

Stephen F. Austin State University

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Faculty Senate

To: Members of the Faculty Senate
From: Jere Jackson, Secretary
Date Submitted: October 13, 1993
Subject: Minutes for Meeting No. 232
September 8, 1993 - 2:30 PM
Mildred Wyatt Room, Steen Library

MINUTES

I Call to order

Chairperson Suzy Weems called the Meeting to order at 2:40 PM, in the Wyatt Room of Steen Library. After welcoming the Senators to a new year, Ms. Weems immediately introduced Dr. Dan Angel, President of Stephen F. Austin State University, for some opening remarks.

Dr. Angel, after greeting everyone, reported on the new appointments to the Coordinating Board, on the reorganization of Financial Aid, Admissions, & Registrar into one division, and on the anticipation of a decrease in the fall enrollment by maybe 200 students. In response to questions from the floor, Dr. Angel made the following statements.

- 1) The permanence of the new configuration of Financial Aid, Admissions, and Registrar would be decided after more research and a period of evaluation.
- 2) The timetable for discussion and the approval process of the SFA '98 Discussion Draft should take all fall, that comments were welcome, and that he hoped to get a final draft to the Board of Regents for a decision in January. Later in the questioning, Dr. Angel termed the bottom line of the draft "student success." He acknowledged concerns over entrance standards and the quality of our program, but he promised these things would be addressed. He emphasized the word "regional" and his dislike for the concept of "remedial education." He expressed his excitement about the Discussion Draft and his hope that others would be very positive and would respond without reticence.
- 3) There are no searches being conducted at the present to fill any vacant deanship. In fact, he added, the number and the organization of colleges were at present under review by the Academic Vice President and the Council of Deans with an eye to the possible reduction of the total number. Dr. Angel called the discussions "wide open" at the moment with a target of something more definite by mid-semester this fall.

4) "Sweat-equity day" would not have any substantial impact on the budget, either in expenses or savings. It was to promote pride and the building of team spirit that the day was planned.

Dr. Weems, in her own opening remarks, called on the Senators to be positive, aggressive, open, and professional in their conduct of business during the year. She asked Dr. Dave Perritt to serve as Parliamentarian for the year. The name plates for the new senators would be ready by the next meeting.

II. Elections to Fill Vacancies

In accordance with the Senate's constitution, the secretary distributed ballots to the senators to vote to fill the vacancies from the Colleges of Education and Applied Arts and Sciences; nominations were opened to the floor, but no names were added. Dr. Patrick Euler from Applied Arts and Dr. ~~May~~ Ella Love from Education were elected.

III. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Senator Jones, seconded by Senator Clark, the minutes from Meeting 230 and Meeting 231 (May 12) were approved.

IV. Officers' Reports

Chairperson Weems reported that she had met with the new faculty who were on campus this fall and had found them asking many good questions.

Vice Chairman Barton (and Dr. Weems) reported on the sessions of the Academic Affairs Council; they said minutes on the AAC were available from Kay O'Neil in Dr. Ashley's Office. The Senate Officers summarized the items discussed by the AAC:

- American Disabilities Act & Assessment;
- Core curriculum;
- The Helene Bakewell lawsuit against the university concerning discriminatory pay;
- Requests for notice of any special budget;
- An accelerated degree program for SFA;
- The evaluation of administrators across the campus;
- Databases at the Steen Library;
- Petitions to accept out-of-date courses in degree programs;
- The channels for degree changes that effect other departments;
- The reconstitution of the Academic Affairs Council to replace the Dean's Council; (Voting members: all Deans, Director of Libraries, and the Director of Academic Computing. Non-voting members: the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, and the Chairperson of the Student Government Association.)

Re the Bakewell suit, Dr. Ashley, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the judge in the suit now plans to contact all of the female faculty members dating back to 1988 concerning their treatment by the university.

