

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Meeting #253
13 December 1995

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Berry at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Berry asked for additions or corrections to the minutes for meeting #252. Senator Goodall moved that the minutes for meeting #252 be approved as written; Senator Fisher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Berry mentioned he had provided senators with copies of Mr. Adkinson's letter concerning the Wellness Center. Chair Berry responded to the information in the letter. Contact Senator Berry for details.

The Faculty Senate will hold its March meeting on 20 March which is the third Wednesday of the month. The regular meeting date of the second Wednesday falls during Spring Break

Chair-elect Dahmus described the changes to the Performance Review of Officers Reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Index E-381). The principal changes include an evaluation of new Officers at the beginning of "the second year of service" and that "all full-time" faculty will be included in all evaluations of officers (deans and directors). The changes were worked out in a committee consisting of Dr. Angel, Dr. Ashley and Faculty Senate officers.

REMARKS BY DR. ANGEL

Dr. Angel extended season's greetings to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Angel described issues affecting SFASU that currently are being discussed in Legislative committees. The first item presented was University Funding data. This was a comparison of tuition and fees between 1984-85 and the 1995-96 academic year. Tuition and fees have raised while state support has been reduced (see attachment).

Dr. Angel met with Governor Bush to discuss several items. Dr. Angel reported that the governor was not going to force SFASU into a system.

Senator Monford's committee was reviewing the impact of changing amounts of federal monies coming into the state for higher education. The committee is looking at next year's levels and examining the future trends for a seven (7) period.

At this date the employment cap initiated by the Legislature will not be an issue at SFASU.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

On a matter raised by Senator Sullivan at the last meeting, Dr. Ashley reported that to her knowledge students who walk at graduation are eligible. Some students finish work at another campus but graduate from SFASU. Other individuals who participate in our graduation may not get a diploma because of failure to fulfill degree plan requirements.

Dr. Ashley asked for cooperation from the faculty to identify students trying to participate in graduation but that are not qualified.

At the Academic Affairs Council meeting in December, Mr. Jones stated that telephone registration was going well. Some small problems, such as closing sections at the proper number, were being worked out. As of 6 December 1995, more students had pre-registered than in December 1994.

A student must take at least 54 credit hours at SFASU to be considered for graduation with honors. The change was made to accommodate teach education graduates who have several field-based courses that are graded as P/F.

The Council also is considering adding departmental honors to qualified students' transcripts.

Revisions to the policy concerning use and reservations for Turner Auditorium were passed.

The new M.S. degrees in the College of Math and Sciences were discussed. Mr. Cage, in particular, questioned the library resource sections as to the process used for completion.

Dr. Franks reported on the progress of the Education Doctorate in Leadership proposal.

In the monthly meeting with Dr. Angel and Dr. Ashley, Senators Berry and Dahmus asked about the rumor of a multi-million dollar training center proposal that might be introduced at the January Board of Regents Meeting. Dr. Angel was not aware of such a proposal.

The disposition of frozen positions is dependent on Spring and Fall 1996 enrollments.

The group discussed the issue of the attitude of the Board of Regents toward faculty raises in light of the Wellness Center issue. Dr. Angel mentioned that because of the "political realities" in University institutions, these issues at times have consequences to be considered. Senator S. McCune asked for further clarification on this point.

Senator Daley asked if the faculty kept quiet, would a raise be more likely?

Dr. Angel was not concerned that members of the Board of Regents were overly involved in the day to day activities of the University.

Chair Berry pointed issues discussed in the Graduate Council. New Graduate Bulletins will be available in February. Also, there has been a minor change in review of Graduate Faculty. The review process has been changed from every 5 to 6 years.

The three new Graduate degree proposals were discussed at length by the Council. The consensus was that more time needs to be invested in the development of the proposals.

Treasurer DuFrene stated that no current budget report for the Faculty Senate was available from the university, although according to Senator DuFrene's meticulous records the starting balance for the period was \$3,876.23. Supplies (\$57.14) and travel expenses (\$203.74) turned in to her amounted to \$260.89. This leaves a balance of \$3,529.94.

Several other Senators who are budget authorities also stated they have not received current balance budgets for the Fall 1995 semester.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Governance and Involvement - Chair Dahmus reported that the committee had decided to send out another survey after carefully reviewing the results of the first survey. There were sixty (60) responses to the first survey.

Academic Affairs - Chair Price reported that Dr. Ashley had appointed a committee to review and make recommendations concerning commencement exercises at SFASU. Members of the committee include deans, administrators, faculty and student. There are representatives from every college on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought to the floor.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Warren Fisher turned in a letter of resignation. Dr. Fisher has been appointed as an Associate Dean of the Business College.

Senator DuFrene moved that Dr. Larry Watts serve as a replacement. Senator Dahmus seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair-elect Dahmus introduced the new survey to be distributed to the faculty at the beginning of the Spring 1996 semester (anticipated to be sent by 15 January 1996). The survey was developed by the Faculty Governance and Involvement committee.

Senator S. McCune suggested that Senators for each College personally contact each faculty to encourage them to fill out the survey as an effort to increase the level of response.

Senator Choate suggested the survey be handed out at the College meeting in January. Senator Sullivan pointed out that not every College has a meeting at the beginning of the semester. Senator DuFrene voiced support for Senator Choate's suggestion.

Chair-elect Dahmus stated that a report will be generated from collected data and be made available to the faculty at a later date.

Senator Ford pointed out that the first survey had definite comments about the Faculty Senate's political reality.

Chair Berry, in response to faculty comments, charged the Senators from each College to meet, compose and distribute a end-of-semester report. A copy of the report will be submitted to Chair Berry. The report will present a different perspective than the Senate minutes.

Chair Berry asked for information that could be used in his report to the Regents at the January 1996 meeting.

Senator Dumesnil suggested that faculty should attend the January Board of Regents meeting.

Senator Daley moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Choate seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.