

Meeting No. 12

May 13, 1971

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

ABSENT

Frank A. Ross

1. Mr. McDonald called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll.
2. Mr. McDonald announced that the functioning of the subcommittees during the summer months was at the discretion of the subcommittee chairmen.
3. Vice President Lewis explained what is now tentatively called the University Scholar Degree Program, pointing out that the plan was not unique and was similar to Plan II at the University of Texas. The program is designed to attract the top 9% of Texas high school graduates. Dr. Lewis said about 1,200 students in this top 9% who have scored 26 or better on the ACT test have designated Stephen F. Austin State University as one of their first three preferences and that Stephen F. Austin will attract more of these students with a University Scholar Degree Program. Vice President Lewis said that his office would administer the program which would include the student's taking a battery of tests and having personal conferences to work out his individual degree program.

In answering questions from the Senate concerning the new program Vice President Lewis pointed out that the students, being in the top nine percent, would not be inclined to take easy courses, that requiring only a 2.5 grade point average would encourage them to take difficult courses outside their main interest area. He said students in the program would be counselled to strengthen any deficiencies revealed by testing and to take courses in their first 45 hours that would apply to any degree they may later decide to get. He said a student deciding to leave the program would probably be under no more handicap than one who decides to change his major.

Mr. Alexander pointed out a discrepancy between the intent of the program and the wording concerning the possibility of excess transfer credit applying to the program. Vice President Lewis said the wording would be clarified.

Mr. Gaston moved to approve the program and Mr. Kim seconded the motion. Mrs. Gruber moved to amend the program by asking for a 2.75 overall grade point average for graduation. Miss Norton seconded the motion. After discussion, the amendment was defeated. The approval of the program was passed with but three dissenting votes. See Appendix A.

4. Mr. McDonald asked President Steen to address the Senate. President Steen said he thought the first year of the Senate had been a good one, and offered to answer questions from the Senate. In replying to various questions, President Steen pointed out that he did not think an effort being made to require college classroom teachers to spend twelve hours a week in the classroom would be successful. He offered hope of an appropriations bill that would benefit Stephen F. Austin. He pointed out in clarification of a recent news story that a Board of Regents committee to review appointments will assure the Board of Regents of getting the applications for appointments sooner than they now do and that the committee is similar to one that functioned under the old board governing Texas colleges. President Steen said there were no new problems now facing the University or its faculty.
5. Mr. McDonald thanked the President and the Vice President for their attendance at Senate meetings and their interest in the Senate.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Rodewald
Faculty Senate Secretary

REVIEWED: John T. Lewis, III
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date 7-12-71

APPROVED: [Signature]
President

Date 7-12-71

Appendix A

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

A University Scholar is a student who scored at least 26 on the American College Entrance Examination and who maintained an overall 3.0 grade point average on the first 45 hours of residence (on Stephen F. Austin Campus) work.

1. Six semester hours of American History or three semester hours of American History and three semester hours of Texas History.
2. Six semester hours of Texas and Federal Government.
3. Fifty-four or more semester hours of advanced work (courses numbered 300-499 inclusive).
4. A minimum of 96 semester hours of residence (on Stephen F. Austin Campus) work, at least 54 of which must be advanced. At least 54 of the last 60 hours must be taken in residence (on Stephen F. Austin Campus).
5. Enough additional hours to make a total of at least 130 semester hours.
6. An overall 2.5 grade point average for graduation.

This program is similar to the plan of the University of Texas which is designed to give excellent students more freedom in the planning of their degree program. We have approximately 1,200 students with ACT scores in excess of 26 who have indicated that Stephen F. Austin is high on their priority list of Universities. The proposed program is designed specifically to attract this type of student even though it is recognized that once the student is on our campus he probably will not choose to follow this program.