

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 13, 1998 Meeting #275**

Approved, October 14, 1998

Faculty Senate meeting #275 was called to order by Chair Darrel McDonald. The following senators were absent: Burt (excused), Clark (excused), Greer, Kenner (excused), Scharff (excused) and Stewart.

The minutes for meeting #274 were approved as written.

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 reported that work was continuing on the planning document for the self-study which should be done next week. Violet Rogers has been working with the Department of Science and Mathematics on their departmental reports. Dr. Russell encouraged departments to continue to work on their own self-study getting together forms and information as needed. During the summer the Self-Study Steering Committee would be printing and mailing the plan for self-study, as well as putting it up on the web. A manual for self-study should also be done by the summer. Dr. Russell noted that Don Gregory, Chair of Political Science & Geography, was part of a SACS visiting team for Troy State University. Dr. Russell said she would be reporting to the Faculty Senate in the Fall for any help needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR MCDONALD

Chair McDonald noted that Chancellor Montford of Texas Tech University is heading a committee reviewing HEAF. Most of the main discussion of the committee is on the size of the pot that is available for those universities who are not able to get access to the PUF funds. They are looking to increase that to a larger size. They are also looking at how the allocations of HEAF funds go out to the individual campuses. If you have anyway to make your ideas or suggestions known through the proper channels, this is a very good time to try and look at getting more support and funding for our campus to help with additional technology and funding for renovations and institutional structure development.

McDonald also reported that Dr. Benat Mullen, College of Education, was an expert witness in the Higher Education Sub-Committee with testimony on the cost of higher education. The Senate office has a transcript of his report if you would like to see it. McDonald said he thought Mullen represented the faculty and SFA well with his points.

More PPP dialup ports have been made available for faculty and staff by Campus Computing as reported by Michael Jennings. Twenty-four additional ports are now available through the new number: 468-7552. This is in addition to the original 468-7037 number. This should reduce some of the traffic of trying to get on the system from your home computer.

McDonald provided a summary of a grievance which has been filed by a Texas Tech professor for harassment by university auditors and other officials. It will be a case that will be heard over the next year.

Chair-Elect Jimmi Rushing thanked Senators John Moore and Bonnie Todd for volunteering as marshals for the May commencement.

Rushing also announced that there is record management information regarding university archives and records retention management through the East Texas Research Center. Found in the library's web pages are information about what is of interest to the archives and what is requested by newrecords retention guidelines issued by the state. The specific URL is : <http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/collect/archives/arcmain.htm>. Select "What Should Our Office Send to the Archives" or "University Records Management."

McDonald recognized Shunda Allen and Laura Jennings for their work as student assistants for the Faculty Senate.

REMARKS FROM DR. JANELLE ASHLEY

Dr. Ashley addressed the issue of new freshmen registering early if not attending summer orientation. First-time freshmen are encouraged to attend one of the summer orientation sessions or a mini-orientation right before the fall semester to find out more information on SFA. Students can go through Ralph Busby's office to pre-register without attending the orientations. Numbers are down for transfer student orientation. They can register early by seeing an advisor, however, transfer orientation is still important.

Concerns were voiced to Ashley on losing good students. They felt that mandatory orientation was not "university friendly." Another senator noted that transfer students have more need to be advised, so transfer orientation is useful.

Dr. Ashley also discussed the new math placement test. Ashley noted that there was a high failure rate in mathematics by freshmen. The new math placement test is to help save money by not taking a math course they should not be in. It is also a retention factor. If a student is in the right course, they can be successful. Even community colleges are requiring math placement course. It was asked if these placement tests would turn into a requirement for all courses in the university. Ashley replied no; for right now it would be for math due to the large failure rate. Ashley went on to say that anyone who wants to request a placement test for their discipline can do so, however, the university does not want to get into the business of giving placement tests. Ashley said the university is trying to do their best to service the students making it as positive and beneficial as can be. Faculty advisors can call the math department for an alternative math plan.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair McDonald thanked all the senators for taking time out of this busy week to attend the meeting. McDonald also thanked all the committee chairs and members for great work done this year.

