

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2001 Meeting #300
(Approved at April Meeting)**

I. CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Kandy Stahl at 2:34 PM

Absent: Betty Alford, Jerry Williams

Excused: Arthur Sementelli, Sharon Spall

II. GUESTS

A. The Senate was in executive session with Mr. Wilhite until 3:35.

B. Roger Bilow

Dr. Bilow discussed a handout on admissions and recruitment efforts. Senator Sullivan asked whether it is possible for us to purchase names of high-scoring students from the College Board; Dr. Bilow said that he would check. Senator Devine asked about stepping up efforts to recruit Hispanic students, as SFA's Hispanic population is at a significantly lower percentage than that of the Hispanic population in Texas. We do have a profile on each student. Senator King asked whether we have a plan for determining to whom we market our university. Senator Ballenger said that Houston is our primary market. We get reports on who attends "College Nights."

Senator King noted that Lamar had a significant increase in enrollment; according to his contact at Lamar, they "made a conscious decision to refocus efforts away from Houston back to our traditional service areas." The result was an increase in the number of students enrolling from those areas, which include Nacogdoches County.

Dr. Bilow said that our biggest competitors are Community Colleges, primarily for financial reasons, and that in order to compete, we need more financial aid money available. He also said that we do not have an enrollment/admissions problem so much as a retention problem. The reasons he hears for leaving SFA are the 60-hour rule (for when a student may live off-campus) and the lack of a "good" movie theatre.

Senator Sullivan observed that many of her best students are from the East Texas area.

Dr. Bilow invited senators to discuss any issues with him in his office, or to send him e-mail at rbilow@sfasu.edu.

III. General Announcements

Third-year senators should remain after the meeting adjourns to discuss nominations for the following year.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. Chair:

Senators received a handout indicating course number changes in English.

SFA's decline in enrollment affects our formula funding; as it appeared at the time of this meeting, there was to be no extra money for raises or new positions unless student fees are raised; this applies to the next biennium.

At the February 21 academic affairs council meeting, the revised cheating and plagiarism policy passed unanimously.

At the March 7 academic affairs council meeting, Internet 2 day was announced for March 30. Tours of the forestry research institute and various labs will run from 9-11 AM for 30 minutes each.

The administrative evaluation policy passed by the senate was modified and approved.

Discussion began on a new grade of QF (Quit, Failing) for students who cease attending a class without dropping it; there are financial aid ramifications.

Senator Devine and Chair Stahl met with Dr. Ashley. We are still waiting for progress on a faculty listserv and an identity theft policy. Dr. Ashley expressed concerns about making the budget available online. The board of regents is hoping to announce a new president by commencement.

B. Chair-Elect: No report.

C. Treasurer:

The treasurer's report was submitted to the senate as a handout.

D. Secretary: No report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs:

Senators received a copy of a resolution on an honor code. Senator Sullivan expressed reservations about the viability of such a policy at SFA. Resolution passed with one abstention.

B. Administration and Finance: No report.

C. Elections: No report.

D. Faculty Government and Involvement:

Senators received a handout giving reapportionment figures.

E. Professional Welfare:

Senators discussed a handout regarding distance and distributed course materials as amended from the UNT policy. There was significant concern about Category IV, which allows the university to assign a faculty member to create distance materials, while the university would own the copyright. Discussion was postponed until the April meeting.

F. Strategic Planning:

Senators received a handout with statistics from the system survey sent to faculty by the strategic planning committee.

VI. Old Business

It would cost about 50-75 thousand dollars to hire a professional consultant for a salary study; Dr. Castle (see handout) would cost the senate a maximum of \$3326. The senate would need to provide the data for analysis, and he would do the analysis. The work would be completed by August 31; if necessary, the senate could pay part of his fee this year, and the balance next year. The goal would be to have complete data on salaries instead of general or anecdotal information, and to have the data analyzed by a neutral third party.

Motion to hire Dr. Castle passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

Deferred to April Meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.