

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Meeting #431
May 6, 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 2:35 p.m. on May 6, 2015 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

II. Attendees

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

III. Presentations

A. Dr. Pattillo:

Provided an update on university appointments and upcoming changes. New Dean of Business has been named: Dr. Timothy Bisping.

SFA will begin search for new Ladyjack basketball coach. Ladyjack basketball head coach Brandon Schneider resigned recently to accept a head coaching position at Kansas.

Three Board of Regents members tenure is due to expire (Dr. Scott Coleman, Mr. Steve McCarty & Ms. Connie Ware. We are waiting for The Governor's office to notify SFA of new appointments. There is a possibility that either Dr. Scott Coleman or Mr. Steve McCarty may be reappointed for another term.

Graduation is scheduled for May 16th. This is the largest graduation in SFA's history with 1,400 students slated to graduate. Lieutenant Colonel David Miller, Chair of the Military Science program at SFA will be this year's graduation speaker. He is leaving SFA to assume a position in London, England.

Legislative Update: The Texas Legislative session is about to come to a close. The tuition & revenue bond is still pending. Original request was for 58 million but after cuts SFA is expecting around 46 million to be funded. Also requested was the possibility of an athletic fee. This fee must be approved by the legislature but then voted on by students. The

fee would be used for needed renovations of athletic field houses, Johnson Coliseum, etc.

The open carry and concealed handgun bills are still being considered. It appears that one or maybe both will be passed.

Another bill under consideration is related to tuition and performance based funding. If an institution can meet 6 out of 11 requirements, then tuition could be raised to a level higher than the rate of inflation up to 3%. As soon as SFA is notified of funding from the Texas Legislature, Danny Gallant will begin work on the budget. It is uncertain if faculty salary increases will be possible as the university will need to pick up 3 million in benefits.

The Strategic Plan is moving along and should be ready for approval within the next 6 months. The President and Board of Regents are discussing the possibility of a tobacco free campus with a target date of fall 2016. It has been found that some grant funding is tied to tobacco use on campus.

- B. Dr. Ric Berry:** Thanked the Senators for their service and felt much had been accomplished across the university during the past academic year. The Undergraduate Research and Bright Ideas Conferences were huge successes.

Search continues for Chairs for the Geology and Nursing departments. SFA will host a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow - Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley, in the coming year. He served as the National Park Service chief historian.

Dr. Berry is anxious to hear the presentation on the Ombudsman position and looks forward to working with the Senate in regard to this issue.

- C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson:** No report
- D. Meredith Baily – Information Technology Services:** Shared a presentation highlighting the new changes for My SFA.

IV. Officer Reports:

Chair Embry-Jenlink: Listed highlights of accomplishments from the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year:

- 1.** Passed 4 resolutions in line with the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. They focused on the following issues: Opposition of open or concealed carry handgun on campus legislation, Support of funding for the Hazelwood Legacy program, Texas Education Opportunity Grant and increased funding for higher education.
- 2.** The Peer Comparison Project was completed with results being presented to the Senate, SFA Administration, The Board of Regents and SFA faculty. Huge thanks to Dr. Henderson for all his hard work.
- 3.** Work is nearing completion on the Faculty Senate meeting space with plans for a summer opening and will be available for use fall 2015.

4. The Faculty Senate has been involved in many issues and policies including: the university strategic plan, workload policy, ombudsman position proposal, etc.

Chair-Elect Austin: No report

Secretary Harris: Harris reminded senators and visitors to sign the attendance sheet.

Treasurer Bray: Bray reported a previous balance of \$2,741.62 with expenditures over the last month amounting to \$1,015.47. Expenses included purchase of furniture for Faculty Senate office space.

Account balance as of May 6, 2015 is \$1,726.15.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Embry-Jenlink requested approval of minutes from Meeting #430. Senator Meyer moved that the minutes from meeting #430 be approved and was seconded by Senator Bray, motion carried.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. **External (University) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Committee met and reviewed policy on tenure, promotion and post tenure review.
2. Core Curriculum Assessment: Senator Kwiatkowski reported that the committee is reviewing the assessment report.
3. Distance Education: Senator Cecil shared executive summary and preliminary analysis on policy and procedures questionnaire. Dr. Randy McDonald is also requesting Senate time for presentation during the next academic year.
4. Graduate Council: Chair Embry-Jenlink reported that the Graduate council completed its review of all proposals for additions, deletion, or modifications to the Graduate Curriculum.
5. Policy: Senator Taaffe reported that policy regarding tenure, promotion and post tenure review had been forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee for review.

B. **Internal (FS) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Completed a review of workload policies and reassigned time at other selected universities. Findings were shared with the Provost.
2. Administration & Finance: Senator Bridwell reported that Senate office space is near completion.
3. Communications: Senator Chapman and committee are working securing equipment for live streaming of Senate meetings next year.

4. Elections: Senator Olle announced that new Senators will be introduced later in the meeting. Senate openings in Business, Education and Adjuncts will be filled at the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year.
5. Ethics: Ombuds proposal is completed. (See Old Business.)
6. Faculty Government & Involvement: No report.
7. Professional Welfare: James Faucett was selected and named the Outstanding Adjunct for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Faucett accepted the award at the annual Teaching Excellence Award ceremony.

VII. Old Business:

- A. **Ombuds Proposal:** Senator Cecil presented proposal for ombudsman position at SFA. Motion was made by Senator Cecil to forward proposal to the Provost for consideration, motion seconded by Senator Bridwell. Motion carried with 23 Senators supporting proposal, 0 against and 0 abstaining.
- B. **Recognition:** Chair Embry-Jenlink recognized outgoing Senators and presented them with a Lumberjack ax handle with their years of service on the Senate. Dr. Henderson was also recognized for his work on the Peer Comparison Project and presented with an ax handle.

VIII. New Business: Chair Embry-Jenlink welcomed and introduced incoming Senators. Orientation folders were distributed to all members. Senators were encouraged to review Senate committees and submit requests to the Chair. The Senate is already receiving requests from administration for input and projects for the coming academic year.

IX. Adjournment

Senator Hendricks moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m. Senator Brewer seconded, motion carried.

