

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
March 11, 1998 Meeting #273**

Approved, April 8, 1998

Faculty Senate meeting #273 was called to order by Chair Darrel McDonald. The following senators were absent: Burt (excused), Kenner (excused), and Stewart.

The minutes for meeting #272 were corrected and approved as amended.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Dr. Pat Russell, director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Self-Study, gave her monthly report on the progress of the SACS self-study. Dr. Russell announced that two Regents have been appointed to committees: Murray Shaw to the Steering Committee and Jimmy Murphy to the Organization and Administration Committee. The Pine Log was commended on the excellent coverage of the SACS self-study. Russell feels this a good way to let the students know what is going on. Dr. Russell also reported that Dr. Gloria Durr is chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Durr has prior experience in this position. Dr. Suzy Weems' committee is drafting a purpose statement to be ready by September 1998. A plan is being devised for a self-study of what we plan to do in the future and how much it will cost. Sam Houston did a similar version that was 62 pages long. Dr. Russell also asked the senators to encourage their college and departments to pay close attention to the assessment issue. SFA has established a much needed institutional research office, but can we show we have made other changes? Each department should have a mission statement and goals toward that mission statement. The SACS team wants to see results.

Al Cage, director of the Steen Library, also addressed the Senate on the status of the library. He noted that over the last 10 to 14 years the library has been hit hard by the erosion of funds for education. The Library Committee did a library collection development review which is attached. Before the electronic access of materials, it was a hit or miss to obtain something not found in our library. Cage feels that the library needs to be addressed in the '03 plan. There will need to be ways to provide additional funding.

Senator Martha Sullivan asked what percentage or amount of the most recent budget money came from HEAF funds. Cage replied that they received about \$1,130,000.00.

Chair McDonald asked how does the library size and holdings impact HEAF funding.

Vice-President of Academic Affairs Janelle Ashley replied that once every ten years and at a mid-point every five years there is a reviewing process. The process of reviewing HEAF money is going on now with a look at no future increase in the next five years.

McDonald asked if SFA was not the second best in the state in terms of student population. Cage noted that with new formulas put into place by the legislature SFA is the second worst library in the state in space utilization, however, UT-Austin is the worst. He went on to say that SFA is the 10th or 11th largest library in the state.

McDonald inquired on what the Senate could do to help. Cage replied that it is important for the faculty to decide what the priorities are. The library is important to SFA, and the Senate can support the library as a major factor in the '03 plan. Cage said that he feels that the SFA Library is set apart some in that it does not offer what he calls library "services," which results in providing the services until we run out of money. He feels the SFA Library offers "programs," in which the

library tries to figure out what outcome they want, what are the resources needed to get to that point, then target the money accordingly, and get the money to get it done.

Senator Frank Codispoti asked what role the library plays in major fundraising taking place.

Cage said that he has asked for an endowment for the East Texas Research Center. However, he does not think the SFA Library can raise the kind of money it needs through outside means.

Senator Sullivan inquired when has the library received any money from student fees. Cage replied that since 1984 all material funding has come entirely from HEAF money.

Chair McDonald said that he sees the library as an intricate part of learning. As part of our mission to educate, the library should be seen as a central part to that learning process as well as the faculty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR MCDONALD

Chair McDonald welcomed Senator Steven Josephsen as the new representative from the College of Education.

Showcase Saturday will be held March 28th, and McDonald thanked all those involved in the day.

There will be the Teaching Excellence Convocation April 7th at 1:30 pm. Dr. Jim DiNucci will be the keynote speaker. The Convocation honors the best teachers in the Colleges and the best teacher on campus.

McDonald encouraged everyone to see the March issue of Texas Highways. There is an eight-page spread about the SFA arboretum. It does include the Lanana Creek Trail.

As a product of the ACE work teaching circles have been developed. There are about 45 faculty involved in the teaching circles. There is a teaching circle listserv open to everyone. Senator Lauren Scharff reported that circles will form and reform rotating the facilitator each semester.

McDonald announced that Fabulous Friday for 5th graders will be held April 17th.

Criminal Justice invited everyone April 23rd at 7pm in the Science Auditorium to a lecture by Judge William Wayne Justice. He will discuss his 30 years of changing the way Texans live under his judicial decisions. Justice will discuss cases from Nacogdoches followed by a panel discussion.

McDonald asked all outgoing Senators to meet briefly with Chair-Elect Jimmi Rushing after this meeting to serve as the nominating committee for next year's Faculty Senate officers.

Chair-Elect Rushing concluded announcements with the note that the Pine Log is soliciting guest editorials on any topic from the faculty. The maximum length should be two pages double spaced.

REMARKS FROM DR. JANELLE ASHLEY

Senator Wilbur Clark asked Dr. Ashley if she was aware of any cut backs by Blue Cross/Blue Shield on reimbursements to pharmacists. Dr. Ashley replied that she was unaware of this but would check into it.

