

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 104
December 12, 1979

1. Chairman Rodewald called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.
2. Secretary Bowman amended the Minutes of Meeting No. 103 by changing the following on page 2, item j: "Dr. Rodewald appointed Senators Blocker, Corbin, Wendall Spreadbury, Stanberry, Walker and Wallace to that committee." The Minutes of Meeting No. 103 were then approved as amended.
3. Reports of Officers:
 - A. Chairman's Report:
 - a. A mandated 5.1 per cent increase has been set for all employees earning \$15,000 or less for twelve months and \$12,000 or less for nine months.
 - b. A directive has been received from the Governor's office stating that Stephen F. Austin State University is expected to reduce its classified staff by 5 per cent for this year and next year.
 - c. Merit increases of \$360 will be received by approximately 20 per cent of the faculty.
 - d. A new law provides for full retirement and continued employment on a half time basis.
 - e. This year (evidently as an experiment) the Coordinating Board has approved funding of graduate students in upper-level, non-graduate courses at graduate rates.
 - f. The Deans' Council addressed the problem of discrepancies between the faculty self-evaluation form and the chairman's faculty evaluation form. Dr. Franklin pointed out that the self-evaluation forms did not usually ask for the information required by the criteria in the Faculty Handbook-- which the chairman's form does.
 - g. The Deans' Council has recommended that Residence Hall 13 be named for alumnus Walter Wilson.
 - h. The Deans' Council amended the report of the Regents Professorships Committee.
 - B. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Constance Spreadbury reported a balance of \$4,945.98 in the treasury.

4. Old Business:

A. Recommendation on Prorating Parking Fees:

Senator Proctor, Chairman of the Professional Welfare Committee, moved that the Parking and Security Committee should consider charging less for spring-summer parking permits than for twelve month permits bought in the fall and consider initiating a refund system based on nine months utilization for students, faculty, and staff excluding those students who obtain non-resident permits (Area J), night permits, or apartment resident permits for the second car (Area H). The motion was seconded by Senator Thomas. Motion Passed.

B. Recommendation on the Rephrasing of the Second Sentence on Page V-3 of the Faculty Handbook:

Senator Proctor moved, Senator Mathis seconded, and the Senate Passed the Motion that the second sentence on page V-3 of the Faculty Handbook be rephrased as follows: A faculty member's comments are protected even though they may be highly critical in tone or content, or erroneous, but such comments are not protected free speech if their intent is malicious and their effect is to impede substantially the faculty member's performance of his or her daily duties or to interfere materially and substantially with the regular operation of the institution or to destroy the harmony and morale of a division, department, or college.

C. Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Study Recommendations:

Senator Corbin, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Study Recommendations, presented his committee's report (see Attachment #1) to the Senate. Senator Corbin moved and Senator Stanberry seconded the motion that the Senate accept the report. Motion Passed.

At this time, Chairman Rodewald asked Senator Pollock to prepare a procedure that would provide the Senate with a uniform method for ranking the Self-Study Recommendations presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Study Recommendations. Dr. Pollock stated that this would be provided at the next Senate meeting.

5. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be January 23, 1980, at 2:15 p.m. in Rusk 301.

6. Dr. Constance Spreadbury moved and Dr. Johnson seconded the motion for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Rodewald adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Absentees:

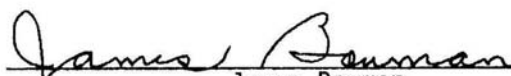
Dr. Robert Blocker (Excused)

Ex Officio Members Present:

Dr. James Reese
Dr. Sidnell

Visitors:

Dr. Janelle Ashley
Dr. Archie McDonald
Dr. Robert Singer


James Bowman
Secretary, 1979-80 Senate

Priorities Concerning the Self Study
Recommendations at Stephen F. Austin State University
1978-79

Report of the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Self Study Recommendations

Introduction

The priorities outlined below are based on the recommendations of the institutional self-study conducted at Stephen F. Austin State University in 1978-79. The priorities are constructed to reflect the specific concerns of the faculty (Faculty Senate) at SFA, particularly in regard to areas of the educational processes that directly affect the faculty and their function as educators. We found that most, if not all, of our primary concerns were reflected in the self-study recommendations. In many instances, considerable duplication was noted (e.g., 30, 33, 61): we often combined recommendations that either duplicated prior statements or were so closely related we felt it unrealistic to list them as separate statements. (Numbers in parentheses indicate the recommendations from the self-study incorporated in our recommendations). The priorities presented here do not include all of the sixty-six (66) recommendations derived from the self-study. We felt that we should concern ourselves only in the areas with which we as faculty are most directly concerned or in which we have some expertise. We did not include recommendations which have already been implemented (e.g., 5, 6, 11, 14).

