

Stephen F. Austin State University

P.O. Box 6176, SFA Station • (409) 568-3908
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-6176



Faculty Senate

To: Members of the Faculty Senate
From: Jere Jackson, Secretary
Date Submitted: April 13, 1994
Subject: Minutes for Meeting No. 236
February 9, 1993 - 2:30 PM
Mildred Wyatt Room, Steen Library

MINUTES

I Call to order

Chairperson Suzy Weems called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM, in the Wyatt Room of Steen Library.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion

On a motion by Senator Jones, seconded by Senator Gobel, the Senate approved with minor corrections the minutes of Meeting #235, December 8, 1993.

III. Report by the Chairperson

Chairperson Weems gave a brief report on the Board of Regents meetings in December and January. The subjects included SFA '98, Masters of Business in Accounting, athletic and academic scholarships, budgets, and raises. She also reported that there would be a meeting of the Core Curriculum Committee on February 17. From the Academic Affairs Council meeting, she reported the teaching excellence convocation to be held on April 21, several curricular changes in Forestry, and a letter from Dr. Delaney concerning the academic evaluation of administrators. Chairperson Weems called on Dr. Berry to report on the meeting of the Graduate Council.

Dr. Berry reported on the meeting of the Graduate Council which discussed the proposals coming out of the Academic Affairs Council concerning the review of graduate programs. The Graduate Council asked that three guidelines be used to evaluate the proposed changes in the way graduate matters are organized: 1) that the procedures be consistent with the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities; that the process encourage departmental participation; and 3) that the proposals respect the expertise of the faculty in departments with as little intrusion as possible. There were 7 additional recommendations.

IV. Statements by Dr. Angel, President of the University

Dr. Angel reported on two matters of concern:

1. The State Post-Secondary Review Entity which was setting down new rules concerning the authorization of higher education under the 1975 law. The rules being set down would deal with default rates by students on loans made from state funds and the percentages that would trigger a review by the state of an institution and the fifteen review criteria to be used. The Coordinating Board is writing the new rules and Dr. Angel is on the committee. He will keep the Senate informed.
2. HEAF funds will be increased and could mean a difference of 2 to 3 million for SFA by 1995, but all of the presidents of 11 schools are arguing for a larger share. He then discussed the use of the HEAF funds, the staff, and the criteria being used to determine financial aid. He admitted that it would take a year or so to get the financial aid office straightened out, but SFA has a default rate of less than 10%. When asked if the HEAF money would be available in time for budgeting and planning, Dr. Angel said emphatically yes. 5.15 million a year for computers, libraries, etc. to be used according to a basic three part formula: 1) buying land and new construction; 2) renovating and remodeling existing buildings; 3) complexity of the program being supported. Dr. Angel said there were major modifications needed on the cafeterias to bring them more in line with other schools.

Dr. Angel then discussed a number of questions raised by individual senators.

1. When asked about the graduate deanship and the future of the graduate council, he responded that Dr. Ashley would address these issues.
2. In response to dismay voiced by Dr. Mace concerning the salary increases for coaches, the purchase of new bus, and the money being spent on the athletic program in a time of limited funds and no cost of living considerations for the faculty, President Angel replied that he hoped everyone would keep the big picture in mind. The university had not purchased a new bus; they have asked for bids to be submitted. Money was not being taken out of the TSO for the other items mentioned. The raises cost only \$10,200 in the current budget and about \$15,000 in next year's budget. The raises for the coaches was raised out of private money, not out of general budget. When asked about the athletic budget, Dr. Angel said they could not spend any state money on it. The expenditures for implementation of the ADA program was going to dwarf all other special expenditures in the near future. A new elevator for the Austin Building, for instance, to meet code will cost an additional \$20,000.00.
Dr. Mace responded that the same answer was given by the previous administration concerning the purchase of astro-turf; while told repeatedly "we are just looking into the purchase..." nevertheless the purchase was made. It was a matter of priorities and academic considerations never seem to rank as high as athletic ones. If the university can make a decision to use non-state funds to fund athletics, they can just as easily make the decision to support academic programs or academic scholarships, if only on a one time basis to avoid on-going expenses. Dr. Mace called for the Regents to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with the typical day of a faculty member in dealing with student and university business. Dr. Jones added that the coaches, whatever amount they make, get across the board raises. This was an insult to other faculty and staff; the message, whether intended or not, was a terrible one. Senator Mueller complained about the sloppy use of the terms "merit" and "raise"; these were two different things. Senator Dahmus pointed out the false statements reported in the newspaper concerning across-the-board raises; these were not given.
3. Concerning the expenditures on the Bookstore, Dr. Angel said the new point-of-sale system which was being installed would be in service by the end of the summer.
4. Concerning the gap in income (\$4 million) and expenditures (\$2 Million) in the area of food management, Dr. Angel said the extra money goes into the general account to cover a world of expenditures. For instance, \$400,000 was being spent to up-date facilities.
5. To Dr. Watt's question on what happened to the surplus in the insurance fund, Dr. Angel said there were no plans yet of how to use the \$900,000.00 primarily because of legal questions.
6. Concerning the change over to a new investment firm, Dr. Angel said he was very pleased. The extra money goes into the general budget.

