

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
2008 Meeting #365  
March 5, 2008**

Subject to approval at the 366<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Senators present were: Senators present were: Joe Ballenger (3), Sara Bishop (4), Vikki Boatman (5), Dennis Bradford (6), Erin Brown (7), Parliamentarian, Ken Collier (8); Carolyn Conn (9), Randi Cox (10), Deborah Dunn (12), Secretary, Jeanie Gresham (13); Al Greule, (14), Chair, Marc Guidry (15); Scott LaGraff (16), Kevin Langford (17), Tomy Matthys (18), Perry Moon (19), Clint Richardson (21), Treasure, Elton Scifres (22); Lee Stewart (23), Chair-Elect, Sally Ann Swearingen (24); Ken Untiedt (26), Linda Reynolds attended for Lani Draper.

Excused absences: Norjuan Austin (2), Lani Draper (11), Rose Powell (21)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was held at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center and was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Guidry.

**GUESTS**

PRESIDENT DR. BAKER PATTILLO

Dr. Pattillo was not available to attend the meeting.

PROVOST DR. RICK BERRY

Dr. Berry was not available to attend the meeting.

INTERIM PROVOST DR. MARY NELLE BRUNSON

Dr. Brunson discussed the following:

- The focus now for the Provost Office is the assessment piece for SACS. She said that the Senators could assist by looking at the courses they teach and be thinking of course outcomes. She said assessment is here to stay to guide program quality and that next fall, the Provost Office would begin the process of looking at assessments per courses, etc.
- Dr. Brunson stated that the Provost Office is continuing to look at SACS review to make sure that SFASU meets the standards. The SACS report submission will be 2010, and the visit will be 2011.
- She stated that the family plan for pool participation is available. She passed out the plan to the Senators. The fee is \$100 for a family with up to five members. The dates the pool will be open are May 12 to August 17 for membership. One pool guest per family may attend if you pay an additional \$25.00 for the season.
- Questions: Senator Moon stated that the calendar this year with Easter falling right after spring break is problematic. Dr. Brunson said that the calendar committee created the calendar. Discussion continued.
- Senator Cox asked about how the dorms and food plans will work for the May semester. Dr. Brunson said that she did not work on this plan. She believes that these issues are being considered.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The April Senate meeting is now moved to April 18 at the same time and place.
2. There will be a social gathering, April 19, with the Board of Regents. All Senators are invited to come. The President's box will be the location of the meeting.  
Discussion continued.
3. The university tenure policy has been revised by the Dean's Council. It will make it easier for probationary faculty to interrupt the tenure timeline in case of illness/pregnancy, etc. The faculty member will need to document the reasons for requesting an interruption. The person can still work and be paid.
4. The university is still in negotiations with Bo Pilgrim to see if he will allow the money he donated to build the baseball complex to be used to upgrade the Jaycees Field.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Senator Dunn to approve the minutes from meeting #364. The motion was seconded by Senator Richardson. The minutes were approved as written.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair Guidry - He yielded to the Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Swearingen – No Report.

Treasurer Scifres stated that he looked into the Faculty Senator expenditures. This was a request from Chair Guidry. Treasure Dalton said that we have a lot of money just sitting there. We have \$4353.00 budgeted annually. Treasure Scifres provided a spreadsheet of expenditures to the Senate members. Discussion continued concerning the expenditures. He said if we do not use the money, we lose it. He stated that he wanted to make the Senate aware of the money issue. He stated that presently, we have \$3474.00 available. It is separated now into student wages and O&M. We can spend it how we need to, but we can not spend the money on food or cash awards. Vice-Chair Swearingen will contact the university technology personnel to see if we can come under the technology replacement policy because the Senate lab top computer is old and needs replacing. Discussion continued. Senator Dunn asked if we could table the issue for now. The issue was tabled.

Secretary – No report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs: No report.

Administration and Finance: No report.

Communications: No report.

Elections: Senator Ballenger reported which Senators are rotating off of the Senate. A list of those Senators was presented to the Senate. The apportionment by college was also reviewed. Presently, the apportionment is off. Only 25 can be on the Senate plus

the Chair which is 26. Now, we need to elect three from Fine Arts, one from Education, two from Science/Math, one from Liberal/Applied Arts, and one from Forestry/Agriculture. Adjuncts have to be elected every year.

