, etc. must be approved in the April board meeting. There were over 400 course proposals. The process was explained to the Regents. There is good news from SACS; some programs have been approved for delivery in the fall. She thanked the Senate for their work this year.

### III. Officers' reports:

- A. Chair
  - Chair Swearingen stated that she had shared information with the Regents this year. She tried to highlight some programs, etc. emphasizing the personal touch that we provide to students. She shared her personal statement about her year as Senator and how hard faculty work and stresses they face. She also stated that the university administration is very supportive of faculty. She reviewed the work of the Senate this year. She thanked the Senate for supporting her.
- B. Chair-elect
  - No report. He said that he had enjoyed working with all of the Senators this year.
- C. Treasurer
  - Currently, \$2511.00 is in the account. About \$1841.00 has been spent and about \$105.00 is encumbered.
- D. Secretary
  - No report.

IV. Approval of minutes from Meeting #375 – Senator Boatman made a motion to approve the minutes, and Senator Harrison seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

V. Committees Report:

- A. Academic Affairs Committee – No report.
- B. Administration and Finance – No report.
- C. Elections / Constitution Committee – Senator Boatman said that tomorrow the voting will open concerning changes to the constitution. It will go from Wednesday to Wednesday.
- D. Faculty Government and Involvement – No report.
- E. Professional Welfare Committee – Senator Bishop said the resolution passed and was sent to Dr. Brunson.
- F. Communication Committee – No report.

VI. Old Business:

- Voting begins on May 7<sup>th</sup> for Senate constitution changes.

VII. New Business:

- Senator Austin expressed a concern that he noticed that in the library there is a different atmosphere. It said that it looks like it is getting out of control. He believes that something has to be done. Students do not feel safe in the library. There is music playing loudly. There are reports of underage drinking. Students report that it gets worse as the night goes on. Discussion continued as a way to assist the librarians. Senator Pfaffenberg suggested that a Senate committee be appointed to study this issue. Chair Swearingen will leave the issue for the next Senate to discuss.

VIII. Announcements:

- Welcome to the new senators – Chair Swearingen welcomed the new senators.
- Service awards – Chair Swearingen presented the service awards to: Senator Bishop, Senator LaGraff, Senator Howard, Senator Clark, Senator Belanger, Senator Stewart, Senator Collier, and Senator Boatman.
- Senator Gresham, Elton Scifres, Senator Austin, Senator Ballenger, Senator Moon, Senator LaGraff, and Senator Harrison for years of service.
- Chair-Elect Langford presented an award to Chair Swearingen.
- Chair Swearingen presented the gavel to the new Chair Langford.

IX. Adjournment.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm by Chair Swearingen.
- Pictures were taken, and there was a 10 minute recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Gresham  
Secretary