

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #429**  
**March 11, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink called to order the regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate at 2:40 p.m. on March 11, 2015 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

**II. Attendees**

Secretary Tammy Harris conducted attendance. The following individuals were present: Norjuan Austin, Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Erica Chapman, Dorothy Gotshall, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Janice Hensarling, I-Kuai Hung, Karen Embry Jenlink, Robin Johnson, Stephen Kosovich, David McKemy, Bradley Meyer, Mary Olle, Kefa Onchoke, Karen Price, Violet Rogers, J.D. Salas, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Kimberly Welsh. Absent (excused): Charlotte Allen, Carlos Cuadra, Matthew Kwiatkowski, Louise Stoehr, Johanna Warwick.

**III. Presentations**

**A. Dr. Pattillo:** No presentation

**B. Dr. Ric Berry:**

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Work continues on the preliminary strategic plan which will be ready to present to the Board of Regents at their April meeting. Presentation of the final plan will be presented to the Board at the July meeting.

Dr. Berry entertained questions from Faculty Senate members.

A question was asked about how clinical instructors would meet the research expectations listed in the work load policy. It was explained that clinical instructors are not held to the same expectations of research as tenured and tenure track faculty.

Another question was asked why some practicum courses were given preferential treatment regarding teaching load credit (TLC) over independent study courses when they seem to be the same. Dr. Berry explained that these two types of courses are not the same. Practicum courses require student supervision by the faculty with one on one supervision being a frequent occurrence. Independent study courses did not require this level of supervision by the faculty.

The next question focused on whether faculty who supervise student thesis and dissertation work would receive additional compensation. Dr. Berry referred faculty to the work load policy. Additional compensation

can be requested by department/division chair for teaching overloads. The final question focused on how administrative and advising roles would be accounted for in work load expectation. Dr. Berry explained that student advising is not considered part of the work load allocation. Deans and department chairs can propose a reduction in teaching load for faculty who served in other administrative type roles.

**Core Curriculum Evaluation Questions:**

The question was asked if merit pay was tied to the outcome of student participation in the core curriculum assessment. Dr. Berry explained that overall administration was very pleased with the initial participation by students in the core curriculum assessment however, improvements would continue to be sought. The only time student participation might be reflected in faculty merit pay would be if the faculty were identified to be purposefully working against this assessment process.

The next question focused on how the core curriculum data affected SFA at a state level. Dr. Berry explained that it will be used for accreditation purposes.

The final question regarded administration's support of faculty requiring completion of Live Text assignments for a grade. Dr. Berry described the administration's support of academic freedom and explained that this would be considered an individual faculty choice to use this as a graded assignment.

**C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson: Student Success Initiative**

"Grades First" was integrated into our current platform at the beginning of March. This web-based student performance monitoring system provides automated student services and communication between faculty, academic advisors, etc. in an effort to better support students and track success and problem areas. We will serve as an Alpha Partner for this student enablement application. Approximately 140-150 students were initially signed up for this application. Dr. Brunson provided a hand out with more detailed information regarding this project.

Senator Rogers asked about the scheduling piece to this application. Dr. Brunson believes this component will be added later this fall.

**D. Danny Gallant:** Shared a budget review in relation to the results from the Peer Comparison Project. He explained that credit hours is what drives revenue. SFA's credit hours have remained stagnant for at least the last 10 years. He further discussed the fact that there had been a significant increase in tuition exemption programs which were not funded by the government. However, in spite of these challenges, administration and the Board of Regents have been committed to

supporting faculty salary increases. Over that same time period, faculty salaries increased 56%. Mr. Gallant agreed to share his PowerPoint presentation with more detailed information. This will be added to the Faculty Senate website.

#### **IV. Officer Reports:**

**Chair Embry-Jenlink:** The Chair and Chair-Elect recently attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS). They found the meeting very informative. One of the top concerns during this legislative session for colleges and universities is discussion of HB 700 – open carry bill. SFA’s Faculty Senate approved a resolution opposing this bill earlier this academic year. Senator Nichols and Representative Clardy, jointly filed Senate Bill SB 275 and House Bill 602, which would authorize a tuition-backed revenue bond to fund the STEM building at SFA.

Work has been done on the Faculty Senate website to include updated Senate roster and committee assignments. Pictures are needed of new senators for the website. The site will continue to be updated as changes occur and more information is collected. Newsletter is being planned and will be forth coming. Needs assessment results were shared with senators via handout. Request was made for a visitor sign in for future Senate meetings.

**Chair-Elect Austin:** Attended session at the TCFS on topic of bullying on university campuses. Many campuses are identifying this as an issue and discussion focused on defining bullying and developing a reporting process. He also reported that SFA was well represented as Dr. Dana Cooper is the State President this year for the TCFS.

**Secretary Harris:** Harris reminded senators to sign attendance sheet. Name plates for Senators are in the process of being ordered.

**Treasurer Bray:** Bray reported a previous balance of \$3,701.85 with expenditures over the last month amounting to \$809.05. Expenses included travel to Austin for Chair and Chair Elect for purpose of attending the TCFS meeting.

Account balance for March 11, 2015 is \$2,892.80.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Embry-Jenlink requested approval of minutes from Meeting #428. Senator Bray moved that the minutes from meeting #428 be approved and was seconded by Senator Rogers; the motion carried.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

**A. External (University) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: No report.
2. Core Curriculum Assessment: No report.
3. Distance Education: Senator Cecil reported that survey was complete and they are currently looking at data. Presentation of results may be expected at the April or May Senate meeting.
4. Graduate Council: Chair Embry-Jenlink reported that the graduate level course and program proposals were reviewed by the Curriculum committee and will be presented at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Regents meeting.
5. Policy: Senators Johnson & Taaffe reported that policies regarding post tenure review, tenure and merit pay were still being reviewed. There is an uncertainty if these policies will be presented to the Faculty Senate for input.

**B. Internal (FS) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Senator Harris reported information is being compiled related to release time and its relationship to FAR expectations. Final report will be presented at the April or May senate meeting.
2. Administration & Finance: Faculty Senate multi-purpose room is almost finished and unveiling should take place in July.
3. Communications: Senator Chapman and committee continue to look into options for live streaming. There may be an option to share a live streaming account with the Music Department.
4. Elections: Senator Olle announced that elections for next year's senators was approaching. Email will go out to colleges with a deadline of March 22 for nominations. Voting will take place between April 1 and 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Senators needed are:
  - College of Business–1
  - College of Education – 3
  - College of Liberal and Applied Arts – 2
  - College of Science and Mathematics – 1
  - College of Fine Arts – 0
  - College of Forestry – 0
  - Library – 0,
  - Adjunct Faculty – 2
5. Ethics: Senator Cecil provided handout on information concerning a proposal for an ombudsman position at SFA.
6. Faculty Government & Involvement: Senator Austin is requesting feedback on policy #7.13 regarding faculty workload. He will also be requesting clarification of this policy from Dr. Berry.

7. Professional Welfare: Senator Salas reported that the committee has been working on Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award and Survival Guide for new faculty.

**VII. Old Business** – None reported

**VIII. New Business**

**Data Resource Team:** Senator Chapman announced that a new committee had been put together that would be looking at eliminating the duplication of data collection and the creation of a single access site for collected data.

**IX. Adjournment**

Senator Bridwell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:35 p.m. Senator Rogers seconded, motion carried.

