

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #415**  
**September 11, 2013**

**I. Call to order**

Chair Dana Cooper called to order the regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate at 2:40 p.m. on September 11, 2013 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

**II. Attendees**

Secretary Deb Scott conducted attendance. The following persons were present: Norjuan Austin, Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Dana Cooper, Theresa Coble, Neal Cox, Ann Ellis, George Franks, Tammy Harris, Stacy Hendricks, Bob Henderson, Karen Embry Jenlink, Lora Jacobi, Matthew Kwiatkowski, Matthew Lindsey, David McKemy, Karen Migl, Jannah Nerren, Mary Olle, Cindy Pressley, Tammy Robinson, Violet Rogers, J.D. Salas, Deb Scott, Greg Smith, Louise Stoehr, Jay Thornton, Gail Weatherly, Kimberly Welsh. The following persons were absent: none.

**III. Special Guest(s)**

- A. Dr. Baker Pattillo introduced Travis Clardy, State Representative for Texas House District 11
  - 1. Will continue to work on TRB and for SFA.
  - 2. Would like to expand and retain programs at SFA and is working with the higher education coordinating board, (the masters in the Nursing School for example.) Would like the coordinating board to be more cognizant of universities like SFA.
  - 3. Interim charges/studies. The Hazelwood program had a radical change in 2005 when it was expanded to dependents of veterans. The legislature desires to recognize and reward veterans, but the extra expense was put on the universities to unmanageable levels. The legislature will look at this issue in the future.
  - 4. Tuition revenue bonds were a priority for the recent legislative session. It was a surprise to most that they were not brought up for a vote in the regular or special sessions. They will most likely be brought back in the next session.
  - 5. Greg Abbott, current attorney general, may be elected Texas governor and would most likely treat the office differently than current governor Perry. Todd Staples would also do an excellent job for East Texas.
  - 6. Believes term limits are not needed in the Texas House of Representatives. There is sufficient turnover.

7. Question and Answer Session

a. How is the state budget situation?

Firstly, the Texas house paid 12-14 billion dollars that were deferred expenses from the last session. There was more money this session than initially anticipated; there is a surplus. The house is hoping to undo the surplus balance in the next 2-3 sessions. Some of the money went back to public education, the retired teachers' fund, also water must have more infrastructure built. We are currently at capacity for water usage. The rainy day fund has a cap. It will max out at this rate and the money will overflow back to the general fund.

b. About thirty years ago, Texas funded a student's public college education at around eighty percent. Currently, the state funds a student's education at approximately twenty-seven percent. In light of growing student debt, is there any discussion about increasing the level of state support?

Student debt is a big problem. Years ago, when the state uncapped tuition, tuition levels increased dramatically. Some of that had to do with tuition being artificially low. The current trend is in the opposite direction. In light of the four year degree plan and the push for higher graduation rates, the trend to decrease funding at the state level is more likely.

8. Bring issues to my attention. I am in town and available to you. Do not think I can read your mind.

**IV. Presentations**

A. Dr. Ric Berry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

1. The year is off to a good start. Our enrollment is down, not unexpectedly. Last time we increased our standards for admission, enrollment fell in the second year. It is currently around 12,700. Based on historical evidence, it will take four years to get back to 12,999. We are approximately 4000 credit hours down. Thankfully, the budget was conservative in anticipation of this. However, there is no extra money.

2. The focus this year is on recruitment and retention. It is the business of everyone. We are looking for plans from every department and college by November 6. We cannot raise tuition and fees again, and we have nothing else to cut. We must attract more students, and it is now part of everyone's job description. Regents' scholarships were invented by the chairs to attract students and yet some departments don't use them. Recruiting falls under service.

3. Take advantage of the university benefits such as the Fine Arts events or the student rec center free Friday.

4. Question and Answer Sessions

a. Will summer pay return to previous levels?

It is unlikely given the drop in enrollment. One option might be to revisit how summer school works. i.e. Do we want to hire fewer people and pay them more?

- b. In my field, research experience is important. Other regional universities offer this making recruiting difficult. How are we to deal with this?

Each department will understandably have different challenges. For example, you could start with contacting high school teachers of your subject to target students. You could go to Showcase Saturday regularly.

- B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School
  1. The core curriculum advisory committee is about two weeks away from making its recommendations about the new core.
  2. The core assessment plan is ready to go to the coordinating board.
  3. The Academic Program Review will look at programs, recruitment, retention and graduation. Masters programs will be required to submit their reviews to the state.
- C. Dr. Michael Walker, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for Support Services
  1. A message from Adam Peck, SGA would like the faculty senate to join them in making SFA a smoke free campus. Please look at this issue.
  2. Under Student Affairs are the following areas: Counseling, Student Health Services, Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, Veterans Resource Center, and Career Services. We are looking at how all of these resources can help with retention. Minority and low income students are high risk for retention. On October 15, we will host Vince Tinto around 1:30-2:30 with ideas about retention. Use the "iCare early alert program" to help. There is a form on-line.