Secretary Jackson affirmed the Senate's intention to put the minutes on the university's electronic information network -the gopher server. Concerning the procedure, the minutes will be posted on the server after they are approved at a Senate meeting. Hard copies of the minutes will also be provided for Senators in addition to the electronic copies.

Treasurer Dr. Mace, while delaying a full treasurer's report until a later meeting, stated that Senate was solvent.

V. Committee Reports

Re the "SFA '98: Discussion Draft," the Academic Affairs Committee Chairman Dr. Dahmus proposed and the Senate unanimously passed the following resolution seconded by Dr. Jones:

"That the entire faculty be asked by their Senate representatives to submit written responses on the "SFA '98: Discussion Draft," that these faculty opinions be discussed by the Senate at its next meeting, and that a summary of these opinions be made known to the Regents before any final draft of the "SFA '98" proposal received Board approval."

Senator Wright proposed that the Administration and Finance Committee needed to spend some time with Dr. Ashley before it could make a report to the Senate.

Senator Jones, Chairman of the Professional Welfare Committee, asked Dr. Ashley if the university planned to seek faculty opinions when making their decision to appoint or not to appoint a new Dean of Fine Arts? Dr. Jones expressed his concern that, based on the action taken by the administration in appointing an acting dean, the faculty in the College of Fine Arts may not be included in the decision process.

VI. Old Business

The question of merit, under the heading of old business and then later under new business, provoked a long discussion. Vice President Ashley pointed out that the procedures for the present annual reporting period (that is, for academic year 1992-1993) were already in place and were the same ones used for 1991-1992; merit will be awarded only at the department and college levels. Final decisions about the merit system in general – the criterion to be applied for the academic year 1993-1994 – are in the final stages of completion, with the various colleges developing their own criteria and procedures. Dr. Ashley stated categorically, "we want your input on the matter of merit." Concerning funds, however, she warned that two things – the actions of the legislature in not funding the second year of their promises and the shortfall of as much as \$600,000 due to the 200 student decrease in the university's enrollment - might endanger raises of any kind for next year.

On the subject of appeals, Dr. Ashley confirmed in response to a question by Dr. Mace that there would be an appeals procedure in the new merit system. To Dr. Dahmus' request for a clarification of the departmental role in the

determination of merit, Dr. Ashley and Dr. Atchison confirmed that it was the intention of the Dean's Council to have merit determined at the departmental level, that each college would have an elected college merit committee, and that in both of these committees, the maximum faculty input would be sought in determining criterion and awarding merit. If there was any confusion concerning this point, Dr. Ashley invited a redrafting of the proposed merit policy to make this clear. When asked by Senator Wright if the merit policy as drafted applied to librarians, Dr. Ashley said she was not able to answer this conclusively at that moment.

On a motion by Senator DiNucci, seconded by Dr. Dahmus, the Senate vote unanimously to resubmit the draft of the proposed merit policy to the departments of the university for review.

After a lengthy statement by Senator McCune on the need to have current information on faculty members, the Senator moved, and received a second from Dr. Dahmus, that all faculty make available current vitas for placement in the library. After a voice vote on this motion failed to give a clear decision, the proposer of the motion called for a roll-call vote. The motion failed by a vote of 16 against and 5 for. (See Appendix A for a list of the votes cast.)

On the evaluations of deans, Dr. Ashley said that it was her understanding that the evaluations of deans were already a part of the administrative procedures at SFA. Senator Mace pointed out that the Faculty Senate discussed this matter in the Spring and voted to confirm the existence of an evaluation procedure for deans. As a result of the exchange, the concensus was that the matter should receive a review at a later meeting of the Senate.

VII. Comments from Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Ashley announced that Dr. Lee Rayborn is now Director of Academic Computing and will report to her now. Dr. Ashley also informed the Senate that the administration was reinstating Faculty Development Leaves and that announcements would be sent to the faculty shortly.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Downing made the motion to adjourn; Dr. Mace seconded the motion.

VISITORS

Dr. Janelle Ashley
Dr. Tom Atchison
Dr. Sandra McCune
Dr. Dan Angel