

## **FACULTY SENATE**

Meeting #254  
14 February 1996

The meeting was called to order by Chair-elect Dahmus at 2:30 p.m.

A call was made for corrections or additions to the minutes for meeting #253. With corrections suggested, Senator Crouch moved to accept the minutes as amended and Senator Rushing seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair-elect Dahmus reminded the Senate that this year's Hoops for Scholars basketball game is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Friday, 16 February 1996. The scholarship fund total has reached \$55,000; the goal for this year is an additional \$25,000. Proceeds are used to recruit National Merit Scholars. Pledge forms have been distributed throughout the university.

Primary election voting this year will occur during spring break. Chair-elect Dahmus noted that registered voters can vote absentee the week before spring break during the early voting period.

Dr. Angel sent his regrets that he was unable to attend the Senate meeting. Dr. Ashley was present to answer questions as they arose throughout the meeting.

### **REMARKS BY MR. BILOW**

Roger Bilow, Director of Admissions, addressed the Senate on admissions procedures. He focused on recruiting activities in four areas: 1) What SFASU did this fall; 2) What SFASU plans to do this spring; 3) Follow-up to students; and 4) Summary of Top 10% Scholarship program.

The fall agenda of recruiting activities included College Night programs, high school and community college visitations, sponsored 287 programs reaching 38,000 students and parents, and held Showcase Saturday which brought more than 1,400 prospective students and parents on campus.

Mr. Bilow described the spring activities which will include Showcase Saturday on 30 March 1996, more site visits to recruit students (225 contacts scheduled with some duplicates), develop promotional materials and literature (a sample packet can be obtained from the Admissions office), include faculty member, an SFA student, and an alumnus from the area -- to show different aspects of the university, contact prospective students through a phone-a-thon.

He stressed that Admissions wanted to broaden the scope to include all interested persons on the campus into student recruitment. He expressed that the personal touch, which is important to students, be used to strengthen our recruitment approach. Other activities mentioned were sending sports event ticket to potential students (more than 55 responded and their names announced at game) and a mass mailing (over 8,000) that included financial aid applications which has been determined as important to potential students.

Concerning the Follow-up for prospective students and for applicants, the Admissions office has purchased lists of junior/senior students, sent close to 10,000 information and admission packets and sent two follow-up letters after an application was received.

Admitted students receive acceptance letters that are personalized, an enrollment packet 1 week later, including a check list of what needs to be done, invitation to orientation, information on TASP, two newsletters with articles by students, faculty, support groups and the "SFA Connection." Also included is a Texas map with arrows heading to Nacogdoches. Furthermore, notes from people in the student's region for selected areas of the state are provided in the packet.

Mr. Bilow summarized the Top 10% Scholarship program. It went into effect Fall 1995 with some 222 registered; 90% of them had GPA of 2.0 or higher, 66% had 2.75 or higher, 60% had 3.0 or higher, 30% had 3.5 or higher; while about 5% (10 students) had a GPA of 4.0.

Mr. Bilow mentioned he would like to offer some incentive to get these students to re-enroll next semester such as basing the Top 10% program on 6 semesters or better so the university doesn't have to wait until June to offer scholarships; give the top 5% a \$1,000 scholarship; then the next 5% a \$500 scholarship. Under these guidelines some 325 students will be eligible at this time for the scholarship.

Dr. Bilow pointed out that after talking to other recruiting officers state-wide, no one really had a good answer as to why Fall 1995 enrollment was down.

Senator Sullivan asked: What about the University Scholars program, which had been our most selective program? The quality of applicants indicates that the word is not getting out. Mr. Bilow responded that the program is listed in the scholarship guide.

Dr. Ashley added that students who meet the criteria are now getting a personalized letter. Recipients will get the Top 10 award, in addition to the University Scholars Award, but she agrees the amount needs be significantly higher.

Mr. Bilow stressed that he would like to see it be renewable, with a certain GPA. The Board of Regents wants to reward those who do well academically in high school. It is very important to receive a scholarship, even if a small one.

Senator Sullivan pursued the issue by asking: Why don't we contact students who come here for academic or extra curricular competitions (like the Math Competition)? Mr. Bilow pointed out that SFASU contacted every school in a 50-mile radius and requested a mail list of high school seniors. Each student was sent a packet with an interest card to return. This spring SFASU requested a mail list of high school juniors.

Admissions is checking listings from professional associations of students who won awards. If the student is in our recruiting area, a letter of congratulations is sent and the student is invited to apply to SFASU.

Senator Dumesnil queried: Should departments forward a list of names of all who attend the Math Competition and other events? Would this be legal? Mr. Bilow said to forward the names.