## V. Officers' Reports

- A. Chair
  1. Welcome new senators—Greg Smith (Communication) and David McKemy (Psychology)
  2. Outstanding accomplishments from the Senate in Activities & Accomplishments
  3. Letterhead, Kudos Kards, Thank You Notes, to help the senate be more visible.
  4. Public Affairs is working with Professor Profiles Project with *The Daily Sentinel* as a PR venture.
  5. Texas Council of Faculty Senates, October 25-26 in Austin
    - i. As discussed in previous meeting, would like to take more people, finances dependent
- B. Chair-Elect
  1. Office Space is now available for Faculty Senate, McKibben 252, Bailey Conference Room. Chair Cooper will have the key if you need it.
  2. Upcoming meeting have important guests; please invite your colleagues.
    - i. October, Dr. Stacey Silverman, Coordinating Board
    - ii. November, Sen. Robert Nichols,
    - iii. Mayor Roger Van Horn and City Manager Jim Jeffers
    - iv. Suggestions for future meetings?

- C. Secretary
  - 1. No report
- D. Treasurer
  - 1. Balance Reported at May meeting was \$1693.40. Not sure where the difference is but according to the budget office, August 31, 2013 says \$5596.99. The budget allotment is \$4353, outstanding purchases is approximately 1,300. The balance is 8,649.99.

**VI. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Senator Rogers moved that the minutes of meetings 413 and 414 be approved with the change that Bob Henderson and Norjuan Austin were in attendance. Senator Franks seconded. Motion carried.

**VII. Committee Reports**

- A. External (University) Committees
  - Academic Affairs—Dana Cooper  
Will meet in October
  - Admissions Appeals—Jay Thornton  
No report
  - Academic Integrity—Mary Olle  
No report
  - Calendar Committee—Stacy Hendricks  
No report
  - Core Curriculum Assessment—Violet Rogers  
Has met and has established course deadlines.
  - Distance Education—Leslie Cecil, Gail Weatherly  
No report. Senators Coble, Cecil and Jenlink will check on the frequency of the committee.
  - Faculty Development Leave  
No report.
  - Financial Assistance & Scholarship—Ann Ellis  
No report.
  - Graduate Council—Jannah Nerren  
October 17 meeting
  - Grievance Panel/Discrimination Complaint Review Board—Cindy Pressley  
No report
  - Honors—Joey Bray  
No report
  - Information Resources and Technology Advisory Committee—Louise Stoehr  
No report
  - Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research—Stacy Hendricks  
No report
  - Library & Academic Assistance & Resource Center—Matt Lindsey  
No report

Medical Withdrawal Committee—Karen Migl

No report

New Faculty Orientation—Dana Cooper & Jannah Nerren

Polos were distributed.

Policy—Karen Embry Jenlink (needs replacement), Theresa Coble, Bob Henderson

Meets every Friday. Each dept should have a policy about how they assign summer teaching.

Research Council—Matt Kwiatkowski

No report

Teacher Education Council—Jannah Nerren

No report until Nov 1

Teaching Excellence Awards—Dana Cooper

Later report

Traffic Appeals Board—Leisha Bridwell, Neal Cox

No report

Undergraduate Curriculum Council—Kimberly Welsh

No report

University Student Discipline—George Franks

No report

B. Internal (FS) Committees

a. Academic Affairs: Jannah Nerren, Chair

i. We will look at MOOCs

b. Administration and Finance: Karen Embry Jenlink, Chair

i. Planned Friday meetings for faculty input and shared governance

c. Communications: Theresa Coble, Chair

i. No report

d. Elections: Mary Olle, Chair

i. No report

e. Ethics: Leslie Cecil, Chair

i. Plan to look at workload issues related to service projects and how it impacts teaching

f. Faculty Government and Involvement: Deb Scott, Chair

i. May look at Faculty Dependent Discount Tuition/Fees

g. Professional Welfare: Violet Rogers, Chair

i. No report

h. Strategic Planning: Dana Cooper, Chair

C. Other

a. Polo Party

i. Excellent response; all polos ordered, delivered with card in August!

ii. Need shirt? Contact Chair Cooper with size to run second order

b. Roster—make corrections, return to me

**VIII. Old Business**

A. Peer Comparison Project

a. Senator Rogers Team PCP—Peer Comparison Report met over the summer and has started by identifying peer universities for comparison.

B. Faculty Perceptions Survey

- a. Faculty Perception Survey—Senators Cecil, Jacobi, and Stoehr have initiated the project. It will be up and running soon.

C. Handgun Resolution

- a. Senators Cecil, Pressley and Franks , no report

**IX. New Business**

- A. Change.org—Smoke-Free Campus Petition. Senator Pressley
- B. Student Evaluations—Senator Pressley has brought from her department concerns about the low response rate. A committee should take this up.
- C. International Town Gown Association (ITGA) is an organization about the relationship between universities and cities. Everyone should google this and bring back your opinions to the next meeting.
- D. The Senate has been given a copy of the 2014 fiscal year budget. Should we put it on-line? Senator Thornton moved to put the budget on the Faculty Senate website. Senator Cecil seconds. Motion carried. Discussion ensued. Senator Rogers' committee will investigate whether it is already on-line.
- E. Policy committee meets on Fridays and needs a representative.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Dana Cooper adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Deb Scott