McDonald reported on the April 20-21 Board of Regents meeting. A handout was given to the senators recognizing approved faculty appointments, promotion and tenure. Regents Scholars, Dr. Tom Callaway and Dr. Mingteh Chang, who were selected for the 1998-99 year were also recognized. Dr. Callaway in Physics has been a real leader and chair of the department before he moved into a lot of innovative activities working with public schools to get young people involved in the sciences and physics. Dr. Chang has a long record of research in association with the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and inventions he is working on. Librarians were also recognized. Level IV is the highest level for librarians parallel to full professor rank. Two faculty development leaves were granted to the fall: Dr. Ray Darville, Sociology, and Dr. Calvin Hines, History. Also, Charles Jones plans more printing projects.

McDonald recognized those retiring....Dr. Al Shivers, English & Philosophy, after 32 years of service and Dr. Malcolm MacPeak, Forestry, after 17 years of service. It was noted that Dr. Doyle Alexander had decided to cut back and teach only five classes a semester after 40 years of service. He is one of 42 faculty that moved onto the modified employment opportunities that we

have on campus. Eleven entered this program Fall 1998. Anyone in your area that is interested in modified employment can talk to Dr. Ashley about the opportunities.

McDonald reported that there was an approval of increased laboratory and course fees. The Graduate College is now requiring a fee for processing international student applications and is looking into requiring this of all graduate students. A distance learning fee of \$35 per course hour was approved.

The Speech and Hearing Laboratory was formally approved to be name the Elnita Stanley Speech and Hearing Clinic which is in recognition of her long effects and support of that area.

McDonald announced that the SFA Rodeo Club will have a practice arena built on the Beef Farm. This will help them improve their performance in intercollegiate meets. It is being funded with private donations.

The Board also gave approval to begin long range planning for new graduate programs, to include Masters degree programs in Public Administration and Nursing and a PhD program in Environmental Science.

McDonald reported that there is a 3% merit pool part of the 1998-1999 budget. There will be a \$2 per semester hour increase for general fees and an increase in computer fees per semester hour for Fall 1998. There is also a change to the budget. This involves the start-up costs for the Early Childhood Lab charter school going through the 4th grade. Funding will come from NISD. The charter school will give SFA students more of an opportunity to work with a more real life situation.

Summer budget is in place with an increase of \$42,000 in salary over last year. Also, with state guidance there is going to be a benchmark reporting system developed for athletic expenditures. These benchmarks will be set at the actual cost of the program so that they can be monitored over time. There is also the concept of a threshold spending which will give a little flexibility to the benchmarks which will be in the range of 103 to 110% of the benchmark. If the spending program becomes much larger than the threshold, there will be an ability to ask some questions about it at different levels. Dr. Roland Smith, Vice-President of Business Affairs, is the person who can give you more detailed explanations as to how the benchmarks are going to be established for SFA and how the thresholds are going to work in this system. It is a reported system to the state.

The Forest Resource Institute has been approved to begin building a super computer on the campus; this will be extremely important to our computing environment for next year. This will especially be of interest of those who want large data sets.

President Dan Angel recognized Senators Lauren Scharff and Glen Blalock for their work with the New Faculty Orientation Committee with Lagniappe awards.

McDonald announced that voice recognition systems are being implemented in a greater way for students calling into the campus. One set up for faculty is not as quick on the horizon.

Mike Jennings, Campus Computing, is laying out a very systematic plan to move our campus computing capabilities up to world standards.

And, finally, Dr. Tim Clipson provided a very interesting summary of the Retention Committee report. This is his third report in the last 10 years. The Faculty Senate office has a copy of the report for those interested in seeing it.

Senator Frank Codispoti attended the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Codispoti reported significant changes were made to Policy E-10A, Departmental Administration. He suggested that the Faculty Senate may want to look into this policy in the Fall. Academic Affairs reviewed the

Faculty Development Leave Policy and recommended no changes. The new Academic Freedom and Responsibility policy was approved with changes similar to the Senate proposal. It will now move to the Board of Regents to be approved on the July agenda. Chair McDonald stated that the policy is available on the web site.

