

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #405**  
**September 12, 2012**

**Senators present:** Austin, Norjuan; Ball, Robert; Birdwell, Leisha; Bobo, Linda; Cecil, Leslie; Coble, Theresa; Cook, David; Cooper, Dana; Cox, Neal; Ellis, Ann; Franks, George; Gottshall, Dottie; Henderson, Bob; Jacobi, Lora; Kwaitkowski, Matthew; Lindsey, Matthew; Maurer, Michael; Migl, Karen; Nerren, Jannah; O'Dwyer, Darla; Olle, Mary; Powell, Rose; Pressley, Cindy; Runnels, Scott; Scott, Deb; Tareilo, Janet; Urena, Juan Carlos

Absent: Campo, David

Excused and/or Sent Representative: Hasbun, Tracey

President Baker Patillo: Excused Absence.

Drs. Ric Berry and MaryNelle Brunson were present.

Officers:

Linda Bobo, Chair

David Cook, Treasurer

Dana Cooper, Chair-elect

Rose Powell, Secretary

Norjuan Austin, Parliamentarian

1) Call to order:

a) Chair Bobo called the meeting to order at 2:30pm

2) Presentations:

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

i) Administrative Decision-making

(1) Operates in the President suite. Different points of view are considered before a decision is made. The president considers all of the information and makes the best decision with the information provided to him (e.g., budget, salary, etc.)

ii) FOR THE RECORD: Summer 2013 Salary.

(1) The "standard" salary is based on 1/6 of a 9 month salary-under certain circumstances it is paid by stipend.

(2) There is a very good chance the same summer pay will be as we experienced for Summer, 2012.

(3) The goal is to go back to the "standard" summer salary.

iii) The president will be appointing a Strategic Planning Team.

(1) Committee suggestions for appointment will be welcomed.

(2) The committee will be using the same structure as was used 4 years ago. They will be including representation from every area of the University. The goal is to have a wide representation.

iv) Enrollment:

(1) Admitting rates under the new higher standard: the unofficial enrollment is about 275 fewer incoming freshmen. The denial of applicants was two times greater than the year before.

- (2) Thurs (9/13): will be census day: unofficially we have set a new high enrollment for Fall, 2012 with an increase of transfer student admissions, and increase of graduate admits. There is an increase of numbers at all levels except for freshmen. Early college high school enrollments are helping with the increased enrollments. An increase of transfer students is attributed to building positive relationships with the community colleges.
  - (3) Core Curriculum Advisory Committee's aim is to have new student guidelines ready for implementation this time next year.  
Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson presented and received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for the University Mission statement.
  - (4) Oct 3: The THECB will be giving out the Star Awards. We did not submit an application this year. However, go to the Coordinating Board and search out "Star Award" if there is a worthy submission we can apply for next year.
  - (5) Legislative Budget: last biennium we were to cut \$16 million. We still have challenges facing us ahead.
- b) Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs: No report at this time.
  - c) Kris Strand, Parents Day Coordinator for the Residence Hall Association/Residence Life:
    - (1) 38th Annual Event, Saturday, September 29, 2012, THEME: Wonderful World of SFA. Many events are planned:
      - (a) 9-11 am Check-In and Later Registration
      - (b) Coffee with the faculty, 9/29, at 10-11am Grand Auditorium
      - (c) AtriumWelcome: 11-11:30 am Grand Ballroom
      - (d) Trying to include as many organizations as possible to engage parents and students.
      - (e) For more information: [partentsday@sfasu.edu](mailto:partentsday@sfasu.edu)
      - (f) Expecting to see 5,000 parents
      - (g) Residence Halls are 98% full

3) Officers' Reports:

- a) Chair, Linda:
  - (1) Attended Academic Affairs Meeting:
    - (a) Study abroad program offered a possible student's saving account; Butler University has a program where the students can build up funds for studying aboard.
    - (b) Financial Aid was presented. After July 1, the in-school interest subsidy will be eliminated on new loans to graduate students.
    - (c) Faculty comments:
    - (d) There appears to be a delay in reimbursement from travel, etc. Due to a lot of requests for travel it takes a long time to complete the paper work and reimburse the funds. Also, there are only a few people working on reimbursement. It affects all faculty and administration on all levels. No one group is singled out.

- (e) Resolution for dividing the graduation commencement ceremony. Senate to look at again and make recommendations.
- (f) Criteria for honors, too many getting honors? How is it determined, what is the history, etc. This topic to be further investigated in committee work.
  
