

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #417**  
**November 13, 2013**

**I. Call to order**

Dana Cooper called to order the regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate at 2:30 p.m. on November 13, 2013 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

**II. Attendees**

Deb Scott conducted attendance. The following persons were present: Norjuan Austin, Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Dana Cooper, Theresa Coble, Neal Cox, Ann Ellis, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Bob Henderson, Karen Embry Jenlink , Matthew Kwiatkowski, Matthew Lindsey, David McKemy, Karen Migl, Jannah Nerren, Mary Olle, Cindy Pressley, Violet Rogers, Deb Scott, Louise Stoehr, Jay Thornton, Gail Weatherly, Kimberly Welsh. The following persons were absent: Theresa Coble (conference), George Franks (ill, a substitute college representative was present: Milton Hill), Lora Jacobi (out of town), J.D. Salas, (recruiting, a substitute college representative was present: Herbert Midgley), and Greg Smith.

**III. Special Guest(s)**

- A. Chair Dana Cooper introduced State Senator Robert Nichols, District 3
1. In the last legislative session:
    - a) 1.2 billion was allocated to the transportation bill.
    - b) House Bill 5 fixed over-testing in public schools and changed the percentage blend of end of course grades to GPA. It also added more options for high school graduation requirements such as vocational tracks.
    - c) Teacher retirement was fixed
  2. Current issues include:
    - a) Education
    - b) Transportation-voting 12 months from now,
    - c) Water bill-2 billion dollars available for investment loans for new sources of water
    - d) Growth of the state--is approximately 1200 new persons daily. In Senate District 3 there are 860,000 people. (Every session our state has grown by 870, 000 people.) The new resources for these people: medical, water, etc. have to be provided during each session.
  3. The STEM bill for SFA has been filed for the last 3 sessions. There is a need for a tuition revenue bond. (Most do not pass alone for individual campuses.) This session was supposed to be a tuition revenue bond session for all. The Senate Bill passed. The House Bill passed, but there were differences. In these instances, what usually happens is five members of the house and senate try to find a compromise. In this instance, one person refused to have a conference committee. Someone tried to "play a game of chicken" for his/her special interest. Therefore, it never got back into special session.

4. Also in the last session, important to SFA, the Sunset Committee, which I am a member of, looked at 25-27 state agencies up for review of relevance. It abolished 5. The Interior Design license was up for sunset review. The chair decided he wanted to do away with the license. The vote to abolish it was lost by one vote. (It was retained.) He went with the will of the committee.

5. Looking forward, I expect the major issue to be infrastructure. The next session will be more unusual because all the major offices in the state will change. There will be different policy people.

6. Questions via Faculty:

a) Which five programs were abolished by the sunset committee?

Answer: Can't remember exactly, programs you have never heard of: Coastal coordinating committee, Equine research, Wastewater research.

b) What is the ten year economic outlook for college/universities? Answer: Great. Our state encourages businesses. They have got to have an educated workforce. We need to shore up and modify. Financially, we came back faster than any other state. Our number one issue is education (public and higher). We've got to train teachers, doctors, nurses, and engineers.

c) What is the possibility of increasing state support for the universities? Answer: The tuition deregulation affected that. However, Medicaid costs are growing to the extent that it is pushing other things out of our budget. Health and human services currently takes 89% of the budget.

d) Regarding the Energy and Railroad Commission--will we change the name? Answer: I carried the bill. The senate passed it, and the house did not. The commissioners collect campaign funding from the industries they regulate. I believe this is wrong and we should restrict contributions. The commissioners fought the bill.

e) Regarding the new transportation bill, does it include I-69? Answer: It's for all roads in the state, so yes, some will fund I-69. The fuel tax has not kept up with inflation.

#### **IV. Presentations**

A. Chair Dana Cooper introduced Dr. Ric Berry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

1. Dr. Brunson is out of town.

2. Vincent Tinto had a lot of good things to say about SFA. I was reminded about all the good things that faculty are doing.

3. The new core has been finalized. The assessment process is close.

We are still tweaking a few loose ends. For instance, if the course isn't listed in the "pull down menu", we have to figure out how to list it. Assessment of the core component (communication component) is trying to get settled.

4. Strategic planning is being finalized for presentation to the board in January.

The findings of the market research will be presented as well. Visualize where we want to be in 2020. We should be done Jan. 15. We are still being guided by the standing mission statement.

5. A budgetary analysis has begun to see about salary increases next year. It is exploring reallocation of funds on campus and the possibility of raising tuition, although there is not widespread support for this. Fall 2014 tuition will offer a set rate for four years (different rate for those who choose it than the current rate). What else can we do to raise salaries? Working toward substantial increases in salaries.

B. Provost Berry introduced John Calahan, Space Scheduling and Utilization Coordinator. This new position has been budgeted for two years and recently filled. Colonel Calahan grew up in

Nacogdoches. He received a degree from Texas A&M where he was involved in ROTC. His career was in the military as a lieutenant colonel; he served in the U.S. and Iraq. Upon retirement, he moved to Nacogdoches. His father worked here and established the ROTC.