Chair-Elect Jimmi Rushing reported on two Graduate Council meetings held on April 23rd and May 7th. The Council clarified that the Board approved planning for new degrees not new degree programs. The Doctor of Forestry has now become a PhD, and that is retroactive. So students that have a Doctor of Forestry can write and apply for having that changed to a PhD. The first PhD degree will be awarded at the May commencement. This is a stand-alone program. SFA still has a cooperative program with Texas A&M. Alan West was announced as Interim Director of the Office of Instructional Technology. There is a search committee being formed for that position. Counseling and Special Education has requested a name change to the Department of Human Services. This was approved at the Academic Affairs meeting in April and will still need approval from the Coordinating Board. The Council decided to make graduate school application fees optional by each program. Application fees will be approved one program at a time. If students are registering post-graduate and not part of a program, they will be charged no fee. The fee if charged would still be split 50/50 between the department and the Graduate Office. The Council also discussed cross listing 400 level courses as 500 level rather than listing them as a 400g level course. This is due to more funding for 500 level courses. The Marilyn Odom Outstanding Graduate Student was awarded to Jennifer Shipman from the College of Forestry. The William Johnson Thesis Award went to Jennifer Key also of the College of Forestry. There will elections held in Education, Business and Liberal Arts for new representatives to the Graduate Council. Changes were announced in the admission policies for Secondary Ed/Mid-Management program which had been having open enrollment. The program will now be admitting students as part of a cohort. They will be admitting 25 on-campus students per semester and 25 off-campus students per semester. Additionally, all of those students will have to complete either a significant research project or thesis. Talking about thesis, there were 35 thesis completed this semester. Normally there is around 15 completed each term. Over 1,000 students have applied for graduation with 87% of those marching. That is why it is important to know how many faculty will be attending so that they can accommodate everyone. Also, the search is still on for a Director of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Treasurer Mark Simmons reported that the Faculty Senate account has a balance of \$634.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee Chair Martha Sullivan reported that they had received 41 faculty responses showing interest in the university committee vacancies. The Executive Committee met and recommended at least two people for each vacancies if there were two volunteers. These recommendations will now be sent to Dr. Ashley. McDonald noted that four disciplines had no candidates, so no recommendations were forwarded for those positions.

Ad Hoc Committee on Admission Standards Chair Mark Simmons announced the committee will be looking at three areas of work: enrollment, exit standards, and on-going academic standards. Committee member Joe Devine expressed their uneasiness about the new EXCET standards for Education effective September 1998 in Texas. 70% of each group of students will have to pass the EXCET test. A group is defined as male/female and white/black/hispanic. If you do not meet the 70% requirement, your program will be placed on program review. Eventually you could lose your ability to prepare teachers in that field. Community Colleges are not under any of these sanctions. The committee recommends that the Faculty Senate resolves three things: that the Administration lobby forcefully against these rules at the TEA and among state legislators, that the faculty help their students master the subjects they will be tested on, and that the faculty evaluate their grading practices so that no students unsuited to be teachers will pass through the system. Dr. Ashley did comment that if numbers were low, there could be exceptions given not to count small samples. There is a strong emphasis on preparation of teachers at the State level.

Dr. Ashley noted that SFA looks good in the cumulative data, however, our subgroups may not look so good. Dr. Ashley reported that some programs are not allowing students to take the EXCET test until they have taken and passed at an appropriate level a preparatory test, and that students not be allowed to take the EXCET test until they have completed all of the proper course work. Devine moved to continue the Ad Hoc committee to look at these issues in the next year. Senator Sullivan second and all approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Professional Welfare II Chair Rushing brought before the Senate the second reading of a proposed amendment to the Elections of Officers section of the SFASU Faculty Senate Standing Rules. The amendment passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair-Elect Rushing presented a resolution in appreciation of Darrel McDonald for his service as Chair of the Faculty Senate 1997-1998. The resolution passed unanimously. Chair McDonald was also presented with a plaque in appreciation for his outstanding service as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Senator J. Mark Thompson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Senator Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was carried; the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Sherry Williford
Secretary