V. Special Items

A. Reorganization of the Colleges

Vice President Ashley addressed the subject of the proposed reorganization of Academic Units which the Council of Deans has been looking at since beginning of year. The present organization of the university has been in place since the 1960s. The committee looked at various models across the nation and found no common trend. The committee wanted to find ways to create an environment for connections as opposed to moving departments from one school to another. The College of Fine Arts and the College of Applied Arts were similar in size and so the decision was made to combine the two colleges under the title: The College of Fine Arts and Applied Sciences. The main issue was an attempt to save \$100,000.00

Dr. Berry complained about the short time frame for consideration and asked for an honest answer about the chances of getting any changes. Dr. Ashley said that the only way the recommendations would not be accepted is if other comments are heard and cause modifications. But, she added, comments must be made quickly or there is risk of not being heard. Dr. Berry then objected about the whole method by which this decision was made. After repeated requests for months to be heard, the faculty just had the decision announced. Furthermore, the decision that was announced did not make any sense and would compromise a lot of professional programs.

Dr. Jones said that the faculty in the College of Fine Arts were dismayed and insulted. The programs of the college would be weakened by this move; even with their own dean, the administration of the schools was spread too thin.

Concerning the graduate program, the VPAA said that the division was in academic limbo, with an interim dean in an "acting" position. While there was still a need for oversight for graduate programs, the Academic Affairs Council is recommending that the duties of the graduate dean be decentralized to all of the regular academic deans. When asked by Dr. Berry if this decision was final, Dr. Ashley said it was just a recommendation to Dr. Angel who would be making the final decision. If anyone had any thoughts or comments, they should put them in writing to Dr. Angel by February 28.

Senator Mace pointed out that the first duty of the academic faculty was to preserve the integrity of the academic program. When decisions are made solely on the basis on money, then the integrity is called into question. Every member of the graduate faculty has been disenfranchised when its elected body - the Graduate Council- is dissolved or not consulted about a major change in the status and direction of the graduate program. Why was there no real attempt come up with a legitimate strategic plan, one that might even take a year or two to complete? Dr. Mueller also complained about the way in which the Dean's Council arrived at these decisions without consulting any body of the faculty. While everyone could have understood a legitimate savings of money, the absence of logic and integrity just makes the decision a scam. There are legitimate and scholarly ways to rationalize a system when the vested interests are neutralized. Senator Wright echoed these sentiments by saying that there were many people on campus who were genuinely interested in real reorganization. Senator DiNucci asked Dr. Ashley if there was any serious consideration to starting over at square one and doing a total reorganization of the whole university?

Dr. Deanne Malpass, a visitor in the meeting, observed that there was a massive move afoot to decentralize the graduate program. She lamented that all of the work over the years to build a creditable program at SFA went out the window when no member of the graduate council was notified that this change was being made. For years, we were told that the graduate deanship could not be addressed; more important administrative changes were taking place - presidents were resigning and being fired, vice presidents were being fired and sought. The graduate program would have to wait. Now, when it is time to consider the graduate program, the very limbo which forced the delay of consideration of the graduate program is being used as evidence that nothing really needed to be done. Just when the Graduate Council itself had taken up a massive reconsideration of the graduate program in light of the promises made to SACS, we are now being told that the decision to disband and decentralize has been made behind closed doors without faculty input and that we have only three weeks to respond. She said she found this deplorable and a terrible way to run a university.

A motion to start from scratch with a total reorganization of the university administrative structure was defeated, but motion by Dr. Mace, seconded by Dr. Berry, concerning the reorganization of the university passed unanimously:

Motion

That the Faculty Governance Committee of the Senate consider the issue of reorganization of the university and stress the importance of faculty participation in any new reorganization scheme.

Also passed unanimously was a motion moved by Dr. DiNucci and seconded by Dr. Perritt:

Motion

That the Faculty Senate meet in special session in two weeks time to discuss this matter of the reorganization of the university.

B. Other Special Items

The Report from Dr. Robert Szafran on the freshman orientation programs - the FIG Program and SFA 101- were rescheduled for the March meeting.

The request from the Student Government Association for a change in the grading structure at SFA was referred to the Senate's Academic Affairs Committee on a motion by Dr. DiNucci, seconded by Dr. Hearrell.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Senator Mace, in giving the Treasurer's Report, said that the Senate's balance was \$3139, of which roughly \$1700 was currently encumbered and \$1400 was unencumbered.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Senator Jones, seconded by Senator Hearrell, the Senate voted to adjourn.