Our study indicated that the recommendations of primary concern, to the faculty at SFA, could be categorized as University Teaching, Recruitment, and Student Welfare; Funding, Library, and Faculty Welfare (see part I). After combining or rewriting recommendations, we prioritized the recommendations within each of the categories listed above. (It should be noted, that the order of areal concerns in part one is not a ranking). With respect to our concerns, further ranking of the recommendations is viewed as undesirable.

Recommendations

The Faculty Senate, based on the recommendations of the institutional self-study, recommends:

I. University Teaching

1) that the general education program be expanded and enriched so as to broaden the intellectual experience of each student. We feel this can be accomplished by combining existing courses with (possibly) new courses in new areas. We also believe that this goal may be assisted by reviewing major programs which may have excessive in-house requirements and by limiting the number of activity-courses applicable to elective credit for a degree (16, 21, 19).

2) that increased emphasis be placed on the refinement of student skills in computation, reading and writing. This emphasis should be supported with competency exams in each area and an increased emphasis in all departments on papers and essay type examinations. (18, 20, 25).

3) that an audio-visual/television distribution center be instituted campuswide, in which televisions would be connected to all classrooms allowing the faculty and the administration to teach and distribute information in the most efficient and up-to-date manner. In conjunction with the above, computer terminals should be positioned in the offices of the academic deans, as well as other key offices (2, 40).

4) that some means of evaluating the effectiveness of the entire educational program (undergraduate & graduate) at SFA should be devised. This could be facilitated through undergraduate student evaluations (which would not impinge on the instructor's right to confidentiality) and more institutional follow-up studies (29, 27, 36).

II. Student Recruitment and Welfare

1) that intensified efforts be made by the university and the academic departments (at both undergraduate and graduate levels) to increase and coordinate efforts in student recruitment. These efforts could be greatly facilitated by hiring a full-time recruiter as a part of the staff of the undergraduate admissions office (9, 15, 62).

2) that admissions policies at both undergraduate and graduate level be continuously monitored to ensure high standards within the university (1,65).

3) that undergraduate transfer policies be re-examined and made compatible with the new general admissions policies (22).

4) that the University institute programs that would greatly improve student academic advising, at the departmental, school and university levels.

III. University Funding

1) that the University intensify its financial development activities, preferable by hiring a professional fund raiser. This funding should focus particularly in the areas of faculty development and salaries; research and library acquisitions and services.

2) that the University work (whenever possible) to institute changes in the funding formula which affects the areas listed above (30).

IV. Library

1) that efforts be made to change the library funding formula (see University Funding above) (39).

2) that the University Library Committee, with the library staff, develop a clearly written policy on collection development and that they periodically evaluate expenditure priorities in relation to curriculum changes and program emphases (41, 44).

3) that the percentage of the materials budget spent on periodicals be continually reviewed (43).

4) that the library staff and the entire University cooperate in developing new programs and procedures to educate both students and faculty members in the use of library facilities including new automated procedures and cooperative arrangements available (48).

5) that each academic department encourage all its faculty members to participate in collection development and to review approval books; and that each academic department designate at least one faculty member to review approval books on a weekly basis.

6) that the library staff complete reclassification to the Library of Congress system as quickly as possible (47).

V. Faculty Welfare

1) that explanation of institutionalized governance and the faculty's role in it be undertaken regularly at faculty meetings and in the Faculty Bulletin (32).

2) that recognition -- public knowledge, awards, commendations -- be provided by the university for quality work by faculty members (37).

3) that program of reciprocal visiting professorship be arranged, primarily as a means of furthering the education process and faculty development (35).

4) that departments which preclude or restrict summer teaching opportunities for their faculty members with research grants consider liberalizing their policies (66).