

Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting #401

March 7, 2012

Subject to approval at the #402 meeting.

Senators present: Norjuan Austin (1), Treasurer, Brian Beavers (2), Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo (4), Theresa Coble (6), David Cook (7), Secretary, Dana Cooper (8), David Cox (9), Dianne Dentice (10), Ann Ellis (11), 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), Susan Nelson (22), Emmerentie Oliphant (23), Rose Powell (24), Cindy Pressley (25), Deb Scott (26), Parliamentarian, Sandra Stewart (27), Janet Tareilo (28)

Excused/Sent Representative:

Kevin Langford for Jason Fritzler (12), Juan Carlos Ureña (29)

Not Present:

Christine Bergan (3), David Campo (5)

I. Call to Order:

A. Chair Howard called the #401 meeting to order at 2:34pm

II. Presentations:

A. Dr. Richard Berry, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. SFA has received the annual report from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Four programs at SFA have been identified as low producing programs as defined by the THECB.
2. Chair Elect Bobo asked about summer pay to ensure that all faculty are paid according to the same summer pay scale. Dr Berry explained that all faculty are paid by the same summer scale, proportional to 3 hour course or 4 hour course

B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Assoc. Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the Graduate School

1. Dr. Brunson elaborated on the aforementioned low producing programs and explained that the next step is to work with program coordinators, chairs, and deans. Programs/departments must determine whether they will ask for an exemption or program merger or decide that this is the time to cut our losses. All decisions on this matter will come from the people involved in that program. This will not be a decision made by administrators

III. Officers' Reports:

A. Chair, David Howard

1. No report

B. Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo

1. Chair-Elect Bobo attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) and described the meeting as uplifting and nice. SFA is no worse off than other university senates. She discussed recent conversations within the SFA Senate regarding power and suggested the word involvement. She suggested that the Senate members be placed/appointed to vital campus-wide committees and have voting power. She also learned that compensation for teaching summer school around the state has a real range from faculty having no summer school options, courses taught by adjuncts only while other faculty have received raises for summer courses. She stressed the need for the Senate to have the ability to create policy.

C. Treasurer, Brian Beavers

1. Currently, the account balance is \$4,777.48, including the recent purchase of a new laptop for the Senate.

IV. Approval of minutes from Meeting #400

A. Secretary, Dana Cooper

1. No report; verified that the senators had received the minutes from the previous meeting and invited requests for edits or changes.
2. As no requests were made, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Cook, which was seconded by Senator Jacobi, and the minutes were approved.

V. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Government and Involvement—Chair, Sandra Stewart

1. SFA B&N Bookstore Manager Kristen Christopher made a presentation regarding textbook orders and the range of methods used by departments across campus. She stressed her willingness to work with faculty members to streamline this process any way possible.
2. Senator Ellis created and distributed a textbook ordering survey to all administrative assistants, which garnered a 30% response rate. Overall, the administrative assistants felt it would be helpful to have a specific procedure to handle book orders.
3. Parliamentarian Stewart discussed the last charge given to the committee, which was to review the existing Senate constitution regarding power. Several issues were re-assigned to the communications committee. Parliamentarian Stewart cited the difficulty in creating power for the Senate but endorsed Chair-Elect Bobo's suggestion for involvement.
4. Chair Howard pointed out that many of our counterparts across the state have much greater responsibility than we do on this campus, i.e. core curriculum committees, as policy makers, and participation in official functions. Other university senates take on a much higher profile. He noted that the word power has a negative connotation but stressed the fact that official duties create a greater influence across the campus.
5. Parliamentarian Stewart offered several suggestions to address some of these issues—writing in roles and responsibilities of senators, information

session and questions for administrators—She emphasized the need for senators to pass on the information. She encouraged time limits for people on the floor and expectations for senators’ decorum and behavior. Finally, she pointed out the quandary of non-tenured members serving as senators. She raised a concern that tenure-track faculty may be in a tenuous situation based on their uncertain status at the university and noted that many university senates across the state do not allow non-tenured faculty to serve as senators.

6. Chair Howard closed the discussion by noting that a core characteristic of American higher education is the shared governance of the university. He warned that the Senate is not proactive in this regard, the chances of change are slight.

B. Administration and Finance—Chair, Janet Tareilo

1. Senator Tareilo continued the conversation of senators’ involvement across the university, involvement on university committees, and reporting back to the Senate.
2. Senator Tareilo suggested the implementation of a dress code at graduation and the splitting of graduation in to two or more ceremonies in order to return an air of dignity to commencement ceremonies and provide a safer environment for all graduation participants and attendees.
3. Dr. Berry noted that these concerns have existed approximately 10-12 years but that there has not been a receptive audience. He encouraged the Senate, however, to do press the issue of there was a strong feeling on this issue

C. Elections—Chair, Mikhail Kouliavstev

1. Senator Jacobi will take over chair duties as Senator Kouliavstev rotates off the senate and requested that election information be disseminated to all faculty at department and college meetings.
2. Senator Kouliavstev clarified that senators can serve for two consecutive terms (one term is three years) but then must sit out one term before returning to the senate.
3. Senator Pressley requested that elections not be held during Easter break.

D. Professional Welfare—Chair, Juan-Carlos Ureña

1. Senator Jacobi presented the results from the Faculty Opinion Survey Questions Regarding Student Perceptions of Teaching.
2. Overall, faculty members are quite dubious of and very concerned about the potential weight given to such problematic responses and the potential publication of such results online.

E. Communications—Chair, Brian Beavers

1. From the four nominees submitted to the Senate from across the university for the Adjunct Teaching Award, Kimberly Squyres

from the Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication was selected.

2. The nomination was submitted to Dr. Berry from administrative assistant via phone at 4pm on 3/7/2012.

VI. Old Business

A. Summer compensation resolution *ad hoc* committee

1. Treasurer Beavers discussed the Resolution related to Pay and Proposed Summer Salary Reductions. Some phrasing was taken from a previous resolution on the same matter, and some wording was added and the points omitted in drafting this resolution.

2. Parliamentarian Stewart pointed out that the Cost Reduction Taskforce did not meet this year.

3. Chair Howard asked for solicitation of comments sent directly to Beavers concerning the resolution before the next meeting with a deadline of two weeks from today so that Howard can send it out the Senate for further review.

VII. New Business

A. Policy Committee Update (C-63, A-74) – Nerren/Bobo

1. As a member of the University Policy committee, Chair-Elect Bobo discussed two new policies, which were accepted by the Board of Regents in October 2011. One policy was pulled from the tenure policy (E-50) and given to policy committee by Damon Derrick. The policy is now open for comment to the Senate.

2. Dr. Berry clarified the selected policies and explained that other issues were involved in the decision making process. The policies were pulled from where they were located previously and simply given a new number. The policies deal primarily with faculty, but other issues that might arise must also have a standing policy that can be utilized in areas outside of tenure issues. At this point, no wording has been changed.

B. Library Survey – Ann Ellis

1. Senator Ellis announced that the library assessment survey will begin the day after Spring Break.

VIII. Adjournment

A. Chair Howard requested a motion for adjournment.

1. Senator Powell moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Treasurer Beavers.

2. The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.