

Stephen F. Austin State University

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Faculty Senate
Gary Ford, Secretary
College of Liberal Arts
1994 - 1995

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Gary G. Ford, Secretary
DATE SUBMITTED: May 30, 1995
SUBJECT: Minutes for Meeting No. 248
Wednesday, May 10, 1995

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Meeting #248 of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chairperson C. P. Barton at 2:30 PM, in the Mildred Wyatt Room of Steen Library.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion

A motion to approve the minutes for Meeting #247 (April 12, 1995) was made by Senator Daley, seconded by Senator Mueller, and approved unanimously.

III. Announcements

Chairperson Barton distributed copies of the report he made to the Board of Regents at their April meeting and reviewed each point he had addressed. The report focused on the faculty concerns and issues dealt with by the Senate this year. He indicated that the Regents asked a number of questions and appeared extremely interested in his report. He was also invited to elaborate upon his comments in a written memo to the Board. He received a similar invitation from VPAA Ashley.

IV. Officers' Reports

Chairperson-elect Berry reported that a new draft (#9) of the revision of policy E20A had been distributed at the April 13th meeting of the Academic Affairs Council. Merit pay for

lecturers will not be introduced in the policy. A new policy, E20B, is being developed to provide merit pay for Chairs. An M.A. in school psychology was also proposed by the College of Education.

In the May 4th meeting of the Graduate Council, the proposed revision of the Council by laws was defeated because of the inability of the Council to agree on the issue of representation, discussed at last month's Senate meeting. Proposed guidelines for review of graduate programs were also rejected by the Council on the grounds that they duplicate existing procedures.

Treasurer Dahmus reported that the April budget printout showed a balance of \$2,000 in the Faculty Senate account. Since then, approximately \$500 had been spent, leaving a balance of approximately \$1,500.

V. Committee Reports

A. Professional Welfare Committee

Senator Mueller introduced John Griffitt of the SGA, who distributed copies of a proposed Faculty Disclosure Statement in which faculty would describe their courses (testing procedures, paper requirements, etc.). This information would be made available to students prior to pre-registration. Mr. Griffitt said that the goal is to help students select course sections that are taught in a manner consistent with their preferred mode of learning. He disagreed with the suggestion that students would simply be looking for a less demanding section of a course. The SGA's goal would be to implement the program for the Spring 1996 semester. Course information would be updated every two years.

Motion

Senator Mueller made the following motion: **The Faculty Senate accepts the recommendation of the Professional Welfare Committee that the Faculty Senate cooperate with the SGA in the process of developing and implementing a Faculty Disclosure Statement, provided that the SGA is committed to doing all the work involved in coordinating the project.** Senator Griffith seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Nominating Committee

Chairperson Barton reported that the slate of nominees for Senate offices was sent out with the agenda. Election of next year's officers would take place in the next meeting.

C. Elections

Senator DuFrene distributed the committee's report concerning the outcome of College elections for available Faculty Senate

seats. The report included a discussion of the election for the College of Business and the committee's rationale for not conducting a second ballot in spite of the fact that three candidates were listed on the initial ballot (see Attachment A). It also included a proposal to amend the Faculty Senate Constitution to clarify the election procedure, though such a change would need to be taken up by the Senate next year.

Motion

Senator Dahmus moved that the report of the Elections Committee be accepted. The motion was seconded by Senator Mueller.

Senator Turner presented a petition signed by 41 of the 69 faculty in the College of Business requesting that the Senate, consistent with the wording of its Constitution, complete the election of a senator from the College of Business by conducting a second ballot.

The Senate Parliamentarian, Senator Mueller, pointed out that the current motion would need to be amended if Senator Turner wished it to exclude the College of Business result.

Motion

Senator Turner moved that the original motion be amended, adding to the end of the motion: . . ., **excluding the results for the College of Business, with that election to be continued at the earliest opportunity.** The motion to amend was seconded by Senator Daley.

It was pointed out that if the election results for the College of Business are rejected, the elections in all other Colleges are also called into question. The practical difficulties of such a resolution were discussed, but Senator Turner emphasized that such considerations were secondary to fulfilling the requirements of the Faculty Senate Constitution.

A number of Senators agreed that the wording of the Constitution definitely needs to be amended. However, they stressed that the tradition has been not to re-ballot when only two candidates are involved. Chairperson Barton asked whether the Elections Committee report at the April Senate meeting had included the procedure of using only one ballot for elections involving only two candidates. Senator DuFrene responded that it had, and that the procedure had not been commented on.

Senator Daley pointed out that the ballot in the College of Business had gone out with **three** candidates listed. Senator DuFrene pointed out that Dr. J. Ormsby had distributed a memo to all faculty in the College of Business the day before they received the ballot in their boxes, announcing his withdrawal from the election.

Senator Berry asked whether questions about election procedures had been raised by any other College. None had been

raised. He indicated his support for the amendment.

Senator Mueller raised the issue that if the election were not completed until the Fall semester, the College of Business would be denied its proper representation on the Senate for at least one meeting next year. Senator Hearell suggested that those elected this semester be seated as interim Senators, with the stipulation that a special election be conducted in the Fall, to ensure proper representation.

The vote on the amendment was 4 in favor, 12 opposed. The amendment failed.

Senator Price reported that she had signed the College of Business petition, but now felt it was based only on a vague implication of a second ballot in the wording of the Constitution. She did not support the proposal to continue the election, though she agreed that the wording of the Constitution needs to be changed.

Senator Wright said that when a candidate receives a majority of the vote, a second ballot should not be conducted.