1. On October 12, a report is printed to see a complete listing of every section and the room where it is taught. It goes to the Coordinating Board and the state. Every room on campus is inventoried with the state. They calculate: the percent of fill and utilization. This greatly affects the likelihood of new building construction on campus such as a new Science building and new performing arts theater. Consultants a few years ago, determined that we have an overage. Our current inventory is okay for 14,000 students. (I am discussing only the educational space.) We are not creating a classroom passing score which is hurting us. Tues/Thur classes at eleven are busiest. We only use 120 classrooms. Thirty-three are vacant. Our lightest load is Friday at nine a.m. It has 77 vacant classrooms. We average 25 hours/week/classroom. The state goal is 38 hours/week. Schedules are quite different by college. There is some conflict. College budgets buy equipment they don't want other colleges to use. Lecture type teaching is taught in offices and meeting rooms. We can increase our utilization by streamlining and scheduling better. If you need space or a change, contact me. There is a lot of space available. I will oversee the software that will help with scheduling. Three are being considered. Academic Affairs will control the majority of classrooms to make sure they are used as much as possible. Dr. Berry would like some centralized money allocated for classroom equipment across campus.

2. Therefore, I'm planning to reduce the classroom inventory by thirty classrooms. (I am not touching the labs.) In the next nine months, we will start renovating those thirty classrooms to enhance spaces. I plan to enhance departmental spaces with things like research labs, privacy spaces (nursing, migraine headaches). Contact him with unique space needs.

## **V. Officers' Reports**

A. Chair Dana Cooper

B. Chair-Elect Jannah Nerren

1. TCFS meeting in Austin, 10/25-10/26, made us appreciative of SFA's Faculty Senate involvement compared to other institutions.

C. Secretary Deb Scott

1. No report.

D. Treasurer Matthew Lindsey

1. Don't understand why the balance changed in our account so dramatically. I will be checking into this. Starting Balance was \$8,585.90. YTD expenses, \$2688.91. Balance, \$5,896.99. Expenses include \$600 dues for Texas University Senate Organization. Other expenses are aggregated and at this point are not able to separate the expenses.

## **VI. Approval of minutes from Meeting #416**

Secretary Scott submitted the minutes from meeting 416. Senator Welsh moved that the minutes from meeting 416 be approved. Senator Cecil seconded the motion. Motion carried

## **VII. Committee Reports**

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs, Chair Cooper
2. Core Curriculum Assessment, Senator Rodgers
  - a. An action plan is a must.
3. Distance Education, Senator Cecil
  - a. Policy D20A (old Number) are reviewing
4. Graduate Council, Chair Elect Nerren
  - a. Reviews graduate curriculum (have gone on-line)

5. Policy Committee, Senator Henderson
  - a. Policies are being reviewed and slimmed when possible.
- B. Internal Committees:
  1. Academic Affairs, Chair-elect Nerren
    - a. MOOC's investigation continues. Janet Kamps from OIT met with the committee and provided much insight. The committee is discussing the possibility of utilizing free materials from MOOCs in SFA courses, as well as other positive ways for SFA to use MOOCs
  2. Administration and Finance, Senator Embry Jenlink
    - a. Faculty senate coffees started with fourteen. The last one had one in attendance. Maybe we will change to just once a month, first Fridays. Reminder to E-mail dept/college about it.
  3. Communications, Senator Migl
    - a. No report
  4. Elections, Senator Olle
    - a. No report
  5. Ethics, Senator Cecil
    - a. Have researched the smoking and tobacco use in Texas. There is no law that requires us to be smoke-free or tobacco free. The committee research recommends that the Faculty Senate does not support the smoke-free policy.
  6. Faculty Government and Involvement, Secretary Scott
    - a. No report
  7. Professional Welfare, Senator Rogers
    - a. No report
- C. Other
  1. Prof. Educators Council, Chair-Elect Nerren
    - a. The Council met and discussed a realignment of staff and staff positions in the College of Education, changes in teacher certification testing from TEA.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

- A. Lack of funding for program external review –Chair Dana.
- B.
  1. Regarding the money which would provide funding for external program reviewers, Dr. Berry would like to know the amount we are asking for. Discussion ensued.

#### **IX. New Business**

- A. SFA pursuing a fall break.
  1. Discussion ensued. The general consensus was not to pursue.
- B. Moving Packet.
  1. Chamber of Commerce does this.
- C. Should we alternate the time of the college graduations?
  1. Discussion ensued. The general consensus was yes.
- D. Senators Pressley and Cecil have put together Anti-Bullying initiative. The feedback indicates that approximately 30% of students/faculty have witnessed or experienced bullying. Bully Film on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9 p.m. This effort is sponsored by several university organizations.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Senator Pressley moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:02 pm. Senator Bridwell seconded.