- (g) Summer Pay
- (h) Faculty Salary Pool is an accumulation of
- (i) Designated fees
  - i. Statutory fees
  - ii. Appropriated funds
- (j) Board of Regents:
  - 1. Need to show accountability. Bobo and Cooper will act as liaison to FS internal committees to assess the effectiveness of the committee's work.
  - 2. Retreat: Is an opportunity for the Senate Faculty to work together and get to know each other better. Recommendation was made to have next year's retreat the Wednesday before call back in the Fall, semester to get the faculty senate engaged in the upcoming year issues, concerns and other projects.
    - a. On September 22nd the retreat will be at the Pine Creek Lodge Inn
    - b. Personality Test: please complete by Tuesday prior to coming to the Retreat on the 22nd of September.
  
- b) Chair elect: Dana Cooper:
  - (a) Financial needs are not linear, and come from various sources.
  - (b) Other universities may not raise tuition in the fall semester, but raise them in the spring, therefore not getting the same amount of publicity. For example, Sam Houston did not raise tuition in the fall semester, but is raising their tuition considerably in the spring semester.
  - (c) ORP vs TX retirement: Vanguard is a good option on returns; however, you will not see the 15% increases as in the past. (May be assigned to professional welfare)
  - (d) University Committees:
    - (i) If you are on a university committee, please bring a report to the Faculty Senate.
  
- c) Secretary, Rose Powell:
  - i) Accountability: Roll will now be taken via the laptop to cut down on paper and to show accountability of the faculty senate of who is present for the meeting. Refer to Constitution Article IV, section 4.
  - ii) There was a request to send the outcome of the Roll Call to each dean at the end of the academic year.
  
- d) Treasurer, David Cook:
  - i) There is \$4,232.90;

- ii) David is to learn how to use the Banner system and P-card (Purchase Card)
  - iii) In the faculty senate budget, there are budget lines for O & M, student worker, and travel, as well as a rolling account.
- 4) Approval of minutes from previous meetings
- a) Minutes approval from Meetings #403, motioned by Dana Cooper, 2nd by David Cook. Minutes approval from Meeting #404, motioned by Lora Jacobi, 2nd by Jannah Nerren. Passed for both.
- 5) Committee Assignments:
- a) Academic Affairs: Jannah Nerren, Their committee had 3 charges that included alternative admissions, official duties of senate faculty, and graduate assistants.
    - i) academic opportunity for students who are on probation and do OK and then progress
    - ii) summer pathway, Summer 2: if the student does OK, then progresses.
    - iii) transfer student.
    - iv) The results of the studies will be posted on the faculty senate website.
  - b) Official duties:
    - i) Graduate assistance and only two faculty in the College of Business were happy with their graduate assistants
- 6) Old Business:
- a) Posting on the website for faculty senate results. This will be discussed and resolved in committee. Refer to Article IV in the constitution.
  - b) Faculty definition for rights of senators, the inclusion of SON Clinical Instructors and Military Science. This was voted on in 2006, but unable to find any documentation. Will be discussed at the retreat for consideration to amend the the constitution.
  - c) Headshots on the Senate Faculty web page, please review information and update your photo. Will be posted soon.
- 7) New Business:
- a) Resolution on splitting commencement. Further discussion and a committee to be assigned to work on that resolution. Safety issues were highlighted as main concern with the large commencement in May.
  - b) Summer Pay: refer to Dr. Berry's comments earlier. Faculty senate discussing that we need to go back to the previous standard and practice set in 2010.
  - c) Review the Honor criteria, history at SFASU, to use % or GPA, to be assigned to committee.
  - d) University Policy Committee: Dr. Abbott is the chair. Willing to have the faculty senate work in conjunction with the committee. Requesting for the faculty senate to look at the policies that are coming up for review and select the top five to be considered for input.
  - e) Retreat September 22, 2012, at the Pine Creek Lodge Inn 9:30 am- 3pm, see previous email for directions.

- f) Polo shirts: for new faculty and new senators. Send to Dave Cook name of person, the size and if they want a M/F style Polo shirt.
- g) TEDx : Senator Theresa Coble shared information on TEDx If further information needed, please contact Senator Theresa Coble ([tcoble@sfasu.edu](mailto:tcoble@sfasu.edu)).
- h) Adjunct Faculty elected: Scott Runnels, Department of Art and Dorothy “Dottie” Gottshall, Department of Elementary Education.
- i) Science and Math programs: Monday 9/17 3:30 pm in Math 357, Dr. Jane Long will present on the SALG program (Student Assessment of Learning GAINS).
- j) Library Noise level is going back up....is this a growing culture? 4th floor identified as a quiet place. The current practice to keep noise to a minimum is not working. Any ideas????

8) Adjourned at 5 pm motion by David Cook, 2nd by Norjuan Austin. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. Powell  
Secretary