

**Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #379 October 14, 2009**

Subject to approval at the 380<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Senators present: Kim Archer(1), Neil Armstrong (2), Brian Beavers (3), Kathleen Belanger (4), Sara Bishop (5), Vikki Boatman (6), Parliamentarian, Linda Bobo (7), Dennis Bradford (8), Erin Brown(9), Susan Clarke (10), Chair-Elect, Ken Collier (11); Secretary, Randi Cox (13), Dianne Dentice (15), Christina Guenther (16); David Howard (17), Treasurer, Keith Hubbard (18), Mikhail Kouliavtsev (19), Chair, Kevin Langford(20); Cynthia McCarley (21), Emmerentie Oliphant (22), Carl Pfaffenberg (23), Ken Untiedt (26).

Not present: Carolyn Conn (12), Mitch Crocker (14), Daniel Scognamillo (24), and Lee Stewart (25).

Excused: Carl Pfaffenberg (23) – sent a representative

**Agenda**

I. Call to order. Chair Langford called the meeting to order at 2:38 pm.

II. Presentations: There were no formal presentations.

III. Announcements: Drs. Berry and Brunson were in attendance as spectators as updated information from the Regents' meeting is found in the published minutes.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #377 and #378. McCarley moved to approve the minutes of Meeting #377. Hubbard seconded the motion and the motion carried. Hubbard made the motion to approve the minutes of Meeting #378. Ken Untiedt requested the spelling of his name be corrected. McCarley seconded the motion with the stated correction and the motion carried.

V. Officers' reports:

- A. Chair: Chair Langford welcomed Drs. Berry and Brunson. He thanked Ken Untiedt for serving on the Policy Committee and Linda Bobo for serving on the Graduate Council. Kim Archer was commended for submitting Lisa McCarty for student recognition at the Regents' Meeting. Ms. McCarty serves on the Center for Disease Control and is involved in prevention of H1N1.

October 23 and 24 is the Texas Faculty Senate Association. Funds are available for senators who are interested in attending the meeting. Due partially to date conflict with SFA's homecoming, no one voiced interest in attending.

- B. Chair Elect: Chair Elect Collier had no formal report; however, faculty needs to be systematically visible to the regents, something above and beyond the Regents' Professor. The purpose for visibility is to keep regents involved in what is going on with faculty.

Senator McCarley shared the nursing program recently produced a showcase video, highlighting the program's history. This is an excellent item to share.

Senator Untiedt suggested we highlight a department at each meeting, recognizing one, two, or three professors.

Senator Cox suggested we tie into the Teaching Excellence Awards, profiling a school or department.

Chair Langford stated Dr. Berry does keep regents informed; however, the chair feels we need something additional.

C. Treasurer: Our balance is \$4,383.

D. Secretary: No report.

#### VI. Committees Report:

A. Academic Affairs Committee – Chair-Erin Brown, Kim Archer, Dianne Dentice, Cynthia McCarley, Daniel Scognamillo.

Senator Brown stated there is a need for a university attendance policy that addresses illness, emergencies, catastrophes, etc. Senator Untiedt pointed out the current policy is very vague and questioned: is three weeks 6 or 15 days of a Tuesday-Thursday class? Additionally, he shared the Judicial Office has a new name: Student Rights and Responsibilities.

B. Administration and Finance – Chair – Lee Stewart, Mikhail Kouliavtsev, Carl Pfaffenberg, Randi Cox. In Senator Stewart's absence, Senator Cox provided the report.

Senator Cox mentioned administration is aware of salary issues and we appreciate their efforts towards raising salaries. The committee encourages non-monetary ways to support faculty. It will take between \$14 and 15 million each year to bring SFA salaries into compliance with the ever-moving national salaries. Regent James Dickerson is committed to a long-range plan that excludes raising student fees to supplement faculty salaries.

Some faculty have expressed dissatisfaction with the Travel Office; there is a need to streamline the reimbursement process and move away from adversarial issues between faculty and the Travel Office. Senator Bobo questions why there is a forty-day return when many charges are placed on a credit card that accrues interest. Chair Langford suggested a committee investigate travel issues.

C. Faculty Government and Involvement – Chair-David Howard, Mitch Crocker, Keith Hubbard, Neil Armstrong. This committee is generating a strategic plan for recruiting better students. The list of eleven items shared with the Senate is a work in progress.

FaceBook recruiting was suggested as a tool, but Legal Council must advise.

- D. Communication Committee– Chair – Kathleen Belanger, Brian Beavers, Emmerentie Oliphant, Susan Clarke, Christina Guenther.

Senator Belanger provided a handout. The committee recommends changes to the Faculty Senate webpage, as well as easier access to the site.

The committee will review Faculty Perks and make changes as needed.

Issues between faculty and community bookstores will be examined and findings presented to the Senate. It is suggested faculty turn in booklists to a universal office for publication.

There is interest in facilitating communications between the university and community, particularly faith-based organizations, as a recruitment and retention endeavor. This is successful at other Texas universities.

This committee will explore ways faculty can communicate concerns to the Senate.

A discussion about student success stories revealed an overlap between the Senate and Public Relations (PR). It was suggested we use the Faculty Senate webpage to upload stories and have PR funnel them to the appropriate venue: Sawdust and regents.

Senator Untiedt suggested a strong need to market SFA spirit in the community. Perhaps Faculty Senate is a portal for marketing issues.

- E. Professional Welfare Committee – Chair- Sara Bishop, Ken Untiedt, Linda Bobo, Dennis Bradford. No report.
- F. Elections– Chair- Vikki Boatman- other members of faculty senate as needed. Senator Boatman stated first year senators should serve on this committee so they can facilitate elections next year.

#### VII. Old Business:

- A. Senator Hubbard reported from the Library and AARC Committee. Four members are rotating off the committee and replacements will come from Forestry, Math & Science, Fine Arts, and Business. On the agenda this year are: journal holding reevaluation and budget. The committee is open to new questions.
- B. Senator Clarke will report on what is being done about noise in the library at our next meeting.

#### VIII. New Business:

- A. Chair Langford spoke with Chris Rivers, Assistant Police Chief. Regarding parking tickets, if you get one, pay it. There is a Faculty Appeals Board should there be a ticket dispute.

Senator Bobo pointed out some faculty have spouses enrolled as students at SFA. If a faculty member hangs his or her parking permit on

the spouse's vehicle, he or she receives a ticket. An investigation can determine an alternative to ticketing.

- B. Senator Bobo raised a question about QEP. This will be placed on next month's agenda.

IX. Chair Langford adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vikki Boatman  
Acting Secretary