

# **Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

## **Meeting #400**

**February 8, 2012**

Subject to approval at the #401 meeting.

Senators present: Norjuan Austin (1), Treasurer, Brian Beavers (2), Christine Bergan (3), Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo (4), David Campo (5), Theresa Coble (6), David Cook (7), Secretary, Dana Cooper (8), David Cox (9), Dianne Dentice (10), Ann Ellis (11), Jason Fritzler (12), Dottie Gottshall (13), Tracey Hasbun (14), Chair, David Howard (15), Lora Jacobi (16), Mikhail Kouliavtsev (17), Matthew Lindsey (18), Michael Maurer (19), Karen Migl (20), Jannah Nerren (21), Emmerentie Oliphant (22), Rose Powell (23), Cindy Pressley (24), Deb Scott (25), Parliamentarian, Sandra Stewart (26), Janet Tareilo (27), Juan Carlos Ureña (28)

Excused/Sent Representative:

Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo (4), David Campo (5), David Cox (9), Janet Tareilo (27)

Not present:

### I. Call to order:

- A. Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 2:36pm.

### II. Presentations:

- A. Dr. Baker Patillo, President
  1. Introduced Sen. Nichols, from Jacksonville
- B. Senator Robert Nichols, Texas State Senate, District 3
  1. Complimented President Patillo's efforts on behalf of SFA and described the current economic crisis as the worst financial sessions since the Great Depression
  2. Discussed redistricting, regional universities offering graduate degrees, first-generation students, "opt-out" policy, and the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Seven Breakthrough Solutions
  3. Encouraged the public to come to the capitol, specifically to his Senate office, and let the staff know where you are from
- C. Dr. Ric Berry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
  1. Absent due to professional conference
- D. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School
  1. If you are unhappy with what you hear today, feel free to contact Dr. Berry
  2. Grading policy is available for public comment
  3. Issue came to light because of Banner's inability to average multiple grades for the same class, which served as the catalyst to review the policy
  4. SFA is all but only in present policy of average all grades for repeat classes; most universities accept the highest grade to influence GPA
  5. Change in summer pay stemmed from a flat enrollment
  6. Stressed the fact that that summer money is extra money, not a part of base salary

7. Faculty are still expected to advise students and other administrative responsibilities with no summer compensation

### III. Officers' Reports:

- A. Chair, David Howard
  1. At the January Board of Regents meeting, stressed that discipline and diligence are timeless issues that universities will demand of their students
  2. Texas Council of Faculty Senates will meet February 17-18 in Austin; SFA will be represented by Chair-Elect Bobo
  3. Early College High School meeting will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Early Childhood Research Center, Room 212; Dr. Judy Abbott, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Fred Hayes, NISD Superintendent, will discuss the program and answer questions
- B. Treasurer, Brian Beavers
  1. Current balance is \$5,761.20
  2. Anticipated expenses include Chair-Elect Bobo's trip to Austin and the purchase of a new computer for the Senate
- C. Secretary, Dana Cooper
  1. Verified that the #399 minutes has been received by senators
  2. Invited comments for corrections/edits

### IV. Approval of minutes from Meetings #399

- A. Senator Scott moved to approve, Senator Kouliavtsev seconded
- B. Minutes passed unanimously

### VI. Old Business:

- A. Student Evaluations Survey discussed
  1. Senator Powell moved to approve the survey; motion seconded by Senator Bergan
  2. Motion passed; Survey will be sent out to faculty, which invites comments regarding the content and use of student evaluations
- B. Adjunct Teaching Award discussed
  1. Will follow timeline of other teaching awards
  2. Will be awarded at TEAC in April

### VII. New Business:

- A. Intent to graduate forms
  1. Frustration expressed concerning another deadline to remember
- B. Adjusted summer pay discussion
  1. Senator Howard confirmed the shared concern that faculty members make so little in comparison with other universities across the state and now even less over the course of an academic year. He raised the question of how this intersects with Mission 2013, which included increasing faculty pay.
  2. Many faculty members perceived that they had made it through last summer without a pay cut, and therefore avoided a decrease in annual

- income, but *now* summer pay is cut? The large majority of faculty considered this an unexpected development delivered without warning.
3. Senator Stewart raised the point that this is a communication issue and stressed the fact that people need time and warning for such decisions.
  4. Chair Howard raised the possibility of the Senate taking a stand through a resolution.
  5. Senator Dentice maintained that the Senate is the only voice the faculty has; therefore we must pursue a resolution.
  6. Senator Kouliavtsev recognized that such pay cuts are permanent; if faculty will not teach the classes, departments will find adjuncts to do so.
  7. Chair Howard appointed an ad hoc committee, comprised of Senators Austin, Beavers, and Kouliavtsev to draft a resolution.

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Chair Howard moved to adjourn the meeting; so moved by Senator Beavers, which was seconded by Senator Austin
- B. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Cooper  
Secretary