

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2001 Meeting #307
(Subject to Approval at February Meeting)

I. Call to Order

Chair Joe Devine called the meeting to order at 2:37.
Excused: Senators Alexander, M. Smith, Scamman

Announcements

There has been a slight increase in the retention rates for Fall 2001.
The College of Education's report to NCATE received very positive results.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting #307 were approved with changes.

III. Guests

Dr. Randy McDonald, director of the Office of Instructional Technology, and Gail Weatherly, Coordinator of Distance Education, addressed the Faculty Senate in response to the Senate's proposed policy on long-distance education courses. Dr. McDonald noted that the policy demonstrated "high-quality work" and suggested limiting the number of supporting examples. Dr. McDonald expressed his support for directing extra monies back to the faculty teaching the courses.

The Senate was provided with information about Spring 2002 Web-based course offerings. Students have been very positive about such courses and Ms. Weatherly anticipated that by the 2004-5 academic year there could be over 100 such courses offered.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. Chair

Resolutions passed at the November Senate meeting had been forwarded to President Guerrero and Vice President Ashley. The responses to the resolutions are as follows:

- Glenda Herrington is in the process of revising the search handbook and the revised edition would accommodate Resolution 2001-2.02.
- Dr. Guerrero would discuss Resolution 2001-02.05 with UPD Chief Cossich.
- Resolution 2001-02.06 was presented to the Academic Affairs Council. After a lengthy discussion there was no clear decision about the establishing of a Vice President for Undergraduates position.
- SFA would be hiring an energy consultant.
- An Information Literacy Initiative Committee established in response to Al Cage's resolution takes into account the reservations expressed by the Senate in Resolution 2001-02.01.

The new WH policy was approved, with additional changes, by the Academic Affairs Council on December 12, 2001. In addition, the Council voted to revise the language in E54.1, the Voluntary Modified Employment Policy. If a faculty member does go on Voluntary Modified Employment then he/she would retain his/her tenure. Dr. David Jeffrey presented a proposal addressing the protection of human research subjects.

B. Chair-Elect

Changes in state laws for entrance requirements are still being examined. Senator King drew the senate's attention to the issue of formula funding.

C. Treasurer Presented the current budget.

D. Secretary No report.

V. Committee Report

Academic Affairs I

The committee re-examined the changes made on September 26, 2001, to the WH policy, and asked for clarification of the intent of the changed wording. Chair Devine noted that the Academic Affairs Council's recommendation was that the student receiving a "WH" for a course have one academic year within which to make up the work. Limited class attendance would be required and the instructor would need to file documentation that the required work had been completed.

Academic Affairs II

No report.

Senator McDonald inquired as to whether SFA should have more stringent language requirements. The Senate agreed that individual departments and programs should determine language requirements.

Administration and Finance

Senator C. Jones noted the committee had considered the legality of SFA's policy regarding the signing of outside employment forms and had determined that it was an issue that needed to be examined at this time.

Elections

Senator Zagrodnik announced the election of Dr. Michael Stroup from the department of Economics and Finance to replace Senator Jim Howard.

Faculty Governance

Senator Caffery indicated that the committee has been examining the Faculty Senate Constitution. Three areas for revision include:

1. Shortening the period for re-election to the Senate.
2. Eligibility of senators for the Chair-Elect position.
3. Eligibility of members for the Faculty Senate by defining "voting member" of the faculty.
4. Representation of the adjunct faculty with a Senator position.

Professional Welfare The committee is examining the tenure process.

Strategic Planning No report.

Conservation (*Ad hoc*)

SFA has entered into a contract with a conservation consulting firm to examine and evaluate possible changes.

Legal Representation (*Ad hoc*)

The committee reported that it had been examining the necessity of hiring a lawyer to represent the faculty. This individual could conduct a systematic study of the Faculty Handbook to clarify many issues relating to the relationship between the administration and the faculty. In addition, this lawyer would be a resource for individual faculty members.

Chair Devine suggested that the Faculty Senate Committees review the policies coming under review by the Academic Affairs Council.

Chair Devine asked the ad hoc committee to examine the information and content that should be included in a syllabus for a course taught at SFA. Senator McDonald noted that this would be an issue that might require an appointment of an attorney.

VI. Old Business No business.

VII. New Business

Senator Ballenger spoke to the problem of determining information required by SFA to be included on a course syllabus.

Senator Caffery requested that the Chair determine whether city police or university police were responsible for patrolling and regulating the traffic on E. College and Raguet.

Senator King suggested finding out about installing light at the end of Vista.

VIII. Adjournment The Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:30.