

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting No. 210**  
**March 13, 1991**

1. Chairperson K. Mace called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in Regents Suite B of the University Center.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

\* The minutes of Meeting No. 209 were approved as printed.

3. **Chairperson's Report**

\* Chairperson Mace reported on his meeting with President Bowen and Dr. Camille Price, Dr. Jim Garrett, and Dr. Tom Bourbon concerning University funds that must be returned to the state.

- Intercollegiate sports will not be touched. Most of that budget has already been expended on football and basketball, so there is not much slack in the remainder of the budget.
- Dr. Mace asked if we could get the Alumni Association to focus on areas dedicated to faculty development and salaries.
- The Board of Regents did not agree to any cuts in athletics. Dr. Bowen reported that this will be an open administration. He wants more rigorous bookkeeping procedures, so we should expect to see an increase of approximately 20% in published figures.

\* Dr. Mace met with Mrs. Peggy Wright, Chairman of the Board of Regents, and with Senate Chair-Elect F. Smith and Senators J. Lackey, J. Howard, and K. Price (all past Chairs of the Faculty Senate). The meeting produced a good exchange of ideas.

\* In response to a question from Dr. Mace, Vice President Reese reported that approximately one-half of the academic departments incur a cost overrun each year, usually in the \$300.00-\$400.00 range. Unforeseen circumstances, such as a need for two searches, may result in an overrun. Dr. Reese expects some sort of cut in the SFA budget next year because he does not think the Legislature has the votes to pass an income tax.

\* In response to a question from Senator J. Howard, Dr. Reese reported that the \$1.3 million figure for purchase of the Winn-Dixie building included repairs that will be needed. We will own all the parking in front of the building. At present, the building is under long-term lease because the University does not yet have permission from the Coordinating Board to purchase the property.

\* Dr. Mace reported that President Bowen admits our situation looks bleak, without budget support.

\* Dr. Mace announced that Scott Chafin is scheduled to address the Faculty Senate at the April meeting. He will report on The Role of the University Counsel.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

\* Treasurer D. Shows reported the following disbursements as of March 1, 1991.

<b>Balance brought Forward</b>	<b>\$ 2,133.74</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Telephone	6.00
Payroll	119.70
Travel	186.71
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,501.71</b>

- \* The Senate spent \$461.00 from this point on during the last academic year.

#### 5. Secretary's Report

- \* Secretary M. Carns requested that all Senators verify the number of years each has served on the Senate. The Election Committee needs accurate information on expiring terms of office to call for elections to the Senate.

#### 6. Committee Reports

##### \* Election Committee (S. Weems, Chair)

- Senator S. Weems reported that one hundred fifty-five (155) voting faculty responded to the revised survey which polled the voting faculty members as to their opinions concerning the formation of presidential committees at SFASU. The results of the survey are as follows:
  - 32.9% (51) of the respondents indicated a preference to leave the committee member selection process as it is. There was concern noted by some respondents about the unlimited terms for these committee members.
  - 36.6% (57) of the respondents indicated a preference for the second method as presented on the ballot, which was to form the presidential committees as the University committees are currently formed.
  - 16.1% (25) of the respondents indicated a preference for the third option presented, which was to have the President appoint the chairperson of the committees and the members be elected by the faculty or faculty representatives.
  - 8.3% (13) of the respondents indicated a preference for the appointment by a Faculty Senate Committee established for that purpose.
  - 3.8% (6) of the respondents indicated specific concerns as to the formation of the committees.
  - 3 respondents indicated a preference toward having the committees formed by recommendations from both the President and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Senator K. Price moved that the Senate send a copy of the report to the President.

Seconded by Senator D. Shows

Motion passed

- Senator Weems reported that the Election Committee will be sending forms to all faculty asking for names of people willing to serve on presidential and vice presidential committees.

##### \* Faculty Governance Committee (K. Price, Chair)

- Senator K. Price reported that the Faculty Governance Committee is in the process of collecting information concerning faculty governance at other universities

##### \* Finance and Administration Committee (J. Howard, Chair)

- Senator J. Howard reported that the committee had been asked to look into amount and availability of money that had been refunded to the University by Blue Cross. According to Mr. Henry, the Blue Cross refund is approximately \$250,000, with a possibility of up to \$150,000 more in six months. Vice President Reese has recommended that the money become a part of reserves that could be used to lessen the impact of budget cuts from the state. If there are no cuts, he would support using the money to help with one-time costs such as development funds or computerizing registration and financial aid.
- A report of the audit will be sent to senators. Senator Howard has received very good cooperation in obtaining the information.