The original motion to accept the report of the Elections committee was approved by a vote of 14 in favor, 3 opposed. The report was accepted.

VI. Old Business

No old business was taken up at the meeting.

VII. New Business

Senator McDonald presented the following items of concern to the faculty, to be considered when the Senate convenes in the Fall 1995 semester: 1) policy regarding withdrawal from courses after midterm and 2) the potential benefits of midterm grades versus the pressures they introduce in faculty-student relations.

VPAA Ashley reported that President Angel was in Austin. There were no significant changes to report in the legislative budget deliberations as the process entered its final weeks.

Motion

Chairperson-elect Berry proposed that the Senate adopt a resolution honoring the work of outgoing Chairperson Pat Barton, which was read to the Senate (see Attachment B). The motion was seconded by Senator Mueller. It was approved unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator McDonald and seconded by Senator Mueller. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Visitors

Janelle Ashley
Glen Blalock
Tracy Crouch
John W. Goodall
John W. Griffitt
Gary Kronrad
Jimmi Rushing
Bob Stewart

Attachments

Attachment A: Report of the Faculty Senate Elections Committee
Attachment B: Resolution Honoring Chairperson Barton

Attachment A

**Report of the
Faculty Senate Elections Committee
May 10, 1995**

In March, all voting faculty were notified by memo of vacancies in their electoral groups and were invited to place their names in nomination. All self-nominations were verified for eligibility. The College of Forestry did not initially have a candidate but were successful in convincing a cohort to place his name on the ballot. Elections were held to fill ten vacant faculty senate seats; every faculty group elected at least one senator.

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate (Article 1, Section 9) requires that all eligible candidates be placed on the first ballot and that the results of that ballot determine the names for the final ballot. The final ballot must contain the names of the two candidates for each position to be filled who received a plurality of votes on the first ballot. The small pool of candidates this year resulted in no more than two names on the first ballot for any of the positions. (Business had three candidates, but one withdrew, leaving only two.) In elections with only one candidate, a write-in slot was also placed on the ballot to allow voters a choice.

The following clarification is offered in response to a question that was raised in the College of Business election about the first and second ballots referred to in the Faculty Senate Constitution and whether a second ballot is needed when the first contained only two candidate names. In the College of Business election, three persons responded to the request for nomination that went out to all voting faculty in the College of Business: Warren Fisher, Joseph Ormsby, and Susan Ormsby. As all were eligible to run, a ballot was prepared for the election showing all three names.

After the ballots had been taken to Printing Services to be printed, but before they had been distributed, Joe and Susan Ormsby realized that they had both nominated themselves for the senator's position and would be opposing one another on the ballot. Joe Ormsby notified the Elections chairman that he wished to withdraw from the election. He was told that since the ballots were already printed, his name would still appear but that the elections committee would eliminate him as a candidate when the votes were tallied, leaving two candidates for the run-off election. He, however, prepared a memo himself and distributed it to all faculty members in the College, stating that he had withdrawn from the election. His memo appeared in faculty boxes the day before the ballot did. As a result, voting faculty were aware of his withdrawal from the election prior to casting their votes.

The results of the election were as follows (69 ballots distributed, 50 returned):

W. Fisher	27 votes
J. Ormsby	1 vote
S. Ormsby	22 votes

As there were only two candidates remaining at the time of the election, the one receiving the highest number of votes was declared the winner. No run-off was conducted since only two

candidates were involved in the first balloting. Voting faculty would have been merely asked to vote once again on the same two candidates.

Had Joe Ormsby withdrawn from the election after votes had been cast, a second ballot would have been necessary to allow faculty to decide between the two remaining candidates in a run-off election.

The purpose of the Nomination Ballot is to present the names of all eligible persons who have indicated their willingness to serve to the faculty so that the **top two** can be determined for the electoral ballot that follows. *The Faculty Senate has traditionally interpreted its constitution to allow for the nomination ballot to be the election ballot when only two persons are in the running for a given position. A second ballot seems superfluous when it is identical to the first.*

We would hope that in the future, numerous names will be placed in nomination for available Faculty Senate seats, necessitating second ballots in all elections. In an attempt to simplify understanding of the election process, the Elections Committee recommends that Article 1, Section 9, of the Constitution be amended to state that in instances where the first ballot includes only two names, that the ballot be considered the electoral ballot. A change in the process for nomination of faculty senator candidates, which was discussed in an earlier Faculty Senate meeting this year, may also be proposed at the same time. As such a change to the Constitution requires a vote of the University faculty, it is proposed that this item of business be introduced at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the 1995-96 academic year.

Attachments: Results of Senator Elections
Proposed Change to Faculty Senate Constitution, Article I, Section 9

Respectfully submitted,

Faculty Senate Elections Committee
Debbie DuFrene, Chair
John Dahmus
Bernice Wright

Stephen F. Austin State University
FACULTY SENATE

Resolution

May 10, 1995

WHEREAS Dr. C.P. (Pat) Barton has served faithfully in the office of Chair of the Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University during the 1994-1995 academic year, and

WHEREAS Dr. Barton has presided over the Senate with his customary courtesy and sense of fairness, and

WHEREAS Dr. Barton has encouraged openness, free exchange of ideas, and free expression of opinion, and

WHEREAS Dr. Barton has helped to maintain lines of communication with University administration, and

WHEREAS Dr. Barton has exhibited unfailing good humor and wit,

THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University express its sincere gratitude to **Dr. Pat Barton** for his dedication of time and talent in service to the Senate, to the Faculty, and to the University.

Richard Berry, Chair
1995-1996 Faculty Senate