Questions: Senator Moon said that Chair Guidry does not hold a Senate seat now; Sally's seat is actually becoming vacant. Senator Ballenger said that he would correct the chart. Senator Bishop asked who sends out the election announcement. The body said that the Election Committee sends the announcements out. There was discussion concerning the number that would need to be elected. Senator Ballenger said to email mistakes to him.

Next, Senator Ballenger said it is now time to nominate officers for next year. Senator Ballenger asked if there are any nominations for officers today. Senator Collier stated that we would do the Parliamentarian job again. Senator Scifres stated that he would serve as Treasurer. Chair Guidry said if Senators had any nominations to email them to Senator Ballenger.

Faculty Government and Involvement: Senator Richardson stated that the faculty handbook was being reviewed now. Chair Guidry asked if he could make a report in April.

Professional Welfare: Chair Guidry asked Senator Langford if this committee could create a resolution proposal for a banking policy, send it by email to members for approval, and have the resolution ready for the next meeting. Senator Langford reviewed the policy that the committee is looking at now. He is concerned that the policy may interrupt present overload pay that some departments are presently paying. He believes that a caveat stating that this overload pay not be stopped be in the policy. Discussion continued. The senators voiced concerns that policies are in place that are not being followed. Senator Langford said that he wanted to be careful and check with other universities if banking policies are working. Policies presently at SFASU concerning workload and overload pay were reviewed. Discussion continued. Chair Guidry stated that we need to make a resolution on the banking policy, or enforcing the overload and workload policies. Senator Langford stated that his committee will work on the wording of the policies and the banking policy if it is needed. Discussion continued. Senator Boatman said that a faculty member was going to leave because of a low salary. The salary was increased to keep the person. Senator Stewart retrieved the policies and read them to the Senators. Senator Untiedt stated that we should focus on rewording the present policies. Senator Collier said that we need a back-up policy to put in place if the workload policy is not followed. Chair Guidry asked Senator Langford to address the issue as needed.

Ethics: Senator Dunn discussed whether "sexual orientation" should be added to the university's non-discrimination policy. She reviewed present university's pertinent policies. Senator Moon stated that Texas did not have a law that requires universities to add sexual orientation to policies. Discussion concerning SFASU being on the forefront of this issue in the state continued. Discussion continued concerning policy inconsistencies. Chair Guidry stated that a resolution would require administration to address the issue. A motion was made by Senator Moon and Senator Cox seconded the motion to create a resolution to add sexual orientation to all of SFASU's relevant policies. The motion carried.

Strategic Planning: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: Senator Guidry asked if we should continue to think about recognizing the Regents for their work. He said that he talked with Charles Jones, visual arts. He said that they have a book making program. They have involved other faculty before. Chair Guidry asked Charles Jones if he could develop an award for the Regents. He said that we could donate some of the books that they have now to our library in their honor. Chair Guidry stated that would like the Senate to give \$1500 to this project. The books would be brought to the April Regent's meeting. There would be a plate in the books recognizing them. The Regent's would receive a pamphlet describing the books. Discussion continued. Senator Stewart suggested that we also have a plaque made to place in the Regent's board room that describes this donation. The funds would be a one-time donation to Visual Arts stated Chair Guidry. Senator Matthys made a motion to expend \$1550.00 to pay for the Regent's award project as a one-time thing. Senator Langford seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Dunn asked who would be recognized by the award. The group decided that the award would be in honor of the Regent's, President, and Provost. Senator Guidry that there will be about eight volumes donated to the library. Senator Boatman asked if we could see the books in our next meeting. Chair Guidry said that he would bring them to the next meeting.

Chair Guidry announced that if you are on the FAR Digital Measures review committee, please report to appropriate person soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Senator Ballenger asked if we could ask SFASU to be a "smoke-free" campus. Discussion continued. Chair Guidry asked if the Senate would like for him to broach the issue with the administrators at his next monthly meeting. Discussion continued. All agreed for Chair Guidry to add this to his discussion with the administrators.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Guidry at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Gresham  
Secretary