



Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
#434  
November 11, 2015



### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on November 11, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201. It was presided over by Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink.

### Attendance

Voting Senators in attendance: Kenneth Austin, Joey Bray, Lauren Brewer, Erica Chapman, Sharon Eaves, Karen Embry-Jenlink, Tammy Harris, Stacy Hendricks, Janice Hensarling, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Kyle Jones, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, Matt Kwiatkowski (proxy for Dennis Gravatt), David McKemy, Herbert Midgley (proxy for Bradley Meyer), Olga Minich, Perry Moon (proxy for Carlos Cuadra), Kefa Onchoke, J. D. Salas, Paul Sandul, Le'Ann Solmonson, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Kimberly Welsh, Malcolm Todd Whitehead

Senators not in attendance: Carlos Cuadra, Bradley Meyer, Dennis Gravatt, Karen Price

### II. Recognition of Veterans

### III. Presentations

**A. Dr. Baker Pattillo, University President:** Provided update from the recent Board of Regents' meeting. A Provost search committee has been appointed and will be chaired by Dr. Steve Westbrook. Dr. Keaten Grubbs has been appointed Chair of the Campus Carry Committee. Open Carry law does not pertain to Higher Education, Concealed Carry SB 11 is the law that pertains to Higher Education and goes into effect August 1, 2016. Time was allowed for questions.

**B. Dr. Steven Bullard, Interim Provost:** Presented the Strategic Plan, SFA Envisioned. Questioned will be solicited via e-mail.

**C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost:** Provided an overview of the Higher Education Strategic Plan, 60x30TX.

**D. Dr. Karen Migl and Dr. Sara Bishop:** The program is asking the Faculty Senate to endorse a proposal to reduce the number of residency hours for the RN to BSN students from 42 hours to 30 hours in order to increase enrollment and graduation rates. Time was allowed for questions.

Louise Stoehr moved that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposal to reduce the number of residency hours for the RN to BSN students from 42 hours to 30 hours in order to increase enrollment and graduation rates, Tammy Harris seconded. No further discussion. Motion was approved unanimously to endorse the proposal to reduce the number of residency hours for the RN to BSN students from 42 hours to 30 hours in order to increase enrollment and graduation rates.



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#### IV. Approval of Minutes

Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink requested approval of the minutes from Meeting #433. Le'Ann Solmonson moved that the minutes from meeting #433 be approved as corrected, Joey Bray seconded. No discussion; motion carried to accept Minutes #433 as corrected.

#### V. Officer Reports

##### A. Chair Dr. Karen Embry-Jenlink:

1. **Election:** Offered appreciation to those who serve on the Elections committee. ~~Another election will need to be held for Karen Price who has three unexcused absences.~~ *"If a member has three unexcused absences or does not authorize a substitute during his/ her term of office, the right of membership on the Faculty Senate is automatically forfeited for the remainder of the unexpired term"* (Constitution of the Faculty Senate, Article IV, Section 4).
2. **Texas Council of Faculty Senates:** Karen Embry-Jenlink and J. D. Salas attended this meeting last month.
3. **SFA Envision:** Karen Embry-Jenlink is serving on the committee for Attracting High Quality Faculty and Staff.
4. **Board of Regents:** Karen Embry-Jenlink addressed the BOR at the last minute and the presentation is archived on the Faculty Senate webpage.
5. **Wellness Advisory Board:** Karen Embry-Jenlink and J. D. Salas are both serving on this committee.
6. **Website:** This is an ongoing document. Please send any updates to Karen Embry-Jenlink as needed.

##### B. Chair-Elect Dr. J. D. Salas:

1. **Texas Council of Faculty Senates:** J. D. Salas expressed appreciation that the Faculty Senate is being approached for representation on different committees.
2. **Campus Concealed Carry Committee:** J. D. Salas has been appointed to this committee.

**C. Secretary Dr. Kimberly Welsh:** Kimberly Welsh welcomed visitors and reminded Senators to please sign in.

**D. Treasurer Dr. Joey Bray:** Faculty Senate had a previous balance from October of \$4,918.36. Total expenditures from October were \$1,138.73, in travel expenses for Karen Embry-Jenlink and J. D. Salas to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senate annual meeting. Account balance as of November 11, 2015 is \$3,779.63.

#### VI. Committee Reports

##### A. External (University) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** Karen Embry-Jenlink reported that the Deans and Directors met today. The Strategic Plan was presented, and an endorsement to reduce the number of residency hours for the RN to BSN students was given.



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- b. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** Ken Austin stated that there was no new information at this time to report.
  - c. **Distance Education:** Le'Ann Solmonson reported the committee has solicited for focus groups.
  - d. **Graduate Council:** J.D. Salas reported that the council has met one time and will be meeting a second time soon. Three goals have been developed.
  - e. **Policy:** Ginger Kelso reported that feedback has been received from Faculty Senate and three policies have been re-reviewed and edited. The revised policies will now go to Dean's Council and back to the BOR.
- B. Internal (FS) Committees**
- a. **Academic Affairs:** Louise Stoehr reported that the committee and faculty met with Dr. Bullard and Dr. Brunson regarding Core Curriculum assessment. Faculty was assured that they would continue to be involved in discussions regarding assessment and suggestions for improvement was solicited.
  - b. **Administration and Finance:** Joey Bray reported that the committee met last week and minutes were provided to the Senate. A task force with John Callahan, Space Scheduling and Utilization Coordinator, has been established to address the implementation of space utilization and scheduling software at SFA.
  - c. **Communications:** Erica Chapman reported that the meeting is live online with an approximate four-minute delay.
  - d. **Elections:** Jay Thornton reported that the committee met today to ensure that representation is allotted correctly for each college and department.
  - e. **Ethics:** Stephen Kosovich reported on the Non Discrimination policy. They are seeking some historical context regarding this policy.
  - f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Lauren Brewer reported that they have been reviewing the Faculty Handbook for any needed updates.
  - g. **Professional Welfare:** J.D. Salas reported that feedback to the Policy Committee was submitted and accepted. The committee will also be working on the adjunct-faculty teaching award in the upcoming months.
  - h. **Strategic Planning:** J.D. Salas reported that the Senate was attempting to have a Senate Forum for the purpose of open dialogue for faculty and staff with Senators.

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Other:**

- A. Karen Embry-Jenlink asked that Senators send their ID numbers to her for access to our Faculty Senate room in McGee 483 in the Rusche College of Business.
- B. Karen Embry-Jenlink urged Senators to share what is discussed in the Senate with their department and colleagues.
- C. Karen Embry-Jenlink thanked everyone for their work on committees and within the Senate.

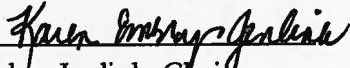
**IX. Adjournment**

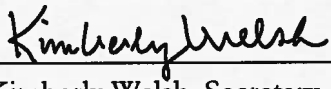


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Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

  
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Karen Embry-Jenlink, Chair

  
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Kimberly Welsh, Secretary