

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Meeting #418  
December 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 2:30 p.m. on December 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, Karen Embry Jenlink, George Franks, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Bob Henderson, 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, Gail Weatherly, Kimberly Welsh. The following persons were absent: Jay Thornton.

**III. Special Guest(s)**

A. Chair Dana Cooper introduced the Nacogdoches Mayor, Roger Van Horn; City Manager, Jim Jeffers; and City Council member, Mike Keller.

1. Van Horn: Thankful that the city and the college cooperate well together. There is an internship between the college and the city. We have an annual Nacogdoches Leadership program.

2. Questions via Faculty:

a) What is the five-year plan for Nacogdoches given the current tax shortage and the closure of the Hotel Fredonia? Answer (Mayor Van Horn): We have commissioned an audit of Nedco (Nacogdoches Economic Development Cooperation), CVB (Conventions and Visitor's Bureau), and the city. Trying to find out how to be more effective in economic development. We are trying to develop a combination that is attractive for investors. The city pool will help. For instance, Mast motor sports is a great new addition to the city.

b) What is the latest time line for I-69? Answer (Jeffers): Let me start first with the sales tax. Our most recent sales tax report is down 2%, which is better than other recent reports. Nacogdoches has been slow going into the recession and slow coming out. Retail sales are up a little. Sales tax from industry is down. I-69 is being built in segments. Funding for highways (federal and state) are broken. The transportation bill on the ballot only funds half. The route has been selected but an environmental statement needs to be done. Staying on the US 59 footprint where practical is ideal. However, the current plan is to go West of the airport. The environmental statement will have the actual route. That is coming. Local

government is supposed to participate financially, but for Nacogdoches, that is nearly impossible. It could be a partial toll road. The financial dilemma is far apart. The city is expected to pay ten percent of the right of way. We simply don't have it. However, I believe, that I 69 will be the single most important economic development for Nacogdoches since SFA.

c) In marketing does Nacogdoches include SFA and vice versa? Answer (Mayor Van Horn): We are finding that young families do not care that Nacogdoches is the oldest town. They want things to do. I believe it will be increasingly unified.

d) Has any thought been given to expanding social media with more local events. We are a one-click generation. Answer (Jeffers): We're new with the social media. We know that we need to do more. We will be marketing seamlessly between SFA and the city. We are headed in the right direction.

e) New faculty seem to think that the city doesn't want new development, such as Applebee's. Answer (Mayor Van Horn): It's absolutely untrue. It's a difficult business to compete against Waco or the little towns around Dallas. Smaller companies are being targeted. There has never been a "we don't want that group here".

f) What do you and Mr. Jeffers believe has the biggest growth potential? Answer (Mayor Van Horn): We have very few mid-management jobs. Our mean household income is 33-35K per household. I would love to have small companies that have twenty or twelve good jobs. Two are currently looking here. One is from California and one is from Chicago, but I cannot reveal names.

g) What is happening with the Fredonia Hotel? Answer (Mayor Van Horn): The income did not equal the expenses. Before a new owner can buy it, a lot of resolutions and liens need to get resolved. No one can buy it and refurbish it with the debt it has. The most recent time it changed hands, all of the banks in the city forgave the notes. The buyer could buy it at the appraised price. That probably won't happen this time. I think it will work eventually.

h) How is our water situation? Answer (Mayor Van Horn): Right now, we are very good. The state legislature doesn't want to touch water rights, but some day they will figure a way to find water.

i) There are a lot of artistic people in Nacogdoches and in the SFA community. Have you considered marketing Nacogdoches as an artistic community? (Mayor Van Horn): I love the new statues around town. I don't know of any direct effort to single us out as an art destination spot. We are the garden city capital of Texas. We need a multi-faceted marketing campaign. Please don't hesitate to call us. Bring us a business plan for your ideas and tell us how the city can help. The Healthy Nacogdoches has extended the trail to the loop. (Jeffers): The liberal arts program of sustainability/livability is working with the city to end up with an implementable strategic plan. We could be the music capital of East Texas. Dr. Murphy and his team are currently working on that.

#### **IV. Presentations**

A. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School.

1. The SACS-COC meeting happened last week. We learned that SACS should be referred to as SACS-COC. Southern Assoc. of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

2. We are passed for the 5<sup>th</sup> year interim report. Everything that we put in place, we will be accountable for in March 2017.

3. Institutional effectiveness piece of “closing the loop” is the most pressing part. Assessment should trigger an action.

4. The student success collaborative is an initiative through the education advisory board. Other universities use this. It is looking at data to make informed advising decisions to help students follow a path to a successful graduation. Data-driven information specific to SFA will help guide students and advisors. Workbooks by program will be devised according to the system to help devise guidelines for advising.

5. The graduate bulletin is in final review process. It will be an on-line version. We have been without one for quite sometime.

B. Clayton Harrington , Director of Parking and Traffic

1. I would like to introduce myself and reach out to you to say, please come talk to me. I will give you a fair ear.

2. Appeals come first to me and then to the appeals board.

#### **IV. Officers Report**

A. Chair-no report

B. Chair-Elect-no report

C. Secretary-no report

D. Treasurer –We currently have \$5,895.99 balance. There has been some confusion with our actual bottom line because of Banner.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #417**

Secretary Scott submitted the minutes from meeting 417. Senator Stoehr moved that the minutes from meeting 417 be approved with the discussed changes. Senator Pressley seconded the motion. Motion carried

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs-Chair-elect Nerren.

a. Linda Langham informed us the official reporting date is going on-line this spring. The presence of MOOCs has had an affect. A few policies were tabled. Dr. King has mentioned the follow-ups to the reports. Dr. Brunson has emphasized that faculty should keep written records of student complaints.

2. Core Curriculum Assessment-Senator Rogers.
    - a. This Friday we do follow-up on the assessment of the assessment reports on the core. The departments will follow suit.
  3. Distance Education-no report
  4. Graduate Council-no report
  5. Policy-Senator Henderson.
    - a. Thirty-seven policies were assigned at the beginning of the semester; twenty have been reviewed.
    - b. Administration evaluation of faculty performance and consideration for merit pay is coming up for review.
- B. Internal (FS) Committees
1. Academic Affairs, Chair-elect Nerren
  2. Administration and Finance, Senator Embry Jenlink
    - a. The Faculty Senate Lounge in McKibben has been hosting Friday coffee. The highest number was fourteen. We are open to dropping it back to once a month. Should we continue in the spring? Discussion decided that the first Friday once a month in the spring should be tried. There was also interest in adding a discussion topic to the event.
  3. Communications-Senator Migl.
    - a. Proposed project coming in the spring.
    - b. Chair Cooper: Should we do an economic impact study similar to the TCU report (handout).
    - c. Chair Cooper: Do we want to continue to invite guests? Discussion ensued. General consensus ,yes.
  4. Elections, no report.
  5. Ethics, no report.
  6. Faculty Government and Involvement, Senator Scott.
    - a. Proposal to increase the faculty dependent tuition waiver will move forward.
  7. Professional Welfare, no report.

## **VII. Old Business**

- A. Update on Faculty Perceptions Survey-no report

## **VIII. New Business**

- A. Moving Packet for spring –Chair Cooper suggested dividing alphabetically a moving packet. There was discussion about the repercussions of publicly making recommendations about businesses. The general consensus was to do a website format.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Senator Presley moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Senator Welsh seconded.