

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**February 13, 2002 Meeting #308**  
**(Subject to Approval at March Meeting)**

***I. Call to Order***

Chair Joe Devine called the meeting to order at 2:30.

Excused: Senators Mercer, Abel

***Announcements***

Senator Patty Nason announced that the College of Education received a NASA-NOVA Grant to establish a virtual Science and Mathematics Education Center.

***II. Approval of the Minutes***

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

***III. Guest***

Dr. Guerrero addressed commitments he had made to the University and faculty at the University Faculty meeting August, 2001.

1. Enrollment increases have been incremental, with "momentum in the right direction" with attention given to retention and advising.
2. The salary equity issue has received due attention with a good faith effort.
3. Admission standards will be examined in the near future.
4. Programs have been considered to increase diversity opportunities including programs in London and Chihuahua. These efforts will provide faculty with collaborative research opportunities as well as demonstrate SFASU is not just a regional institution but working towards a viable state and national institution.
5. Seeking employment for spouses of new hires has been more of a challenge, at least for hiring within the university. The FastTrac service will assist spouses in locating gainful employment in the area.

***IV. Officers' Reports***

***A. Chair***

Chair Devine spoke with UPD Chief Marc Cossich regarding the patrolling of College Street from North Street to Raguet. Chief Cossich indicated that the UPD does not regularly patrol that section of campus. In addition, Chief Cossich indicated that he felt his staff was issuing a sufficient number of tickets. Darrell McDonald has maps of call boxes on campus.

In response to the continued discussion of on-campus parking Dr. Guerrero suggested that the Faculty Senate issue a resolution requesting a change in the university's policy regarding towing. The chair will form a committee in order to draft the resolution.

The Academic Affairs Council is considering how virtual office hours affects the university ten hour-a-week office hours requirement. Chair Devine assigned the issue to Professional Welfare.

#### **B. Chair-Elect**

Senator King announced that new graduate course descriptions were examined at the recent Graduate Council Meeting. Senator King presented the Senate with the results of a survey he conducted with the members of the Texas Council of Faculty Senate that provided information on issues the SFASU Faculty Senate had been addressing, including outside employment, criminal background checks, inclusion of administrators on the faculty senate, and the inclusion of department chairs on the faculty senate.

**C. Treasurer** Presented the current budget.

**D. Secretary** No report.

### **V. Committee Reports**

#### **Faculty Governance**

Senator Caffery presented five constitutional amendments.

1. Amendment on Adjunct Faculty Representation (Article I). The amendment passed by a paper ballot vote with 20 in favor and 3 opposed.
2. Amendment on Waiting Term (Article I Section 5 Subsection {a}). The amendment passed by a paper ballot vote with 20 in favor and 1 opposed.
3. Amendment on Chair-Elect nominations (Article I Section 12 Subsection {b}). The amendment passed by a paper ballot vote of 20 in favor and 0 opposed.
4. In response to the previous amendments, the Senate revised Article I, Section 6 to read: "To Be eligible for election to the Faculty Senate, with the exception of the Adjunct Faculty Representative to the Senate, one must be a voting member of the University faculty" (change in bold). The amendment passed by a voice vote.
5. Amendment on Chairs not being eligible for Faculty Senate (Article III Section 3). Discussion focused on the need to define "voting member of the faculty." Senator M. Smith noted that chairs have daily interaction with the faculty and regard themselves as faculty and are regarded as the most dispensable part of the administrative ladder. Senator King commented that one argument for not including chairs is that chairs have a Chairs' Forum as a space for presenting their concerns. Senator Williams asked if preventing chairs from serving on the Faculty Senate would take away their vote in response to Faculty Senate generated ballots. Further discussion focused on issues of upholding a university governance model; retribution directed towards junior faculty members from both senior members and chairs; the need to consider the impact of this decision on all faculty members; and defining in addition Program Coordinators and Directors. After a period of discussion, the vote on the amendment was a tie with 10 in favor and 10 opposed. Senator McDonald made a motion to send the

amendment back to the committee. Senator Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Senator Caffery requested senators send him and the committee any suggestions for changes to the amendment.

### **Professional Welfare**

Senator Williams indicated the committee has identified two issues related to tenure and promotion.

1. Policies regarding tenure and promotion are ambiguous. Each department should have a written document stating its expectations for faculty.
2. The role of research should be “an important component” of tenure and promotion but should be left to the responsibility of the department or college.

The committee noted that a major consideration is how to weight designing and conducting Web-based courses in the tenure and promotion packet. Senator King said he felt a department committee should report to the faculty member his or her status in the tenure and promotion process. Senator McDonald said the committee or university should provide a written explanation for why an individual was not granted tenure or promotion. Senator Jones supported the need for definite criteria for the process.

### **Conservation** (*ad hoc*)

Senator Williams presented Resolutions 2001-2.08 concerning recycling and 2001-2.09 concerning junk mail to the Senate. Both resolutions passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Staff Senate** (*ad hoc*)

Senator King stated the he had met with Dr. Guerrero regarding the establishment of a Staff Senate. Dr. Guerrero supported such a senate but only if the staff desired such a senate. Dr.

King stated the next step was to survey the staff to determine if such interest and support existed.

### **Policy Reviews**

A-6: Senator Nason recommended that no changes be made to the policy.

A-18: Senator Williams noted the Professional Welfare committee would be submitting a rewording of the policy at the next meeting.

A-24 Senators Frantzen and Cheng indicated that there was a need to determine whether collected lab fees were being returned to the department or placed in the general fund.

**VI. The Chair asked for a motion for adjournment which was seconded. The meeting ended at 4:40.**