Chair McDonald reported that Dr. Dan Angel was out of town but would address the Senate at the April meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair McDonald and Chair-Elect Rushing attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates in Austin February 20-21. Dr. Barry Thompson, Chancellor of A&M University System, stressed that the Back-to-Basics theme used by higher education institutions to go to the Legislature for obtaining new money was successful. The main five points of this theme were partnerships developing between campuses especially high schools, a chance to enhance undergraduate education, coordinating health care professional programs, increasing student support and student retention, and trying to expand undergraduate research and work force development. One of the major concerns at the state level for higher education is the dramatic potential change in demographics. This will create a tremendous demand on education while we will see an increasingly large number of under skilled people in the population. Higher education will be competing against a larger population with greater needs that are not education driven although they are caused by the lack of advanced education. It was noted that a college degree equates to an extra \$1 million in earnings for a worker and \$2 million for master degrees over a high school diploma. A need for a global agenda for higher education was discussed where a student will have a broader world view than presently given by provincial campuses. The Access and Equity Director said that the Hopwood fallout was leading to alternative funding vehicles. There are studies being made to understand and facilitate the migration models which will affect demographics of the state in numbers and diversity. Junior colleges will increase their service to the first two years of college experience. Also, being looked at is how to deal with the explosion in telecommunications and electronic learning in the state. Chancellor John Monford from the Texas Tech University System felt that Texas was lagging in Tier 1 (flagship) universities in the state. Monford would like to see four new Tier 1 universities in the state in the Metroplex, Lubbock area, San Antonio, and the Houston area. East Texas Representative Jim Reynolds commented that higher education was not getting its fair share out of the Legislature. Chair-Elect Rushing noted that if we have concerns, the Legislature wants to hear from us. They hear from everyone else. And Rushing added that there was discussion of putting more full-time faculty in freshman courses.

McDonald reminded the faculty to use their professional organizations for vehicles to be heard in Austin.

Chair-Elect Rushing attended the February 19th Academic Affairs Council meeting. Due to HB65 Summer and Fall registrations have been separated. Pre-registration for Summer I & II by phone and web site will take place April 13-24. Summer II and Fall pre-registration will take place April 29-May 15. A policy is being drafted for doctoral students on the maximum number of hours doctoral students can accumulate before the state will provide support. The result is that students over the maximum number of hours will be charged the full cost of their education, equivalent to out-of-state rates. Also, there is a core curriculum draft on the web for reviewing. The question was asked whether Summer and Fall schedules would be put out at the same time. Dr. Ashley replied that she did not know.

McDonald attended the March 5th meeting of the Academic Affairs Council. The Council left the Off-Air Recording of Broadcasts for Educational Use Policy as it was in the handbook. It was recommended that the faculty needs to review this policy to stay in compliance as corporations with copyrights are looking for violators and issuing stiff fines for mis-use. The Advanced Placement Policy rewritten to encompass current testing types for students was passed. The Transfer Admission Policy has been rewritten to clarify issues of current transfer student credits that will be accepted. The Council left Dead Week as written. Minor reporting changes were made in the Class Attendance and Excused Absences Policy. The Vice-President's Office is working on electronically posting excused absences for students. The Academic Freedom and Responsibility Policy passed by the Faculty Senate was assigned to a committee and given to the full Council for comment. They are considering a course incidental fee of \$6.00 per course for students in classes that require extra supplies and travel above the existing class fee charges.

McDonald and Rushing both attended the SFA Retreat. It was indicated that faculty workload was an item being looked at. There is also a bill being presented on the accuracy of tracking campus crime. This may mean that campus police reports become open records. Also, discussed were two new formulas for effective money allotment dealing with space and number of students.

McDonald reported that Dr. Angel hosted a '03 luncheon where he announced four items he would like to see happen: A Center for Professional Development, a Doctorate in Environmental Science, and potential Masters in Public Administration and in Nursing.

Chair-Elect Rushing attended the Graduate Council meeting on February 26th. The Council is looking into tracking our doctoral students. The Council also passed a \$25 graduate application fee...half of which will go to the department and half that will go to the graduate school. The graduate student representative on the Council said that most students expect to pay some form of fee.

Treasurer Mark Simmons reported that the Faculty Senate account has a balance of \$1,969.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections Committee Chair Becky Greer reported that the vote for the term limits amendment had taken place and a two-thirds of the votes cast were needed on the amendment for it to pass. 156 votes were received, 99 in favor and 57 against. The amendment failed to be ratified by the faculty. A call for nominations went out to the appropriate colleges. Greer asked all senators to encourage colleagues to run for office vacancies. Chair McDonald did express appreciation in the participation by all colleges on the current Faculty Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

Professional Welfare II Chair Jimmi Rushing brought before the Senate the first reading of a proposed amendment to the SFASU Faculty Senate Standing Rules. The Professional Welfare II Committee proposed that the Faculty Senate replace the ad-hoc Professional Welfare II Committee with a standing committee, the Strategic Planning Committee. Rushing encouraged comments on the proposed amendment.

Chair-Elect Rushing also announced that the new Graduate Bulletins are now available. There was a revised policy statement on Continuation in the Graduate School that was passed after the printing of the bulletins which will be inserted in each book.

Chair McDonald reported that the Academic Affairs Council has requested from Dr. Ashley by the end of the Spring semester recommendations for vacancies on university committees. Please let Senator Sullivan know if Senators and their colleagues are interested in serving on these committees.

Chair McDonald also announced that the 1997 Fact Book is out. The book may come in handy for research and funding information, and the Faculty Senate office has a copy.

Senator Jim Howard moved that the meeting be adjourned; Senator David Shows seconded the motion. The motion was carried; the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Sherry Williford
Secretary