

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Meeting #375
April 8, 2009**

Subject to approval at the 376th meeting.

Senators present were: Neill Armstrong (1), Norjuan Austin(2), Joe Ballenger (3), Kathleen Belanger (4), Sara Bishop (5), Vikki Boatman (6), Dennis Bradford (7), Leland Thompson for Erin Brown(8), Susan Clarke (9), Parliamentarian, Ken Collier (10); Carolyn Conn (11), Randi Cox (12), Secretary, Jeanie Gresham(13); David Howard (15), Keith Hubbard (16), Scott LaGraff (17), Chair-Elect, Kevin Langford(18); Cynthia McCarley (19), Perry Moon (20), Carl Pfaffenberg (21), Treasurer, Elton Scifres(22); Daniel Scognamillo (23), Chair, Sally Ann Swearingen(25); Ken Untiedt (26).

Excused: None

Agenda

I. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Chair Swearingen.

II. Announcements:

Chair Swearingen gave a special thanks to Lee, Elton, Randi and Carl for the presentation from the Faculty Government and Involvement committee; Scott, Erin, Norjuan and Cynthia for the presentation from the Academic Affairs Committee.

Chair Swearingen also stated that the last Board meeting for the year will be May 6 at 2:30 p.m. in which the old and new board members will need to be present. New transition will take place.

III. Committee Presentation Reports:

A. The Faculty Government and Involvement Committee chaired by David Howard

1. Senator Howard presented his committee report. They investigated energy-related issues. The university administration invited the faculty to participate in the formulation of a university plan. The committee gathered data from faculty to see if there was support for this endeavor. The data revealed that 29.9% responded. Support was gained for lowering the hot water temperature and having specific hours of heating/air conditioning; neutral support was shown for mandating that computers be powered off. There was not support for restricting additional electrical use of refrigerators, etc. in offices. There was support for a degree set for winter/summer heating. The first open-ended question gained ideas from faculty. These themes emerged – conversation, minimization, energy saving devices, optimization, awareness, go “greener”, shorten work week/amend work habits, innovation, policy change, conduct energy audit, fleet fuel management and departmental competition, analyze/review library use, and departmental competition. The second

open-ended question asked for ideas for curtailing energy costs. The themes that emerged were more thermostat variation, concern about thermostat variation, turning off lights, lights too bright, computers, other equipment, doubts about shutting –off equipment, limiting hours of operation, against limited access, installing solar panels and insulated windows, instant-on hot water, promoting modified dress, consolidating night/weekend courses, etc.

2. The committee reviewed what other universities are doing. Three objectives emerged: reliability, conservation, and sustainability. The committee grouped the university survey responses according to these objectives. Conservation emerged as the objective most supported by the survey.
3. Most faculty will support energy efficiency unless it restricts their personal freedom to work or do their jobs when and where they will or must.
4. Senator Howard reviewed the State facilities Management Program that requires state agencies to complete cost-effective energy and water conservation measures. He also reviewed the Loan Star Revolving Loan Program that provides funds for energy conservation.
5. Lee Brittain, SFA Director of the Physical Plant, reviewed what SFASU is doing to meet state requirements. He said that all new building meets energy requirements and many times exceeds the requirements. SFASU partnered with the A&M system to seek better electricity rates. This improved the rates for SFASU. The electricity costs are still rising. Equipment repairs and replacements are completed with the most efficient parts necessary. When light fixtures are changed, more efficient light fixtures are put in place. Mr. Brittain reviewed more ways that SFASU strives to conserve energy. SFASU is currently working on completing the Energy Resource Management Plan. He discussed the strategies in the plan. Also, current energy costs were reviewed. SFASU costs have increased 61% due to rate increases. Over a million square feet have been added to the campus. Improvement has caused an 8% degree in electrical consumption. Discussion continued.

B. The Professional Welfare Committee Chaired by Sara Bishop

1. Chair Bishop presented the Professional Welfare Committee Report. The issue addressed was adjunct and compensation at SFASU. It was discovered that one department has more adjunct than tenure/tenure-track faculty. Many adjuncts have been teaching full time for more than five years. She stated that SFASU values adjuncts but they deserve better. The number of adjuncts in 2008 was 159 according to what was reported. All departments did not report. The percentage of undergraduate students taught by adjuncts has increased from 2005 to 2008. Adjuncts were surveyed. Most were concerned with compensation including cost of living and merit.
2. A resolution was created to address these issues. The resolution was presented. The resolution supported: (a) clarifying the duties and responsibilities of adjunct faculty, including but not limited to: required office hours, and service requirements and opportunities; (b) encouraging more participation among adjunct faculty within departmental, college, and university affairs; (c) consistently reviewing cost of living pay adjustments; (d) changing Policy E-20A to include adjunct faculty in merit

considerations; (e) attempting to transition long-term adjunct faculty into permanent positions such as lecturers or instructors.

