

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
2005 Meeting #342
October 12, 2005**

Subject to approval at the 343rd meeting.

Senators present were: Julia Ballenger (1), Parker Ballinger (2), Vice-Chair, Chris Barke r(3), Linda Bobo (4), John Boyd(5), Leisha Bridwell (6), Mary Nelle Brunson (7), Debbie Bush (8), Warren Conway (9), Treasurer, Deborah Dalton (10), Troy Davis (11) Deborah Dunn (12), Mark Guidry (13), Greta Haidinyak (14), Secretary, Kayce Halstead (15), Wanda Mouton (17), Chair, Brian Oswald (19), Jeana Paul-Urena (20), Anita Powell (21), Elton Scifres, (23), Dan Unger (24), Brian Utley (25), Michael Walker (26), Elizabeth Witherspoon (27).

Excused absences Lu Yu (16) Debbie Pace (18) Kelly Salsbery (22)

Unexcused absences:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Brian Oswald at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

GUESTS

PRESIDENT DR. TITO GUERRERO

Hurricane Rita occurred since last meeting. We will be billing FEMA for at least \$198,000. Lots of employees worked overtime. We will submit bills through the city of Nacogdoches. The experience working with FEMA has been somewhat frustrating—although often we are working with a FEMA volunteer, who doesn't know as much. There have been some interesting stories from those working through the event.

Questions:

Senator Boyd asked how we should handle excusing students--one came back only today citing his absence had to do with the hurricane.

Dr. Guerrero said to use one's best professional judgment when dealing with students just now returning. He had received many heated emails about starting school again so soon after the storm.

Senator Dalton asked about the enrollment increase.

Dr. Guerrero responded that we had mostly good news in that regard—there has been growth in the number of first time students, and some decline in the number of graduate level students.

At a meeting in the College of Education, there was discussion about working with school districts to make it attractive to come back to school. With regard to FTE caps—there may be a mechanism to circumvent the problems we have had with graduate assistantships. Apparently, graduate fellowships have fewer restrictions, so he plans to look into that option.

Chair Oswald introduced Monique Cossich, Executive Director of Enrollment Management in the Office of Admissions

Ms. Cossich began her remarks with information about the recent Fall enrollment—for her office and staff, there is no downtime. As soon as the 12th class day passes, they begin working on Fall 06 plans.

She feels everyone played a part in the success of this year's enrollment increase. She has received lots of positive remarks from offices on campus, and to sum up the experience—everyone participated in recruiting students, Freshman and transfer student numbers are both up—now they want to do well on retention to keep the numbers up. There was a 1.3% total increase.

She listed the positive factors as:

- Changed the way we communicated with students—both prospects and admitted students
- Continued working with admitted students to let them know we wanted them to come to SFA
- Facilitated contacts between the admitted students and department chairs or faculty members, and made sure students let us know they were getting contacted

The Top Two reasons students decide not to enroll is distance from home and our location. We were ranked high on positive contacts with prospective students. Her staff is already on the road recruiting for Fall 06. Some students responded they heard about us on TV and through advertisements.

Question: What about scholarships not getting to students quickly?

Answer: They are working on a seamless process for the student—an online scholarship application which would be pushed to the appropriate group for the type of scholarship. Most scholarships would be awarded early.

Question: What is going on with recruiting and retaining graduate students?

Answer: Her office does not handle graduate students, but she feels we should extend beyond this area. Go to cities for grad students—be more aggressive with our strategy. Get a plan together and work with key departments. Push and develop the online programs too.

Question: Is there anyone spearheading this graduate recruitment and do they have a budget?

Answer: No.

Question: What is the current deadline for scholarship applications?

Answer: February 1st with an early bird date of Dec 1st.

Question: Is there a way to attract people to early bird applications, i.e. letting them enroll early or other incentives offered?

Answer: Not now, but there could be. Academic award scholarships are now \$2000/year, but will be \$3000/ year next year and can be extended up to 3 years.

PROVOST MARY CULLINAN

Not present

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Oswald had one announcement:

A note from Sharon Brewer went out about a “clicker” technology demo this week. These “audience response systems” aka “personal response systems” allow individual students to respond to questions via hand-held transmitters. It is a technology that is gaining popularity in universities across the nation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of meeting #341 were approved as written. **Senator Boyd** made the motion to accept, and **Senator Unger** 2nded.

