

**Stephen F. Austin State University**

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 1998 Meeting #274**

***Approved, May 13, 1998***

April 8, 1998 Faculty Senate meeting #274 was called to order by Chair-Elect Jimmi Rushing. The following senators were absent: Beaty, Briggs (excused), Howard (excused), Kenner (excused), and Stewart.

The minutes for meeting #273 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 the SACS Self-Study has its own web page with links to be set up in the future. The Faculty Senate was encouraged to look at the mission statement for the university drafted by the Institutional Purpose Committee. Dr. Suzy Weems, chair of this committee, would like comments on the mission statement by April 17th. Dr. Russell acknowledged that each department should be working on its own departmental self-study. Suggestions on what to be looking for in this study are available on the web site. The departmental self-studies done from 1988-1990 can be used as good models. The main concern is that everyone looks at the criteria of SACS. All topics' statements must be met. The planning document for the university self-study has been prepared along with a cost estimate plan. Both are waiting for approval. Dr. Russell noted that the bulk of the expense for the study is release time or reassignment time. Dr. Russell reported that the "quick and dirty" study looks quite well overall. Again, Dr. Russell encouraged everyone to look hard at the assessment piece.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR-ELECT RUSHING***

Chair-Elect Rushing announced that Chair Darrell McDonald was attending a conference in Louisiana.

Rushing congratulated the Teaching Excellence college award winners. Three senators were among the winners: James Howard from the College of Business; Lauren Scharff, College of Liberal Arts and Sherry Williford, College of Applied Arts and Sciences. Also recognized were Leah Smith, College of Education; Piero Fenci, College of Fine Arts; Hans Williams, College of Forestry and Tom Callaway, College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Callaway also received the university Teaching Excellence award.

Congratulations also went out to the pom squad for 1st Place at the nationals competition and the cheerleader squad for 3rd Place at their national competition.

Chair-Elect Rushing again reminded the senators that the SACS Self-Study Institutional Purpose Committee has a draft of the SFA Mission/Purpose Statement on the web site for review. It is also posted on the Faculty Senate web page. Please send comments to Dr. Suzy Weems by April 17th. Dr. William Johnson, President Emeritus of SFA, will be serving as interim president of Lamar University in Beaumont effective May 31st. Effective April 15th Dr. Johnson will have day-to-day operations authority as Chief Executive Operations Officer.

There is still a vacancy on the Faculty Senate from the College of Business. Please let Senator Becky Greer know if you have a nomination for that position.

There is still a need for one more marshal for the Spring commencement. Senator John Moore has already agreed to serve as one marshal. Senator Bonnie Todd volunteered to be the second marshal.

Senator Martha Sullivan urged faculty to attend a presentation by Judge William Wayne Justice April 23rd at 7pm in the Science Auditorium. Senator Jill Dumesnil announced that Friday, April 17th, will be Math Day at SFA sponsored by the Mathematics Department. Seventeen area high schools will be on campus for fun and games. Dumesnil also wanted senators to be aware of the new math criteria set in place for freshman courses. Incoming freshmen will take a placement exam in summer orientation to place them in the right math course. This is primarily for incoming freshmen only. Dr. Janelle Ashley indicated others will be encouraged to take the placement exam but not forced. When asked, Dumesnil said that the testing scores for all credit math courses not remedial classes are SAT-500 math and ACT-21 math.

Senator Scharff announced that 5th graders would be on campus Friday, April 17th, for Fabulous Friday.

Chair-Elect Rushing gave a rundown of calendar of events: on April 14th there will be a presentation on the student experience by Dr. Charles Schroeder, Vice-President of Student Affairs from the University of Missouri at St. Louis in the Liberal Arts Building, Room 142 at 1:30pm; on April 15th there will be a student hearing on proposed general use fee increase in the Wyatt Room in the Steen Library at 3:30pm; again April 17th is Fabulous Friday...thanks to all the faculty who participate in this program; on April 20th and 21st the Board of Regents will be meeting...Chair McDonald will be making an end of year report to the Regents and encourages the senators and others to submit one or two major or significant issues, ideas, concerns, or needs they would like to be addressed to the Board; on April 22nd the SFA Center for Service Learning and Eldercare will be holding a Service Learning Reflection Reception and Poster Presentation at 3:30pm-5pm in the President's Suite B in the UC...they will answer questions about service learning projects that go on in the center; on April 23rd again U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice will speak at 7pm in the Science Auditorium and there will also be a Communication Conference that day; and on April 25th at 9am you can plant the Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden for the SFA Arboretum's Children's Garden. Those interested can participate in the Adopt-A-Bed program. There are three options: Plant-A-Bed (be there April 25th to help plant), plant and care for a bed (in addition to planting, care for a designated bed from May through October), buy a bed (small: \$100, medium: \$250, large: \$500, extra-large: \$1,000). An impressive timber-frame pavilion was raised March 31st by the Timber Framers Guild of America, sponsored by Red Suspenders Timber Frame. The Kiwanis Club is completing the roof. For more information, contact Cheryl Tate at 468-1832.

