

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Meeting #414
May 8, 2013
Alumni Center

Senators present: Norjuan Austin, Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Dana Cooper, Theresa Coble, Neal Cox, George Franks, Stacy Hendricks, Bob Henderson, Karen Embry Jenlink, Lora Jacobi, Matthew Kwiatkowski, Matthew Lindsey, Karen Migl, Jannah Nerren, Mary Olle, Cindy Pressley, Tammy Robinson, Violet Rogers, J.D. Salas, Deb Scott, Louise Stoehr, Jay Thornton, Gail Weatherly, Kimberly Welsh.

Absent:

Excused Absences: Ann Ellis

Officers:

Dana Cooper, Chair

Janna Nerren, Chair-Elect

Deb Scott, Secretary

Matt Lindsey, Treasurer

Lora Jacobi, Parliamentarian,

- I. Call to order: 3:38 p.m.
 - A. New senators received a notebook with senate information, rosters, policies, etc.
 - B. Elections of new officers

- II. Officers' Reports:
Presentations by new Senate officers:
 - A. Chair, Dana Cooper
 1. You have just seen how a typical senate meeting is run. We will also invite attendance and presentations from Drs. Berry/Brunson and other invited guests. We will continue to review/approve some SFA policies.
 2. Would like to see SFA take more senators to the twice a year meetings of all Texas faculty senates. It is enlightening to see who shows up, what information is exchanged among representatives from different campuses, and to hear the presentations by an invited Texas state legislator. Not sure how many senators we can afford to send, but it would be nice to have several SFA senators gain a big-picture perspective regarding what is happening
 - B. Janna Nerren, Chair-Elect, no report.
 - C. Deb Scott, Secretary, no report.
 - D. Matt Lindsey, Treasurer, no report.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval vote for minutes for meeting #413 will be held at the September 2013 senate meeting.

IV. New Business

A. University Committees

1. Chair Bobo's vision for 2012-2013 was to have the Senate have broad-based participation on key university committees, including for example representation on the Policy Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Distance Education Committee, etc. Dr. Berry allowed the Senate to have a seat on the Academic Affairs Committee. Chair Bobo's conscientious efforts as Senate representative will allow Senate representation to continue into the 2013-2014 academic year. Senators were asked to review the list of university committees and indicate on which committees they might be willing to serve.
2. Senator Franks indicated that a university committee omitted from the list is the University Student Discipline Committee. This committee primarily addresses criminal behavior.

B. Faculty Senate Internal Committees

1. In terms of setting out "grand goals" and achieving them, the 2012-2013 senate did a great job of making substantial contributions. Chair Cooper asked that senators review the list of internal committees, indicating which committee(s) they would be interested in serving on and whether they would be interested in chairing the committee.

C. Polo shirts

1. Each senator should receive a Faculty Senate polo shirt.
2. New faculty will receive a polo shirt at the beginning of the next year.

D. Faculty Senate Retreat

1. There will be no Faculty Senate retreat for the 2013-2014 academic year. In lieu of a brainstorming/community-building kick-off session, Chair Cooper requested that senators complete the form that asks the open-ended question included in the Faculty Senate packet that asks, "What would you most like the Senate to do this year?"

E. Faculty Working Conditions

1. A faculty survey will be distributed in the fall of faculty likes/dislikes about working at SFA. Senators Jacobi, Stoehr, and Cecil will help.
2. Another goal will be to establish where SFA faculty salaries stand when compared to peer institutions. Included in this research will be the retention of SFA faculty. Senator Rogers and possibly Senator Henderson will help. The Cost of Living in Nacogdoches or a supposition about why it should or shouldn't be a factor when comparing salaries will be included.
3. All Senators need to gather information from their department about how much money is spent on searches and how many searches are done; include preretirement (replacement search) expenses in the last five years.

- F. Handgun Legislation
 - 1. Current Legislation in Austin rapidly changed this week. There was discussion about the probable passage of a concealed weapons law. The law will allow the use of licensed concealed handguns on public campuses statewide but will allow universities to “opt out” of allowing them to be carried on campus. There was speculation about why State Representative Clardy now supports this bill.
 - 2. Senator Franks proposed that the Senate work on two resolutions for quick response.
 - a. Supporting the “opting out” option
 - b. Thanking the representatives for the opting out option. Senator Jacobi seconded; motion carried. Senators Cecil and Franks will work on it.
- G. Summer Reading
 - 1. Chair Cooper brought our attention to the handouts she gave us as possible summer reading about higher education, tenure, and the role of the professor.
- H. 2013-14 Senate Meetings
 - 1. Mark your calendar for 2013-14 Senate meetings. The Board of Regents would like us to be at their meetings as well.
- V. Adjournment
 - A. Meeting Adjourned at 4:42 p.m.
 - 1. Motion by Chair Cooper, 2nd by Senator Jacobi; Motion Passed, 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Scott, Secretary