

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting #176
February 11, 1987

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eastman at 2:30 P.M..

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting #174 were approved. Minutes of meeting #175 were approved with a request by Senator DiNucci to change the "investigating" to "considering" on p. 2, Old Business, B., line two. The meeting room number is ~~402~~ 34/

3. Special Report:

President Johnson informed the Senate of several matters. He said, the present outlook from Austin is more positive than it has been in a long time. Leaders of the legislature are expressing themselves as to the importance of Higher Education to the state, especially for economic development. Lt. Governor Hobby and Speaker Lewis have publicly been supportive of higher education. Governor Clements has indicated higher education will not receive further budget cuts during his administration but he does believe present money can be used more efficiently. His budget recommendations do include eliminating all special items and this could be very harmful to SFA, primarily in the School of Forestry.

According to Dr. Johnson two appropriation bills have been introduced. The first bill comes from the Senate. A bill has been introduced that is dedicated to returning higher education to what it was in 1985, thus restoring what was lost through budget cuts. The bill would eliminate local income estimate and simply appropriate from the general revenue thereby allowing institutions to make estimates on local income with budgets based on these estimates. The state would not take any surplus funds from institutions or give financial assistance in a shortfall. Institutions would be expected to live within their budgets. This would be a major change in the way the legislature handles local income.

The appropriation also includes one line item entitled "Academic Research and Enrichment" with no specific guidelines as to its use. For SFA, this would be approximately \$630,000.00.

The President cautioned, however, that this is very early in the legislative process and therefore is subject to change.

The second bill comes from the House and was introduced by Speaker Rudd. It includes the same level appropriations in the higher education part as the Senate bill.

The third bill, which has not been introduced, would cut all state agencies by 23%.

The President stated SFA will make a presentation to the House Higher Education Committee and Senate Finance Committee during the week of February 16-20.

Dr. Johnson commended Chairman Eastman for his exceptional representation of the Senate and the faculty at the recent Planning Retreat. One item discussed there related to Faculty Development. The President asked the Board of Regents at their last meeting for funds to begin a Faculty Development Program, as yet undefined, but including faculty development leaves.

He spoke of the Office of Development focusing efforts on raising private funds in the future for Academic Enrichment Endowment. This would provide funds for various kinds of enrichment, one of which would be faculty development to support the faculty in becoming better teachers and researchers.

According to President Johnson, Chairman Eastman suggested one way of providing faculty support would be purchasing personal computers for faculty use. Prioritizing the use of Proposition II Funds was also discussed. The President said he is prepared to recommend to the Board some expenditure for some amount for the computer program. The Faculty Development Committee will assist the Vice-President for Academic Affairs in developing guidelines for faculty proposals for faculty development activities. This Committee will also help develop guidelines for the personal computer program.

The President told the Senate it is his goal to leave in place upon his departure from the University, a strong private fund raising program. The Board of Regents is very much in favor of this and some Regents have even made financial contributions.

In order to build a stronger Office of Development, which will be changed to University Advancement, the President will elevate Dr. Nancy Speck to a Vice-Presidency with no salary increase at this time. Dr. Speck will assist in a more active and significant way in the legislative activities in Austin.

Dr. Johnson will undergo surgery in Houston late next week, but expects to be back at work in three weeks.

4. Chairman Eastman introduced and welcomed the new student secretary, Monica Ferrell.

5. Report on Planning Retreat:

Chairman Eastman expressed his encouragement over the atmosphere and openness of all who attended the retreat. He stated that all Deans consider faculty the strongest element in their school. He then explained that faculty do not perceive themselves in this way. He called for a return to collegiality to reduce divisiveness among faculty and between faculty and administration. He further stated that something must be done to address low faculty morale. He then offered some recommendations that came directly from faculty response. He and Dr. Howard returned feeling very optimistic and encouraged.

6. Announcements:

From the Academic Affairs Council:

- a. Dr. Reese, the VPAA, reported that the Board of Regents had a very positive reaction to his report on the use of the out-of-state travel appropriation of \$30,000.
- b. The Board also approved setting aside \$40,000 from the auxiliary surplus for faculty development. The Research Council will be the recommending body, using guidelines which will be forthcoming from the VPAA's office in about two weeks. Priority will go to those proposals demonstrating potential for improving teaching or research skills.
- c. Dr. Reese also reported the Board's unanimous support of finding ways to improve the situation of faculty.

From the Coordinating Board:

- a. The proposal on course length reported at the special meeting of the Faculty Senate has been withdrawn.
- b. The proposal on out-of-state courses has also been withdrawn.
- c. The review of doctoral programs by the Select Committee has found SFA's doctoral degree in Forestry to be from a quality program, which serves the region in an excellent manner, and should be left in place.
- d. The Library will be getting for its archives a copy of the final report by the Select Committee.

