

**Stephen F. Austin State University**

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 1997 Meeting #268**

***APPROVED 10/8/97***

Faculty Senate meeting #268 was called to order by Chair Darrel McDonald. The following Senators were absent: Blalock (resigned), Briggs (excused), Clark (excused), Human (resigned), Stewart.

The minutes for meetings #266 and #267 were approved as written.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR MCDONALD***

A new Faculty Senate web site is now on-line. In the works will also be a new List Serv to distribute messages to all faculty from the Faculty Senate. Help is needed from the Senators in making sure the Senate has the right e-mail addresses of faculty from each college. The List Serv will be "post only" messages to all faculty. In the future, Senate committees may place questions on certain issues to all faculty with responses welcomed back to the appropriate committee.

Attention should be taken of the memo sent to faculty and staff from Mike Jennings, director of University Information Systems. It stated that any software purchased needs to be scrutinized for the year 2000. For more information call ext. 1111.

Senators need to let Chair McDonald know if they did not receive the posting of the September Faculty Senate meeting. There have been problems with some e-mail addresses.

McDonald thanked the administration and the Board of Regents for their efforts in keeping Dave Creech as director of the Arboretum.

It was noted that there are now three seat vacancies on the Senate. Pat Human and Glenn Blalock had both resigned. So, elections will need to be held for the College of Education, Liberal Arts, and for the still outstanding seat in the College of Fine Arts. McDonald encouraged those colleges to fill those seats.

***REMARKS FROM DR. JANELLE ASHLEY***

Dr. Ashley welcomed the Faculty Senate for this year stating that this was going to be a great Fall semester. All indications are that enrollment is up, but that figure would be determined after the 12th class day. Dr. Ashley did say that students have until the 20th class day to complete bills or installment matters. An official report must be given to the Coordinating Board by the 12th day, but schools can amend that report after the 20th class day. SFA is looking at an enrollment over 12,000 and showing a possible 70-percent increase in Geology. The new Freshman class is larger with what could be a 17-percent increase. There could also be a significant increase in first-time minority Freshman, possibly 20-percent. SFA is working on student retention rate and effective recruitment to reverse the trend of the past in decreasing enrollment.

Dr. Ashley spoke of the new Post-tenure Review Policy which states that no university can receive state funding until this new policy is in place on September 1, 1997. In July, the Board of Regents formed an Ad Hoc Committee for Post-tenure Review to put this policy in place.

McDonald questioned Dr. Ashley about the change in the academic freedom and responsibility area in the final [Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty](#) policy.

Dr. Ashley replied that people had indicated that it would be irresponsible not to have included an Academic Freedom Statement. In April 1998, there will be a review of the Post-tenure Review policy and any other policy deemed critical; at which time, if needed, the Academic Freedom Statement could be changed.

Discussion followed as to whether the [Academic Freedom Statement](#) listed in the Faculty Handbook was policy. McDonald indicated that the Faculty Handbook was not a binding contract and that the Senate may want to look at making the statement policy.

Chair McDonald also asked Dr. Ashley to update the Senate on the four problem areas of the recent state audit report.

Dr. Ashley replied that she was not the person to be able to discuss the audit. However, she did indicate that the university was in the process of updating university policies on a regular basis. Everyone can expect a review of cellular phone use university-wide, not just the UPD. Concern about athletic expenditures was cited again as it had been in the previous audit.

It was asked what percentage of the budget went to athletics. Dr. Ashley replied that she did not know exact figures.

There also was concern expressed about the lines at the pay windows during regular registration at the Austin Building.

Dr. Ashley suggested that some students waited until the last second to pay their bills. She said that a Task Force is working on the problem. They are considering putting the services in the air-conditioned Coliseum for students to pay bills, get parking permits, etc.

Another item brought up was why short-term loans were not available until last Monday. A Senator asked if SFA could allow students to apply for short-term loans in the Spring.

Dr. Ashley said short-term loans are for emergencies only. If you offer the money up front, there will be more takers than money.

### ***OFFICERS' REPORTS***

Chair McDonald reported on the August meeting of the Academic Affairs Council. Dr. James Speer noted changes made in the allowable foreign language requirement in Liberal Arts. Four semesters of foreign language is required for the BA. American Sign Language now can be used to substitute a foreign language at the same grade level; i.e. 300 level course for a 300 level course. Contact Dr. Speer for more information.

There has also been a change made to the TASK program. The copy of changes were sent to all Deans. This may influence some of the courses that we will have to offer in the future. Dr. Thomas Franks also announced that the Doctoral program in educational leadership had been approved by the Coordinating Board. He also noted that the July meeting of the Coordinating Board, and hereafter, the EXCET scores for teacher certification will be reported and considered when any new degree proposal is up for approval.

Chair McDonald and Chair-Elect Jimmi Rushing met with President Angel and Vice-President Ashley at the beginning of the school year. Issues the Senate needs to be aware of are the effects of the T.L. Bevins Bill (SB 1907) which is the reclassification of certain fees and Senate Bill 1419 which is the equalization of academic entrance standards for all students. More information will be forthcoming in February.

The NCAA self-study should be available soon to interested persons in October. The operating budget for 1997-1998 will also be available in the near future. The Deans have a copy of the draft budget at this time.

McDonald raised a question at the meeting about the two former TCU football players brought onto campus. Dr. Angel responded that was Coach Pierce's decision, and McDonald would need to meet with him for the full understanding of the move.

Another issue addressed was the need of a central mail update because there are a lot of people who change offices each year, chairs of committees, university as well as other types. It was pointed out that the administrative computing system is adding a new module referred to as X550 system that will allow for those changes.

It was requested that the Faculty Senators be recognized at the Fall opening session meeting. Dr. Ashley is looking into that.

There is an updated report on faculty salary status from 17 Texas universities. SFA stands in the bottom one-third at all levels. The report was given to the Administration and Finance Committee for review.

An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to check into using Internet 2 on campus. This would be a high transmission line at 1,000 times the speed used now. This is in the early planning stage to the Administration for consideration before that Board meeting. This should give some timetable for the scheduling of committee meetings.

Treasurer Mark Simmons reported that the Faculty Senate account has a balance of \$4,500.00.

### ***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

Chair McDonald reported that committee memberships have been distributed. The Professional Welfare II Committee has been given the issue of Intellectual Property Rights that will need to be ready for the January Board of Regents meeting. Input is encouraged from the faculty on this issue.

There were no committee reports.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

McDonald reminded the Senate that the grade change policy question was tabled in the May meeting. That question will come off the Table in October making it an active item from the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

Senator Jill Dumesnil asked whether there will be a Faculty Senate committee looking at the admission standard changes that Dr. Angel indicated may take place. McDonald said no, but that the Academic Affairs Committee might want to pick it up. McDonald did indicate that the Senate will have the RFP (Request for Proposal) that is going out to describe what this university would like to see accomplished in this study done by consultants and will pass it along to Senator Sullivan. The consultant report will be finalized and available Spring 1998.

Senator Sullivan reported that SFA was rated, in Money Magazine, low in admission requirements compared to other similar Texas institutions.

Chair McDonald responded that Dr. Angel and Dr. Ashley would welcome comments from the Faculty Senate on the admission standards and that the Senate will have a role in this issue yet to be defined.

McDonald requested that the Election Committee move on the filling of the three vacant seats in the Senate. He also noted that there were volunteer faculty members available to sit on some of the committees. These faculty members could help with committee assignments lending strength to some of the issues.

Senator Janie Kenner moved that the meeting be adjourned; Senator John Moore seconded the motion. The motion was carried; the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Sherry Williford, *Secretary*