Senator McCune posed: Does raising admission requirements increase enrollment? Mr. Bilow replied, Yes, but there may be a temporary decline in enrollment during the transition period. He pointed out that the university must continue to address the issue of academic reputation. Students are very cognizant of academic reputation.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration and Finance Chair DuFrene submitted the committee's proposal for on-line access to the University budget:

*In order for the Administration and Finance Committee to effectively fulfill its responsibilities of interpreting, responding to, and offering advice concerning University administrative and financial procedures, sufficient access to the University budget is necessary. Furthermore, the campus-wide computer information system makes possible a much greater degree of efficiency than a centralized paper library copy affords, thus allowing more responsible use of faculty time. Therefore, the Faculty Senate requests that members of its Administration and Finance committee be granted read-only computer access to the University budget.*

Senator Watts moved to accept the resolution which was seconded by Senator Walker. The motion carried unanimously.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chair-elect Dahmus reported that an Administrative retreat recently was held at Kurth Lake. The agenda included reports on new degrees and the Kellogg Foundation ACE program. Dahmus pointed out that the URL address on the web for information about the project is:

**<http://www.tahperd.sfasu.edu/ACE.html>**

Chair Berry and Chair-elect Dahmus met with Dr. Angel and Dr. Ashley in February. Several ongoing issues were updated during the meeting. In particular, the Wellness Center is planned to be in operation by the fall.

Chair Berry and Chair-elect Dahmus made an appeal to include faculty in planning; the Faculty Senate Executive Committee later decided to send a letter asking officially for faculty input (See Attachment).

Questions were discussed concerning giving each department Dorm room scholarships with which to recruit majors. The concept will not occur as this approach partially is used in the Top 10% Scholarship program. In relation to the Top 10% Scholarship program, Dr. Angel stated that the possibility of second (or further) year funding is being discussed.

Summer school budget will possibly be at last year's level plus 3%. This is a base year so enrollment numbers are of particular importance to SFASU.

Discussion was initiated by the Senate officers concerning the relationship, if any, between new faculty positions for recently approved degree programs, i.e. Biotechnology and Environmental Sciences, and raises for the existing faculty.

Funds for the new degree programs (except two in Social Work) are coming from special item funding; this funding is expected to be continued for several years. Thus, the relationship is not strong.

Dr. Ashley commented on activities of the Academic Affairs Council. The group is soliciting input from campus persons concerning telephone access.

Three (3) levels of honor graduates were approved: University, College, Departmental.

An update of the Doctoral program in Education was given. It is available for review in the History Department (contact Dr. Malpass for particulars).

Changes to the library policy were approved. The changes will allow the library to shift funds among categories to better provide library resources for the campus. For example, some funds would be non-lapsing which could be carried over to another year to use for special or large purchases.

Chair-elect Dahmus mentioned that during the Graduate Council meeting the Biotechnology degree was approved. In addition, it has been approved by Board of Regents.

The Doctor of Education degree will be voted after Spring Break.

Faculty Governance and Involvement Committee Chair Dahmus reported that 560 questionnaires were distributed as part of the second phase of evaluating Faculty Senate effectiveness and identifying areas that need addressed.

To date, the response level is at approximately 40%. The data are being processed by Dr. S. McCune using SAS. The data will be compiled and available at the 20 March meeting.

Treasurer DuFrene's reported that Dr. Ashley responded favorably to the request for computer equipment. The lap top computer should arrive in the near future. The following items represent the account activities since the January report: The December balance was \$3,529.94. Printing costs were \$60.60; supplies purchased totaled \$23.54; and student wages paid were \$35.00 leaving a balance of: \$3,410.80.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Dumesnil proposed that: *The last day to drop a class should be changed to either the day that is two weeks prior to mid-semester or two weeks after mid-semester.*

The rationale for this proposal is based on the facts that the last day to drop a course presently coincides with mid-semester. This creates a conflict since exams are traditionally given at mid-semester. The proposed change would avoid conflict by changing the policy either to two weeks prior to mid-term so students won't depend on mid-term grades to make their decisions, or to two weeks after mid-term so that students will have mid-semester grades to help them make a decision.

The proposal was referred to the Academic Affairs committee for consideration.

Senator Sullivan asked that Academic Affairs committee to look at grade sheets. In particular Senator Sullivan was concerned because the fall grade reports did not indicate students that had already dropped with WP or WF.

Academic Affairs committee Chair Price will have the committee look into current procedures.

Chair-elect Dahmus reminded the Senate that Chair Berry wants reports from College representatives to be sent to their colleagues so that faculty will know what the Faculty Senate is doing. Senators are reminded to submit their reports to the Chair.

Senator Dahmus extended thanks to Suzy Weems for sitting in for Senator Kenner and to Mary Carns for taking notes for Secretary McDonald.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.