#### ***REMARKS FROM DR. DAN ANGEL***

Dr. Angel extended his congratulations to the Teaching Excellence award winners.

Angel announced that the James E. "Pete" Laney, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, will be the May commencement speaker.

The budget has been completed and will go to the Board of Regents for final approval. Dr. Angel commented that the budget looks good. The summer budget is up \$110,000 to \$2.75 million. The Board's Budget Finance Committee is recommending a \$107 million budget up from last year's \$104 million. This includes a 3% merit pool for faculty with a 6% cap, except in exceptional cases, such as promotion or a change in job responsibilities. There will be a \$2 increase in the general use fee. SFA is the 2nd from the bottom of 11 schools in the amount of general use fee charged per hour. Also recommended is a 3% increase in housing and food for next year.

Dr. Angel reported that the SFA '98 final report will be printed this summer. Submissions and suggestions will be taken by Dr. Angel through mid-May.

The 75th anniversary logo has been designed. Stick-on labels are available for use on promotional materials, letters, etc. A final list of activities should be available by July 1st. Each college and department are encouraged to develop activities commemorating the anniversary. Several departments have already planned events: the Art Department will be painting a mural in the Spirit Lounge in the University Center; the Communication Department will be taking care of radio and television coverage, the Theatre Department will present a revised Original Cast production, and Forestry will have a college wide celebration and reunion...just to name a few. Sweat Equity Day, done every five years, will take place this fall, and the Board of Regents will be holding a convocation in September. September 18th is the official anniversary date. The Alumni Building renovations, paid for with private funds, should be done in time for the anniversary celebration. There will also be a Big Gala in December.

Several questions were asked of Dr. Angel. It was asked if the coliseum was getting a new floor. Angel replied no. He noted that the floor was being stripped, sanded and refinished.

On a question about the capital campaign, Angel said they are working hard on the campaign and will have a full report at his State of the University Address in the fall.

One senator asked what was ahead for the legislature. Angel commented that no area was not being looked at in interim committee work. Some of the items being discussed include special items funding, HEAF money, and core curriculum. Angel noted that a big issue is who is going to be Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House. The results could lead to changes in the legislature.

A question was asked about SFA joining a system. Angel replied that he has not seen many happenings leaning in that direction. He noted that Lamar was now part of a system but was still have the same problems they had before the system. Angel commented that the system helps the flagship school but not the general fleet. While he mentioned it was possible that other independent schools (Texas Southern, Midwestern) might be brought into a system, neither SFA nor TWU seemed to be candidates.

Dr. Angel also was asked about the improving of academic standards. Angel said there should be a draft-report on Academic Standards in May. He would like to see it part of the five-year plan. Angel did note that they were looking at an expensive proposition in the renovating of housing facilities. A good consulting firm is looking at it. Angel is concerned with the housing aspect that if SFA does not do something to make housing part of the educational process, then there is no reason for SFA to have housing. Angel is hopeful that the SFA is going to bring back a philosophy of student learning as part of housing. The funding for housing improvements will be bonded. There is the option of raising fees, however, Angel is not excited about doing that. However, Angel is committed to finding money for housing projects.

Chair-Elect Rushing asked Angel if we were going to see a "Back-to-Basics Approach" II. Angel explained that the "Back-to-Basics Approach" showed that you need more people graduating from college than ever before due to changes in society. There is not really a "Back-to-Basics II" because "Back-to-Basics I" was not fully completed. The economy is good for the State of Texas. Angel noted that he had heard that the prison systems were going to need more money. The next legislation session is showing big money eaters from prisons, welfare, health, etc. Another big money pusher is K-12. SFA is excited about doing a demonstration model charter school. SFA is the only university in the state doing a model school with a school district. It is also not costing SFA anything. The money will all come from NISD.

### **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Chair McDonald and Chair-Elect Rushing met with President Angel and VPAA Ashley. Dr. Angel reported that the Board of Regents had approved the charter school for SFA and improvements

on the lighting and sound systems and track at Homer Bryce Stadium. Dr. Ashley updated the Blue Cross/Blue Shield question asked at last month's senate meeting. Blue Cross/Blue Shield decisions are often made at the state level. There have been some changes to guidelines for filling prescriptions, such as the requirement that pharmacies cannot supply a refill of a prescription until 70% of the previous amount has been used. There are exceptions for traveling, whether for business or pleasure, in which a 30 day supply can be filled without meeting the previous requirement.