CHAIR’S REPORT

- Library office has been turned back over to the library. The Provost is looking for a faculty member to institute a faculty development program.
- Concerning the search for Vice-President for Finance and Administration. The list has been culled down to 6 semifinalists. They will be interviewed in Dallas at DFW by the search committee on the 24th. The final three will come to campus. There were 37 applicants originally.
- Budget building process. The committee hopes to have a draft process out to campus for review and comment in the Spring of '06. The new process will not be in place for next year, but should be in place for the next biennium cycle. The proposed process will include input opportunities at each level, and feedback opportunities similar to what is currently in place for the tenure process.

Question: Will we get to provide input at the department level? (J Ballenger)

Answer: Yes. The process building will be more open and participatory—that is the goal.

Question: Who was the consulting firm for VP position?

Answer: same group as used for Provost search.

CHAIR ELECT'S REPORT

Senator Barker is part of a group of people charged with coming up with ideas for the roll of the Graduate Vice-President. Dr. Jeffrey, the current VP for Graduate Studies, gave them some ideas as a draft document. Chris will email the document to senators for review. All details of the graduate program are being considered.

The basic thrust seems to be to make the position a stronger presence on campus, or perhaps centralize power and take it away from departments.

Brian will be gone next week during the Board of Regents meeting, and Chris will present a report to them in his absence.

TREASURER

There is no change in the budget

SECRETARY

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Election committee

No report

Administration and Finance

Looking into a rumor about ORP contributions. The amount of the State contribution has been reduced—except for those grandfathered in before 1995. Apparently the amount of the contribution went from 8 1/2% to 6%. However, it can be raised if the campus wants to fund it—which doesn't look promising.

Faculty Governance and Involvement

Committee has worked on the survey having to do with joining a university system. A draft was passed out—with facts stated first. It will be put online. Please give Greta input either in email or in writing by Friday afternoon, and she will send it electronically to the Senate.

There was some discussion about whether or not a debate should occur before

taking the survey, i.e. a forum, etc. People should know the implications of joining a system before taking a survey.

Some asked why take the survey?

Answer: We were asked to do it by former chairs of Senate. but the purpose was not identified. The state legislature is discussing the validity of independent universities—there are only 4 left now—we may not have a choice about having to join, but we may be able to indicate a preference. Would the Senate want to host a debate? Someone suggested a panel, or guests who could present the various sides of the different systems. It was agreed that we don't need to rush ahead with the survey, but take time to think it over and send suggestions to Greta.

Someone asked what the results of the previous survey had been?

Answer: A 45/55 split with the majority against.

Senator Ballenger moved we get more information before sending out the survey...**Boyd** 2nded. After more discussion, the motion passed.

Senator Barker moved we all send ideas to Greta, and she cull through them. **Senator Paul-Urena** 2nded. Passed. Everyone has until Oct 31st to respond to Senator Haidinyak.

Ethics Committee

No report

Academic Affairs

No report

Strategic Planning Committee

No report

Professional Welfare

They will meet next week to look at the faculty handbook and align it with the faculty orientation handbook. Ideas are welcomed.

OLD BUSINESS

The plans for a Chapel on campus evoked some discussion. **Senator Guidry** said his constituents wanted to keep the free speech area with its' existing trees unaltered. **Senator Bush** said prior discussion in the Pine Log stated students didn't want a chapel built. **Senator Paul-Urena** said her constituents felt the same as Senator Guidry's. Do we want to respond officially? Someone asked about the source of the chapel idea. A Board member is pushing for the plan but does not currently have the funds; however, blueprints have been drawn up, and were on display at a university function. The Senate could issue a resolution or

wait and see if anything else develops. No motion was forthcoming, so we will return to the issue at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Oswald had been contacted by a faculty member who had received traffic tickets and was directed by UPD to contact him. The old policy says nothing about referring such matters to Faculty Senate. The policy was revised last April (policy #?) There is mention of an appeals board—not updated since 2003. Brian is assigning the matter to Professional Welfare, and asking them to look it over and make recommendations. **Sarah Stovall** (substituting for **Senator Pace**) asked about the new structure for the university web presence. It is her understanding that web pages will need to fit a template. She wondered who dictated this? Answer: Board of Regents. She feels it brings up the question of academic freedom. **Chair Oswald** said he will ask the Provost the current status of the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Unger moved to adjourn at 4:25pm. **Senator Davis** seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayce Halstead
Secretary