

Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate meeting #230  
May 12, 1993

## MINUTES

### I Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson B. Carr at 2:36 pm in the Wyatt Room, Steen Library. The chair then recognized President Dan Angel. President Angel discussed at length the status of SFA's interest in several important matters currently before the Legislature. He detailed the prospects and explained the expected impact on SFA of the Legislature's attitude and possible actions in the following areas: formula funding, the 3% faculty pay raise, a new "All Funds" policy, special items, performance based funding, HEAF increase (1995), and the expansion of UT - Tyler issue. Many of these issues were still not finally settled. The President was questioned from the floor of the Senate about:

- (1) the possible impact on graduate programs by a shift of funds to undergraduate education,
- (2) admission standards under the new Board of Regents,
- (3) faculty input to special items requests,
- (4) consideration of esthetic impact of the new parking lots.

The President responded to these issues:

- (1) Ninety percent of our programs are undergraduate. He does not expect this shift of funds to be very detrimental to our graduate programs, but will be a benefit to our overall program.
- (2) He doubts any radical changes in admission policies by the new board very soon.
- (3) The faculty has been asked to submit ideas and requests for special items, but it is too late for this Legislative session. Faculty members are invited to submit suggestions for special items budget requests for the next legislative session.
- (4) Dr Angel said that the decision to provide the much needed additional parking was made earlier by the Board of Regents. They gave consideration to esthetic and environmental issues at that time. The project is too far in progress for it to be practical for further committee review of esthetic problems. He mentioned that as many trees as possible would remain in the parking lot and nearby areas.

### II Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted. Upon motion by J. Howard and second by C. Jones, the minutes were approved and accepted.

### III Officer Reports

Chairperson Carr reported on the April meeting of the Board of Regents. A comparison of faculty salaries at SFA with those at comparable state universities was presented to the Board. She pointed out, in response to a question at the board meeting, that several top quality faculty members had left SFA in the past five to seven years. Also, the regents were asked to consider environmental aspects of the new parking lot construction.

There were no other officers' reports..

#### **IV Committee Reports**

##### **A. Academic Affairs**

Committee chairperson B. Johnson reported a lack of action by the Academic Affairs Committee due to the fact that the academic affairs were in a state of flux. He suggested that academic affairs have now stabilized, and the Senate can now effectively address such issues as academic standards, admission, student retention and its connection with academic standards and admission requirements, and faculty evaluation of department chairs, deans, and vice-presidents. Senator Johnson suggested the cooperation of the student government be sought in these matters. Further issues of concern to the Senate and the Academic Affairs Committee are methods by which student evaluations are being used, and whether there is erosion of our academic standards. Chairperson Carr added that faculty should evaluate administrators all the way up to president.

##### **B. Administration and Finance**

Chairperson J. Howard reported that the Committee did not meet during the year due to lack of action by the chairperson.

##### **C. Elections**

Chairperson L. Clark announced the names of the newly elected senators for the year 1993-1994. They are

Thomas Benoit	Biology
John Dahmus	History
Michael Daley	Social Work
Debbie DuFrene	Adm. Services
Gary Ford	Psychology
Donice McCune	Math. and Stat
Michael McKaig	Couns/Spec Ed
Mark Turner	Accounting.

##### **D. Faculty Governance**

No Report

#### E. Professional Welfare

Chairperson Jones recognized the Committee for bringing motions which gave rise to the most spirited debate of the year. The motions concerned equity in pay for non-tenure track faculty and "called" faculty.

#### F. Ethics

No Report

### V Old Business

A. Sen. Mace recalled an earlier action of February 10 on the evaluation of administrators. She asked what happened to that action, and expressed that the senate might be duplicating its earlier acts. Chairperson Carr said this would be checked upon later.

B. Sen. Gobel recalled that his Resolution #4 of February 10 had been tabled without further action. The resolution called upon the university "to specify all conditions of employment at the time an individual was hired." Discussion followed, including some doubt about insisting on such precise specification. Sen. Jones moved to refer this resolution to the Professional Welfare committee for clarification and rewording. Sen. Downing seconded the motion, which carried.

### VI. New Business

A. Sen. J. Howard moved that:

The Faculty Senate commends the University's decision to permit Department Chairs to be eligible for merit pay increases. The Faculty Senate recommends that the procedure for application and the process for evaluation be comparable to that used by faculty. Further, the Faculty Senate recommends that merit pay increases for Department Chairs be paid, pro rata, for administrative or teaching activities.

The motion was seconded by Sen. Price.

Dr. Ashley clarified the University's position and methods for appropriating and awarding merit pay increases for Department Chairs and Deans. She explained in detail how the 3% raise constraints affected these procedures. Sen. Price stated the intent of the motion was to clarify, separate, and document the awards of merit pay increases to Department Chairs. The motion passed.

Sen. B. Wright submitted a motion that "The faculty Senate minutes be posted and archived on the SFA GOPHER, and that other University committees' actions and the minutes of the Board of Regents be made accessible through the GOPHER." Sen. Price offered a point of information in which he suggested that it be a major project for the Senate to establish the availability of general University information to include not only Senate minutes but such information as the University Calendar, policy statements, etc. The motion was seconded by Sen. Jackson, and was adopted by the Senate.

Sen. provided a detailed up date on the work of the University Environmental Committee especially regarding recycling efforts being initiated.

## VII Adjournment

Chairperson Carr thanked all members of the Senate, especially outgoing Senators. Motion to adjourn was made by Sen. DiNucci and seconded by Sen. Ledger. Motion carried.

### VISITORS

Dan Angel  
Janelle Ashley  
Thomas Atchison  
John Dahmus  
Gary Ford  
Michael McKaig  
Thomas Benoit  
Thomas Atchison  
Debbie DuFrene  
Mark Turner

Respectfully submitted,

  
C. P. Barton, Secretary