

Meeting No. 36 + 37

October 3, 1973

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Absent:

Dr. Sue Jones (excused)
Mr. Charles Gardner
Mr. Charles T. Nall (excused)

Ex Officio members present:

President Steen
Vice-president Lewis
Dean McKibben

Guest:

Mr. Kirby Duncan

1. Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.
2. Minutes of meeting No. 35 were approved.
3. The attached report to the Faculty Senate by the 1972-73 Chairman was discussed. It was noted that items 1, 3, 4, 10, and 12 needed further consideration.

A motion was made and seconded that "The report to the Faculty Senate by the 1972-73 Chairman be accepted." The motion carried unanimously.

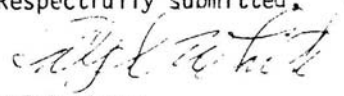
4. The faculty government committee--David Cox, Chairperson--requested all Senate members to review the faculty handbook and submit in writing questions and recommendations to the committee prior to the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. Each member was also requested to bring a copy of the faculty handbook to the next meeting.
5. Chairman Baker appointed Thomas Franks as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.
6. The academic affairs committee--Bill Arscott, Chairperson--moved and it was seconded that "The Faculty Senate be recorded as favoring retention of the current admissions score of 18 on the ACT qualification test." The motion carried by a 13 to 5 vote.
7. Chairman Baker requested a straw vote on the question "Should SFASU eliminate the present suspension policy?" Seven members voted to eliminate the suspension policy and 14 members voted against elimination of the suspension policy.

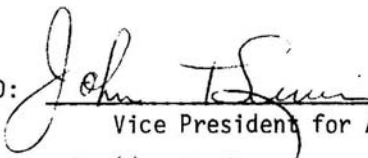
8. The student affairs committee--Janelle Ashley, Chairperson--moved and it was seconded that "The Faculty Senate approve the new student government constitution." The motion carried by an 18 to 4 vote.

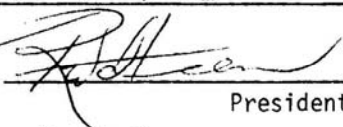
President Steen indicated he would recommend that the Board of Regents approve the new student government constitution for a one-year period.

9. The professional welfare committee--Dudley Stewart, Chairperson--submitted the attached report. There was some discussion on the proposed use of student-faculty evaluation questionnaires.
10. Chairman Baker designated Wednesday, October 17, for the next Faculty Senate meeting.
11. Dr. Lewis indicated that each school council must develop criteria for promotion in addition to the requirements stated in the faculty handbook. The promotion requirements in the faculty handbook are minimum and each school is to build on them. No promotions will be processed from individual schools until its additional requirements are determined and forwarded to the Academic Vice-President.
12. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ralph White
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

REVIEWED: 
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Date 11-16-73

APPROVED: 
President
Date 11-16-73

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE

by the 1972-73 Chairman

September 19, 1973

The following report of Senate action during the 1972-73 year is made in compliance with the wishes of the Senate.

1. A proposal was made to more properly recognize retiring faculty members. No action taken. (Meeting No. 24, June 29, 1972).
2. The Faculty Government Committee (Mr. Yarbrough, Ch.) was given the assignment to study the role of the faculty in departmental affairs. The committee's report was made at the March 21, 1973 meeting (Meeting No. 31). No further action taken by the Senate on the basis of the report.
3. The Academic Affairs Committee (Mr. Clark, Ch.) was given the assignment to study the make-up and functioning of the School Academic Councils. The committee's report was made at the November 15, 1972 meeting (Meeting No. 27). After discussion and amendment the report and its recommendations was accepted at the January 24, 1973 meetings (Meeting No. 29). The report recommended that the majority of the members of each School Council be elected; that deans would be ex-officio members; minutes of each meeting be published; that each council establish a faculty appeals mechanism; and that copies of the constitution be filed with the Senate.
4. The Professional Welfare Committee (Mr. Bourbon, Ch.) was given the assignment of completing its earlier task of revising the promotion and appointment regulations for the university. Its report was accepted at the November 15, 1972, meeting. (Meeting No. 27). The changes in promotion policies are to be found in the Faculty Handbook.
5. The Administration and Financial Affairs Committee (Mr. Robertson, Ch.) was given the assignment of studying the problem of information flow to the faculty and Senate. No formal report was made. However, on the basis of Senate discussion, it was resolved that the Senate chairman should be added to the Dean's Council as an ex-officio member (Meeting No. 31, March 21, 1973).

