

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 8, 1999 Meeting #289
(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Absent:

Brent Burt (excused)

CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Jill Dumesnil at 2:33p.m.

VISITORS:

Dean of Applied Arts and Sciences, James Stanley;
Dean of Fine Arts, Rick Berry;
Director of Institutional Research, Fay Parham;
SGA representative, Greg Foster;
Regent Michael W. Enoch (visited briefly)

MINUTES of the Nov. 10 meeting were approved as corrected (by inserting "not" before "be understood" on p. 6).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Faculty are invited to the president's reception Thursday, Dec. 9. Invitations have been mailed but a publishing glitch has made them late.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Chair Dumesnil:

The Senate's GPA resolution was well received at the November Academic Affairs Council. It will be incorporated into a larger grades policy being formulated by the Council's Student Affairs Committee. Sen. Sullivan: When will the policy, if adopted, take effect? Dean Stanley: Probably with courses taken from Fall 2000.

The Chair and the Chair-elect will attend the January Board of Regents meeting in Houston. The Chair encouraged all faculty to communicate with the Board by mail, fax, and e-mail, and to attend Board meetings--they are open meetings.

The Chair and the Chair-elect met with VPAA Ashley on Dec. 1 and with President Angel on December 7. They discussed the anticipated transition to a new president. President Angel has recommended that the Board appoint the VPAA as Interim President. The Board's policies for a presidential search committee call for representation of faculty, students, and the local community. Chair Dumesnil anticipates that 20% of the search committee will be faculty and that faculty senators will be among the faculty representatives. Dr. Dumesnil has asked the Strategic Planning Committee to study how other universities conduct presidential searches.

Chair-elect Stahl:

The Graduate Council met on Nov. 18 and Dec. 2. Following Dr. Jeffrey's recruiting trips he realized there has been a decline from last year in cards filed by prospective graduate students requesting information about our programs. We

hope such students are now getting their information from the web instead of mailing requests to us. Therefore it is important that departments offering graduate courses keep their web sites up-to-date and appealing.

Graduate theses may now be submitted on CD rom. This will enable thesis writers to present better visuals.

A revision of the residency requirements specified in the Graduate Bulletin is being considered. It is proposed that 24 hours in residence may include distance-learning and on-line courses.

Graduate Council minutes are now on the web; hard copies may be requested from the Graduate Office

Treasurer Betty Alford:

The balance in the Senate's account is \$4,432. Chair Dumesnil: \$64.50 for refreshments at the opening meeting of the semester cannot be paid from our "1" account. The VPAA has kindly come to the rescue from her account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Affairs:

Senator B. Oswald's committee asked senators to report to him by Jan. 26 any changes they favor in the academic policies currently undergoing their triennial review by the Academic Affairs Council. The policies under review:

A-04,07,11,14,19,20,21,23,25,26,29,35,44. (All policies are on the web.)

Elections:

Senator Greer and Chair Dumesnil: In a virtual meeting (#288.1) called by Dr. Dumesnil earlier this week to fill a vacancy from the College of Business, Dr. James Howard was elected unanimously to serve until May, 2000. Sixteen senators participated in the virtual meeting.

Faculty Government & Involvement:

Senator Sementelli: The committee continues to study campus safety.

Chair Dumesnil: The Senate is unable to poll faculty about such issues through a general e-mailing. The best we can do is to ask deans and department chairs to forward e-mails to their faculty.

Greg Foster, a representative from the Student Government Association, reported on the SGA's recent efforts to improve safety on campus. The SGA recently passed a bill calling for better lighting. Although no one expects to turn night into day, some dark areas worry many students, particularly females. . At a recent SGA meeting there was also consideration of safer cross walks and debate about the advantages and disadvantages of speed bumps. Dr. Dumesnil: Contrary to rumors aired at the last SGA meeting, the Faculty Senate has never voiced an opinion about speed bumps; the question has never come before the Senate.

Professional Welfare:

Senator T.Oswald presented for a second reading her committee's policy that any faculty who after receiving a summer research grant from SFA chooses not to accept employment at SFA in the following Fall should refund the grant money. Dumesnil: Should there be a deadline for paying back the money? Tinsley: Yes. Two friendly amendments were accepted by Oswald. Alford moved (seconded by Tinsley) that payback be within a calendar year, and MacDonald suggested (and several seconded) more succinct wording. After unanimous voice votes, the policy, which will be presented for its final reading at the next meeting, reads:

The recipient of a faculty research grant must guarantee the University that he/she will return to his/her regular duties for a full semester immediately following the expiration of the grant, provided that he/she is offered a contract by the University, or the amount of the grant must be paid back in full within one calendar year.

Approved unanimously.

Strategic Planning:

Chair-elect Stahl: The committee has deferred until February surveying faculty opinion about whether we should be in a system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Will we meet in January? The Constitution says the senate meets the second Wednesday of each month of the Spring and Fall semesters when classes are in session, and the first class day of the Spring semester will be January 12, the second Wednesday, but the Standing Rules do not have us meeting in January. Chair Dumesnil will inform senators if we have any business that necessitates a January meeting, but presently we are not scheduled to meet until February 9.

Dr. Sharff asked about the Senate's proposal of last month that the Liberal Arts North Building be named for Dr. Vera L. Dugas in appreciation of her very generous bequest to SFA. Dr. Dumesnil said she will write to Mr. R.A. Brookshire, who heads the Regents' committee in charge of such matters.

NEW BUSINESS:

B.Oswald presented a resolution thanking Dr. Angel for his service to SFA. Sen. Howard objected; he could not remember any precedent for the Senate passing such a resolution. Sen.Devine also could not remember any such precedent, but nevertheless he supported the resolution. With all senators voting aye except for two nays and one abstention, the following resolution was adopted:

Be it resolved, the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate expresses its appreciation to Dr. Dan Angel for his seven years of dedicated service to our university and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Chair Dumesnil hoped this meeting could be shorter than usual so senators could attend an introductory tour of the Office of Instruction Technology.

ADJOURNED: 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Devine, secretary