\* Professional Welfare Committee (J. Seaton, Chair)

- Senator J. Seaton reported that the committee is collecting information on sick leave and on paying faculty who take over when colleagues are ill.

7. Old Business

- \* In response to a question from Senator B. Johnson, Dr. Reese reported that there has been some talk about placing the entire state into a large self-insured system to spread the risk. So far, there has been nothing concrete and no definite movement.
  - Senator L. Clark asked if the insurance benefit year could be set to correspond with the academic year. She pointed out that we renegotiate contracts and make other changes at that time.
- \* Dr. Mace reported that Dr. Bowen has approved the Senate recommendations for on-line calendar changes and an evaluation form implementation committee. The smoking resolution was not signed because the Faculty Health Committee is already looking into the question.
  - Senator K. Price recommended that the Senate follow up on implementation of the calendar.

8. New Business

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: The length of summer school should be increased to at least nine weeks for a single term.

Seconded by Senator L. Clark (but only for purposes of consideration)

Discussion:

- Senator L. Clark: Her constituents asked her to point out that students could not earn as many credit hours under the proposal as under the current system. At present, many students can work for half the summer and attend class half the summer. The proposal would also impact on public school teachers, who could not earn as many credit-hours. This change would probably mean SFA would hire fewer faculty.
- Senator J. Howard: The complaint is that we cannot complete adequate course coverage under the present system. Nine weeks would be the standard under the proposal. Departments could increase the number of hours offered, and utilize the same number of faculty.
- Chairperson Mace: Faculty in Biology find that they cannot give the same coursework in the short amount of time available for summer classes, and students cannot assimilate the same amount of information as in full sessions. Some projects cannot be completed: cultures need time to grow. Faculty in English report that the short session does not allow time for adequate writing projects, or for grading them.
- Senator Howard: The University should be driven by student needs, not financial.
- Senator K. Price: Departments can offer longer courses, at their option, under the current system. The Math Department does offer some 10-week courses for upper-level and graduate students.
- Senator L. Clark: She has taught writing courses in both long and short terms. The calendar has not made a great difference. Some universities use both schedules.
- Senator J. Adams: If the calendar is changed, we should also consider increasing teaching salaries to reflect the long term.

Motion tabled and referred to the Academic Affairs Committee

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: An honor code should be instituted for students and faculty.

Seconded by Senator L. Clark

Discussion:

- Senator J. Howard: The motion refers to using a pledge such as "I have neither given nor received aid on this paper" and a rule that people who lie should be thrown out.
- Senator W. Arscott: He has an honor code in large Art Appreciation classes he teaches, but the problem is in proving the charges. A student can always go through a grievance process. It is not enough to catch a person cheating; witnesses are also needed.
- Chairperson K. Mace: Enforcement is a problem. What procedures would be established?
- Senator K. Price: What would the faculty honor code be like?

Motion tabled and referred to the Ethics Committee

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: A student's grade point average should be computed as grade points earned at SFASU divided by hours attempted at SFASU. (That is, grades should not be replaced upon course repetition, as is the current practice in the SFASU Registrar's office.)

Seconded by Senator L. ClarkDiscussion:

- Senator J. Howard: The system now in use reflects a false GPA.
- Senator W. Arscott: This proposal was passed by the Senate several years ago, but it was turned down administratively.
- Senator K. Price: This form is different. The proposal passed by the Senate would have required a GPA of 2.0, including all hours attempted at SFA. This is one way to raise standards at the University. It would put more integrity in the transcript.
- In response from a question from Senator T. McGrath, Dr. Reese reported that the proposed system is used at the University and Texas and Texas A&M. Most other Texas universities use a system similar to the one at SFA.

Motion passed.

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: Resignation (withdrawal) from the university before the end of a semester should be meaningful. One full calendar year should pass before readmission is considered.

Seconded by Senator L. ClarkDiscussion:

- Senator J. Howard: Students now have one-half the semester "free" and still can drop all classes later in the semester. Extenuating circumstances could be considered under the proposal (by appeal to the Academic Dean), but students should not be able to easily drop classes.
- Senator L. Clark: What is the logic in stipulating a calendar year?
- Senator Howard: One semester is not meaningful, especially in the summer.
- Senator Clark: She has had one person drop the same class three times.
- Senator B. Carr: Has any study been done on this question?