6. The Executive Committee was given the task of examining the minutes of the Faculty Senate over the past years to determine what recommendations have been acted upon and to consider an annual report from the Senate Chairman. No formal report was made concerning the review of Senate action over the past years. This report is in compliance with the wishes of the Senate for a Chairman's report.
7. An ad hoc committee was appointed (Mr. Hill, Ch.) to examine the question of mandatory retirement at age 65. No formal report was made. However, after Senate discussion, it was decided that action in favor of retirement at 65 would not be in the interests of individuals concerned nor the university.
8. The Senate was asked to study the functioning of the University Curriculum Committee (Meeting No. 25, September 13, 1972). No action was taken.
9. The Professional Welfare Committee (Mr. Bourbon, Ch.) was asked to study university maternity leave policies. The Committee reported (Meeting No. 31, March 21, 1973) that federal regulations had pre-empted any possible action by the faculty Senate.
10. The question of major tests given during the last week before exams was again aired (Meeting No. 29, January 24, 1973). It was decided that each school's policy on the question be sent to members of the school's faculty.
11. In conformance with the Faculty Senate Constitution, apportionment of school representatives in the Faculty Senate was revised to conform with the shifting of the number of faculty in each school. (Meeting No. 30, February 21, 1973).
12. The Senate was asked to revise the university flow chart to show the proper place of the Senate in the administration of the university. The question was referred to the Executive Committee. No report was made.
13. The Administration and Financial Affairs Committee made its recommendations concerning appointments to university-wide committees (Meeting No. 31, March 21, 1973).
14. The Senate adopted a resolution addressed to the Texas Education Agency requesting the agency to postpone implementation of its Competency/Performance Based Education Program (Meeting No. 31, March 21, 1973).
15. The Academic Affairs Committee (Mr. Clark, Ch.) reported on the Southern Association's report on the University's Ten Year Self-Study. The report was accepted by the Senate. No further action was taken at that time.

The enumeration of the above items results from a review of the Senate minutes for the 1972-73 academic year. By no means does the above represent all of the business of the Senate. One of the most important Faculty Senate functions involves keeping itself informed on the whole range of university activities. Topics of a wide variety were discussed, information called for, and complaints aired. The president and vice-president informed us on a variety of topics of interest to the faculty and its representatives. Whether it was the forthcoming budget, problems with the new stadium, or the financial ills of schools and departments, such information added to the Senate's understanding of university problems and can become the basis of further Senate action.

Senate members were very active in raising questions of concern to themselves and the faculty they represented: graduate school regulations on the number of 400-level courses permitted in a student curriculum; the problem of withheld grades; financial problems caused by declining enrollment; questions regarding the Select Student Program; the security of confidential evaluations made on deans and department heads; and the failure in some instances to implement approved Senate action. Such questions indicate the concern of the Senate members on those matters affecting the faculty and the whole university and indicate as well the important function the Senate serves.

Unfortunately, the Senate is an occasional body. Its members are properly engaged in the full-time business of teaching and research. Time spent outside these areas is limited and burdensome. Consequently, Senate action is slow--as it must be if the Senate is to avoid the errors of haste.

Some of the business from the previous year is still pending, and doubtless the Senate will make some decision to dispose of it. I will not indicate in this report where I think the priorities lie. That is more properly the concern of the Senate itself. In this coming year, it seems that the faculty will face a deepening crisis over enrollment. Every area of the university will be affected by decisions that will be made. The Senate, as the representative body of the faculty, must assure itself an active and proper role in these decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles T. Nall

Chairman of the Senate, 1972-73