Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #469  
Wednesday, October 14  
Zoom Meeting  
2:30pm

I. Call to order time: 2:30 CST 
Attending Senators: Adams, James; Bailey-Wallace, Kristin; Bishop, Sara; Cegelka, Derek; Cooper, Dana; Cooper, Steve; Drake, Sarah; Gooch, Donald; Greule, Al; Han Xiaozhen, Jenny; Harden, Gina; Joubert, Dustin; Klein, Michelle; Lannen, Andrew; Leysath, Margaret; Majs, Franta; McDonald Darrel; McKenna Chris; Midgley, Herbert; Mitchell, Jonathan; Ogale, Pushkar; Olson Beal, Heather; Oswald, Tina; Patterson, Gretchen; Rogers, Laurie; Rogers, Pamela; Sizemore, Diane; Straub, Sarah; Turner, Chris; Uriegas, Brian; Zhang, Yanli

Absent Senators/Proxy: Christina Guenther- Proxy Michael Murphy

II. Presentations
A. Dr. Scott Gordon, President
   a. Update on enrollment
   b. Plan for Fall
      i. Impact on Auxiliaries
   c. Alleged Incident
      i. Thank you for the Resolution FS passed
      ii. 360 review of policies procedures and practices of communications, see where the holes and issues are
   d. Three Significant searches
      i. Provost and Executive VP
      ii. VP for Student Affairs
      iii. Chief Marketing, Branding and Communications Officer

QUESTIONS:
? Rumor that we are looking at a 50% reduction in FTE. A: No. Faculty is the heart of the institution. We are going to have to reallocate positions. Non-growing programs may lose positions and put into growing programs.
? Clarification on reporting line for Chief Marketing Officer A: Position will answer to President of university.
? Why there is tailgating at the SFA football games… Doesn’t think this is COVID sensitive. A: Athletics discussed… worked with FCAA to come up with guiding practices at the tailgating. If not following guidelines, let SFA know.
? Will those departments who are growing and who have retirements be able to fill those spots. A: Yes, we will have one database from BANNER to be able to start looking at trending data to see where the needs are.
? What is the latest with the SWAT incident: A: It is an alleged incident; we do have restrictions on what we can reveal; the one party didn’t think we were moving fast
enough; other parties thought we were moving too fast…we are in the middle….all of the information that our detectives have gathered is at the DA office.

? Calendar updates: why have Calendar changes been made but not communicated in a clear and timely manner. A: Gordon-This is news to me. Bullard-We are starting early. Thanksgiving must be a rumor.

? The calendar currently says 3 days for Thanksgiving 2021…A: We are not aware of that either (Bullard and Gordon).

? Calendar committee is working now? A: Yes. Bullard-not aware of any conscious decision to make changes to Thanksgiving. Gordon-calendar needs a major overhaul.

? We usually do 15 week semesters…are we going to 16 week semesters? A: We need to ask Marc Guidry to call in and respond to these questions. Guidry-these calendar changes were put in place in response to the emergency process; shared with deans, chairs, cabinet; changes were made to arrange for 6 8-week semesters as we were charged with. [Gordon, Bullard and Guidry discuss calendar and communication issues]. Lannen-please let faculty know when final calendar is made.

B. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA
   a. Looking at a creative way to restructure academic programs
C. Erma Brecht, Executive Director of Enrollment Management
   a. Fall enrollment higher than predicted
   b. How the test-optional practice is going
      i. Challenges due to COVID; tests sites not being offered and/or limited
      ii. 2021 term test optional; how are we evaluating?
         1. Top 10% of HS graduate test score is not required; expanded that to top 11-25% of HS graduates
         2. Not top 25% - file review holds heavier weight ie rigor; curriculum type; community involvement aligned with career path; activities
D. ? Changes made in top 25% no test required are permanent. A: Yes for 2021; possible after review for longer term.
E. ? Acceptance rate 2019- 67.9%  2020 78.10%
F. ? Are we expecting to see any change in the academic preparedness of the student as a result of this lowering of testing requirements? A: All academic institutions have had to make changes due to COVID i.e. online/distance learning deliveries. I think we will see students whose prep will be different. We expect to see inconsistencies in their preparedness based upon their experiences during COVID.

III. Break 3:37pm-3:42pm

IV. Replacement Senator from LAA
   A. Scott Drury has resigned
   B. Daryl McDonald will be Chair of Ethics Committee
   C. Replacement Senator
      1. Nominated: Dana Cooper
      2. Sarah Straub – second
      3. Dana Cooper elected by acclamation

V. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #468 & Special Session
A. #468- changes recommended? No; motion to accept: Straub; second Harden
B. Special Session-changes recommended? Change to “students or faculty of color”; Motion to accept: Senator Oswald; second Senator McKenna.