The revisions to the Academic Complaint policy will be assigned to a committee of Academic Affairs Council. McDonald presented the Senate resolution on mediation. President Angel indicated that it will not be listed as a goal on F '03 plan, but he will review the request. The committee which allocates Student Service Fee funds announced they have proposed a cut in the allocation for athletics of \$100,000 over the next two years. Angel responded that these funds would most likely be replaced from auxiliary funds. The cut was motivated by students' desire for new funds for other Student Services.

Other items discussed: McDonald inquired about whether inventory could be timed at a less inconvenient time. There was a brief discussion of the progress of faculty searches currently being conducted. There are approximately 50 searches in progress. There should soon be an update on the status of policies relating to intellectual property, patents and copyright, which are now being reviewed with the help of Regent Ron Adkinson, who has expertise and interest in the area. And Dr. Ashley clarified the process used by the Senate to solicit interest and nominate faculty for vacant University committees.

Chair-Elect Rushing reported that the Academic Affairs meeting was delayed, so there is no report. However, the Senate's recommendation on anonymous review for chairs and deans was referred to a committee. It has been returned. Rushing spoke with Dr. Franks, Chair of the College of Education, who chaired the committee reviewing the report. The committee felt that the process would not be improved and possibly impaired by the change. Dr. Franks felt that the Deans' doors are open to any faculty who are concerned about signing a review of the chair. There is also a provision in which a review of a departmental chair can be called for at anytime when there is a majority of faculty requesting it. As it stands it looks as if the recommendation will not go through. The Professional Welfare I Committee that sponsored the recommendation may want to pick it back up for review. On the general issue of improving communication, Dr. Franks suggested the Senate might consider developing a system of departmental ombudsmen.

Senator Joe Devine reported on the Graduate Council meeting held on March 26th. Reviewed was SFA's response to the state's new rule that doctoral candidates taking more than 100 hours will not get state funding after 100 hours starting September 1, 1998. This policy currently affects only students in the Colleges of Education and Forestry. This is to encourage doctoral students to hurry up and finish before the 100 hours. Any student with 130 hours will have to pay out-of-state tuition and any student with 99 or more hours will not be eligible for student employment. And any doctoral student with 99 or more hours may be terminated from the program. In other business, the College of Forestry has proposed a change in their degree from a D.F. to a Ph.D. There is also a good possibility that graduate assistant stipends will be raised about 3%. Eleven new courses were examined and approved by the Council.

Treasurer Mark Simmons reported that the Faculty Senate account has a balance of \$1,659.00.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs Committee Chair Martha Sullivan reported that the committee will be sending out a survey to all faculty about vacant university committee assignments in their colleges. The Senators were urged to respond and encourage their colleagues to also respond. This survey will help in making recommendations of faculty to fill upcoming university committee vacancies.

Elections Committee Chair Becky Greer reported that ballots went out to all colleges with Senate vacancies except for the College of Business who did not have a candidate. The ballots are due back in the Faculty Senate office by April 15th. Please encourage faculty to vote. There was not a space for a write-in candidate. However, the write-in candidate could be written in the margin of the ballot and still be counted.

Faculty Government and Involvement Committee Chair Lauren Scharff described a project to survey departments on the development and implementation, as well as the role of faculty governance in policy development and review. Post-tenure review policies and criteria will be the focus, but a general view on how policies are made and implemented will also be surveyed.

Nomination Committee Chair Rushing announced the list of nominations of officers for 1998-99 Faculty Senate. The nominations for chair-elect are Jill Dumesnil and Mark Simmons; for secretary: Lauren Scharff and Kandy Stahl; and for treasurer: Becky Greer and Florence Elliott-Howard. The Senate will vote on new officers after new Senators are seated in May.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

Professional Welfare II Chair Rushing brought before the Senate the second reading of a proposed amendment to the SFASU Faculty Senate Standing Rules which establish a standing Strategic Planning Committee to replace the ad-hoc Professional Welfare II Committee. A motion was made to approve the changes to the Faculty Senate Standing Rules. The motion was seconded and approved by the Senate.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

Suggested changes to the Election of Officers section of the Senate Standing Rules were distributed by Nominating Committee Chair Rushing. The text and any additions will be added to the recommendation posted on the web page. Comments are encouraged. A vote will be held at the May meeting.

A suggestion was made to set up a ballot box for those wanting to drop off their ballot instead of relying on campus mail. An additional suggestion of stamping ballots to denote a certified ballot was also made. Any comments should be directed to Election Committee Chair Greer. The Election Committee will discuss the suggestions and make a recommendation.

Senator Joe Devine moved that the meeting be adjourned; Senator Frank Codispoti seconded the motion. The motion was carried; the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Sherry Williford  
*Secretary*