From the Council of University Presidents:

- a. The major objective coming from the last meeting of this body was strongly supporting a proposal to raise faculty salaries by 8.7% in '88 and by 10.9% in '89. It is not recommended that you begin to spend either any time soon.
- b. The enrollment for this semester should be 11,322 + 50-60, which will be down some from last year's 11,435. A more pressing concern comes from Pete Smith, in Housing, who reports that there are 1000 vacancies extant.
- c. Mr. Barbin asked permission to restructure the examination schedule for the Fall, '87 semester. He proposed moving the exams for the 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00 MWF classes to the Friday exam times. This move would accommodate the Computer Center, the Housing Office, and the faculty and students by ensuring fewer exams on Friday of Final Exam Week.
- d. Budgets for '87-'88 are beginning to be worked on with a deadline for getting them to the VPAA of 1 April 1987. Budgets must be computed for 95%, 100%, 105%, and 110%+ of the base, which is the '85-'86 actual budget.
- e. Dean Standley's Administration Committee was charged with considering a policy on retaining peer evaluation forms on merit, promotion, and tenure.
- f. There are prospects of an appropriated budget of something like \$33 million. This would not include auxiliary funds or other local income. Projections of the total will be in the neighborhood of \$42 million.
- g. The first legislative hearing on appropriation matters is scheduled for February 16, 1987.
- h. The SFASU Fact Book should be ready some time next week. It should make for some very interesting reading.
- i. On Feb. 5th, Dr. Reese released position searches for:
 - Music Chair
 - Band Director
 - Computer Science
 - HPE
 - Public Administration
 - Art
 - Social Work
 - Home Economics

Previous searches had been released for:

Science and Mathematics Dean (Committee to be
appointed today)
Chemistry Chair

Further searches may be released later, pending budget approval.

7. Officer Reports and COFGO Report:

- a. Treasurer Ballenger distributed written reports for the last four months. As of December 31, 1986 the balance on hand is:

Wages, Non-student	\$1,019.91
Travel	\$ 11.90
O&M	\$2,098.64
Total...	\$3,130.45

- b. Senator Spreadbury gave a brief report on his attendance at the January 31, COFGO meeting. He encouraged faculty members who would be willing to sit on committees appointed by the Coordinating Board to follow the procedure he outlined for the selection process. According to Senator Spreadbury, the major topic of discussion was new legislative changes in funding for higher education.

8. Old Business:

- a. Chairman Carr, Faculty Government and Involvement Committee, proposed delaying that group's work on University Level Merit until more time is available for a complete presentation and thorough discussion.
- b. Senator Devine moved to remove from the table the motion that was tabled at the last Senate meeting. That motion was, To suspend the merit system until the present financial crisis has been solved. Senator White seconded.

After discussion, Senator Devine withdrew the motion with agreement of Senator White in order to allow faculty to canvas constituents concerning merit and allow faculty ample time to discuss.

- c. Senator Carr moved and Senator White seconded to table a progress report on University Level Merit until the next meeting. Motion passed.
- d. A written statement concerning smoking was distributed by the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee for the Senate's confirmation.

Senator Pruitt moved and Senator Thornton seconded to accept the statement that reads:

Resolved that each department, if it so desires, designate smoking and non-smoking sections of the area it occupies. No such designation will permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by law or University policy. Motion passed.

- e. Senator Carr and the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee distributed a written statement the committee proposes be added to the Constitution regarding duties of the Executive Committee.

Senator Russell moved and Senator Graves seconded to accept the statement as proposed. After discussion, it was deemed advisable to include in the statement the addition of "The Executive Committee will perform such duties as prescribed by University policy." The motion by Senator Russell was restated to include this addition. Motion passed with no opposition.

Senator DiNucci moved and Senator Graves seconded to put forth this wording for faculty consideration to be voted on at the next meeting. Motion passed.

- f. Senator DiNucci moved and Senator Bailey seconded to table a report on the Academic Affairs Committee. Motion passed with no opposition.
- g. Chairman Eastman charged the Senate with canvassing their constituency on the issue of the merit system. For clarification, Vice President Reese stated there is a rider on both appropriation bills introduced that says all raises must be based on merit.

9. New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m..

Ex Officio Members:
Dr. William R. Johnson
Dr. James Reese

Excused Absences:
Major Randall Fain
Dr. Peter Lisieski
Dr. Norman Markworth
Dr. Donice McCune



Mary Ella Lowe
Secretary 1986-87 Faculty Senate