VI. Officer Reports
A. Chair – Dr. Andrew Lannen
   a. FS officers met with search firm for Provost
   b. Attended the first Nat’l Council of Faculty Senates
      i. Faculty keep track of extra hours spent due to COVID helps with review
   c. Operations team
      i. Looking at COVID reports on SFA portal. Over time, the numbers have remained low and stable in the area.
   d. Question sent to board
      i. In March 2020, emergency powers were issued; what criteria used to restore operations?
         1. Once board and President Gordon are in agreement that emergency conditions are no longer prevailing. Not a concrete date; depending upon environment.
      ii. Will any Emergency powers changes be permanent?
         1. Unless the board takes actions to ratify a policy change, policies will revert back to prior to emergency status.

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Brian Uriegas
   a. Lumberjack Innovation team-made recommendations and will be sending those out to colleges: calendar year. Will make sure the calendar committee and university calendar committee are in agreement and that communications are clear.

C. Secretary – Dr. Laurie Rogers
   a. Regarding taking Senator roll_ I am using the Report function in Zoom, hence not requesting that you ‘sign in’ using Chat or some other function.

D. Treasurer – Dr. Sarah Straub
   a. No change

VII. Committee Reports
A. External (University) Committees
   a. Academic Affairs Council (Lannen)
      a. Navigate software –Training sessions are helpful
   b. Core Curriculum Assessment Committee (Gooch)
      a. Not met
   c. Distance Education (Cegelka, Harden, McDonald, Weaver)
      a. Meeting on the 20th of Oct
   d. Graduate Council (Uriegas)
      a. Changes to graduate admissions
         i. Notifications to department via email
      b. Graduate office now requires only final transcript of undergraduate degree
c. Policy of 2.8 final 60 hours changed. No longer required. The program can require.
d. Program approval and reviews are up this year along with curriculog training and changes are going on now.
e. Policy (Gooch, Drake)
a. Textbook submissions should be aligned with all of the new semester schedules? No change on this question for now.

B. Internal (FS) Committees
a. Academic Affairs (Turner)
i. We were charged with two topics
ii. We have met and discussed
   A. Policy of other universities student observation of holidays. Should we consider a policy.
      a. Office of Multicultural Affairs being consulted and info gathering phase.
   B. How the FS could ensure changes in the curriculum are driven by the faculty rather than administrative pressures.
      a. Meeting resulted in these ideas:
         i. New position on university president cabinet and be filled by FS Chair.
         ii. New position carry same rights and responsibilities as other cabinet members.
         iii. New position recommend individuals to be placed on standing committees and created committee which deal with curriculum, execution and management of that curriculum.
      b. Proposed actions driven from desire to assist the president and his publicly stated vision of SFA being faculty driven.
      c. …And a desire to improve and streamline communications concerning curriculum and faculty; establishing a direct line of communication.
   C. Document drawn up by Academic Affairs FS subcommittee– put on Agenda for next FS meeting as New Business- a draft resolution
      ?Question-does the committee have an idea what those set of committees could be which the recommended faculty would be on? A-Senate chair would recommend what and who. Basically any committee which does not have faculty rep. Faculty Senator Recommendation- have an idea/list of those committees which do have missing faculty representation when final resolution is presented to Cabinet.

b. Administration and Finance (Harden)
i. How to make Budget decisions more transparent- gave follow-up questions to Dr. Gallant in Feb/March, so are resubmitting follow-up questions.
c. Communications (Greule)
   i. No report

d. Elections (P. Rogers)
   i. Look at data from HR by faculty category and counting senate seats – adjusting FS needs in Spring.

e. Ethics (McDonald)
   i. No report

f. Faculty Government and Involvement (Cegelka)
   i. Not met

g. Professional Welfare (Joubert)
   i. Draft resolution sent out

h. Strategic Planning (Uriegas)
   i. Policies aligning with strategic plan of University – some areas are already being looked at by FS committees
   ii. The supporting goal of building connections- what are we doing to connect with industry which could result into internships and other experiential learning options.

VIII. Professional Welfare - Statement on faculty with children and caregivers
   A. Resolution shared with FS.
   B. Points D and F updated
   C. Move to adopt: Senator McKenna second Senator Olson Beal

IX. Intellectual Property Ad Hoc Report and Suggested Actions
   A. Implications due to COVID 19
      1. Document shared on screen:
         a. do nothing- “we have bigger fish to fry”
         b. go big-could push for compensation and clarification re online teaching
         c. go small-reassurance of protections of faculty property; clarifications of specific content, examples such as youtube channels.
         d. AAUP recommendation – faculty ask for recognition
   B. Decision-Table to next year but make a small request of university to endorse the AAUP statement. AdHoc committee will continue to work on larger issues.

X. Old Business
   NA

XI. New Business
   NA

Motion to adjourn: Senator Straub second Senator P. Rogers @ 5:20pm