Motion passed

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: The decision concerning the awarding of a grade to a student for a course, whether completed or not (e.g., "dropped") is the proper and exclusive responsibility of the instructor of that course.

Seconded by Senator L. Clark

Discussion:

- Senator J. Howard: If a student is enrolled past the 12th class day, the instructor should be able to set a grade.
- Senator D. Shows: The current policy was established because many instructors do not give grades until mid-term, so many students do not know where they stand until that time.
- Senator Howard: Students regularly sign up for 18 hours of coursework, intending to complete only 12.
- Senator K. Price: Prior to the current policy, students could drop until the 4th class day from the end of the semester, with no penalty. He opposes the proposal because he does not think it will raise standards. Some faculty will revert to the old system and give "WP" right up to the end of the semester.
- Senator Howard: This proposal would permit an instructor to assign a grade, even for those who drop out early.
- Senator Price: This would create a problem for students in classes where no grades are available.
- Senator J. Seaton: Many students do not receive grades for their first hour-exams until mid-semester.

Vote on tabling the motion was by show of hands:

10 - Favor

7 - Oppose

Motion tabled

- \* Senator J. Howard moved that: Students may be required to pass departmental examinations to obtain recognition for successful completion of a particular course taken at another institution. (Credit hours may be transferred in a specified area, but the granting of credit for a particular course should not be automatic.)

Seconded by Senator L. ClarkDiscussion:

- In response to a question from Senator B. Carr, Dr. Reese reported that the law says the University must accept credit for transfer from an accredited college or university.
- Senator B. Carr: She would support the proposal if we can legally do it. We get students who took "writing courses" with multiple-choice exams.
- Dr. Reese: The proposal runs counter to the position of the Coordinating Board.
- Senator K. Price: When would a student know that credit had been received? When would entrance credits be challenged?
- Senator J. Howard: We have students who cannot pass the course because of weak backgrounds.
- Senator Price: Pre-tests are given before a student can take algebra classes.
- Senator W. Arscott: Some students will take all their English classes off-campus.

Vote was by show of hands:

7 - Approve

9 - Oppose

Motion ~~passed~~ Failed

- \* Senator M. Carns moved that: The Faculty Senate recommends that the University schedule for summer classes be adjusted so that classes begin at 8:00 a.m. instead of 7:30 a.m.

Seconded by Senator J. Howard

Discussion:

- Senator M. Carns: A constituent requested this proposal because secretarial staff are not available before classes, and because some students and faculty travel considerable distances.
- Senator W. Arscott: The proposal may not be appropriate if the earlier time reflects a savings of money for utilities.
- Senator J. Adams: We received a memo recently that re-scheduling hours did not save enough money. Lost productivity from staff vis-a-vis the savings was not cost-effective.

Senator J. Howard moved that the motion be amended to add: "...or that academic staff be available when classes begin."

Amendment passed

Motion passed, as amended

9. Comments from Ex Officio Members

- \* Vice President J. Reese reported that the searches for three Academic Deans has been suspended because of financial uncertainty. The University cannot hire new Deans for salaries we pay at the present time. All three Deans have agreed to stay on for one year.
- \* The State Appropriations Bill will not be touched by the Legislature until after July 1, and the Governor has said she will not call a special session until the second week in July. The University cannot obtain a budget until August 1, yet we have to make decisions on hiring people.
- \* New Regents have not yet been appointed.
- \* Dr. Bowen has referred the Senate's proposal on waiver of faculty/staff tuition and fees to Dr. Reese to determine financial cost.
- \* Senator T. McGrath noted that the Senate was told last year that the University could rent facilities and generate money if artificial turf were installed. Dr. Reese does not have any information on money or fees collected, although we did use the facilities for four or five high school play-off games. Dr. K. Mace indicated that it is his understanding that the facilities were rented only for the cost of utilities and related expenses. The University had hoped to receive revenue from food and concessions, but did not derive any profit.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ABSENCES:

F. Avant (excused)  
~~J. Reese~~  
 J. Goodall  
 W. Holliday (excused)  
 E. Ledger (excused)  
 D. Stephens (excused)

VISITORS:

J. Reese, Ex Officio (VPAA)  
 J. Lackey, Ex Officio (Psychology)

  
 Mary L. Carns, Secretary 1990-91