3. Chair Swearingen asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Senator Belanger made the motion to adopt the resolution, and Senator Collier seconded the motion. Senator Moon asked why service requirements and opportunities and more participation in departmental, college, and university affairs would be added to adjunct responsibilities. Discussion continued. It was suggested that the word “required” be removed from the “required office hours” on bullet one. It was suggested that a sentence be added concerning “annual reviews.” Senator Collier suggested that we not debate the words now but show that we support that something be done for adjuncts. Senator Bradford stated that most adjuncts teach because they have no time for permanent employment, but there is a core of adjuncts that teach full time. Those full time adjuncts may appreciate the effort. Chair Swearingen suggested that we give additional comments to Sara concerning the resolution, and then vote by email before April 20. Chair Belanger asked to table the motion.

C. Communication Committee Co-Chaired by Kathleen Belanger and Susan Clark

1. Chair Belanger and Chair Clark presented the report. The issue reviewed was perks available to faculty and staff. The list of perks to faculty and staff is available at <http://www.sfasu.edu/facsenate/>
2. The committee investigated all of the benefits they heard about from many sources. The perk categories shown on the website are Educational Benefits, Health Benefits, Food/Restaurants, Coffee, Tea, and Campus Cookies, Recreation, Movies – SFA Theater, Student Activities Association, and Merchandise.

IV. Presentations:

- A. Dr. Baker Pattillo – He was not present at this meeting.
- B. Dr. Rick Berry – He thanked the Senate for reporting on these issues. He said that the faculty perks were news to him and that the Senate could be the Clearinghouse for the perks. Dr. Berry stated he feels the pain of the adjuncts. His wife is an adjunct. He can not comment on the situation because of his wife’s position. He said that Dr. Pattillo testified in Austin on tuition and fees. The bill limited tuition and fees. Tuition rates can not increase more than five percent in the next two years. He does know that tuition and fees will be regulated after this session. Also, the issue of accountability is still alive in the Legislature. The good news is that SFASU is already gathering much of the data that will be required. He addressed the guns on campus legislation. The bill has run into a snag. The next Board of Regents meeting begins on April 20. The board will interview architects. Tuition and fees will be set at this meeting. There will be board approval for promotion and tenure recommendations.
- C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson – She reminded the Senate that program coordinators have a deadline in July to collect and analyze data. The deadline must be met so that SFASU will have two cycles of data analyzed for programs. She asked the Senators to work with Chairs and colleagues to see that this work is completed and continued.

V. Elections Committee

- A. Elections – Chair Swearingen asked for nominations for Senate offices. The nominations will then be open until next Tuesday and voting by the end of next week. Senators may nominate by email to Sally Swearingen by Tuesday.
Slate of Officers nominated:
Parliamentarian – The chair will appoint this position.
Treasurer – Keith Hubbard
Secretary – Carolyn Conn
Chair-Elect – Ken Untiedt, Ken Collier
- B. Chair Swearingen stated that now voting for the nominated adjuncts will take place. If the constitution changes pass another adjunct will be added. Paper ballots were passed out to Senators, and voting took place.
- C. Constitution Changes – Senator Collier reminded the Senators of the previous meetings discussion. He suggested changing the adjunct representation for the Senate from one to two. The other change is lengthening the terms of Faculty Senators or allowing reelection. Chair Swearingen asked if there was any discussion. Senator Cox made a motion and Senator Moon seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. The changes will be sent to faculty for approval.

VI. Approval of minutes from Meeting #374 – Chair Bishop moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Senator Conn. The minutes were approved as written.

VII. Officers' / Other Committee reports:

- A. Chair – Sally Ann Swearingen – No additional report.
- B. Chair-elect – Kevin Langford – No report.
- C. Treasurer – Elton Scifres - \$2361 is presently available. The only expenditure since the last meeting was travel funds for a trip to Austin.
- D. Secretary – Jeanie Gresham – No Report.
- E. Other Committees – No Report.
- F. Senator Boatman announced that Dennis Bradford won the election and will represent the adjuncts on the Senate.

IX. Old Business – No old business.

X. New Business - Senator Moon asked that at the next meeting we ask Dr. Berry to review how the Senate would be involved in nominating members for University committees. Chair Swearingen stated that these procedures would have to be formulated. Discussion continued.

XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by Chair Swearingen at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanie Gresham
Secretary