

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #424**  
**September 10, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair George Franks called to order the regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate at 2:30 p.m. on September 10, 2014 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

**A. Overview of Senate Changes**

There have been several members of the Faculty Senate that have left the university or have been appointed to university administrative positions (Matt Lindsey, Jannah Nerren, Gail Weatherly, LaToya Wesley). These vacancies need to be filled and will be addressed later in the meeting.

**B. Recognition of Past Chair and Past Chair Nerren's Comments**

Senate Chair Franks presented Past Chair Nerren with plaque and gift from the Senate with thanks for her hard work and many contributions. Past Chair Nerren thanked the Senate and highlighted the activities and accomplishments of the Senate for academic year 2013-2014 (see attached).

**II. Attendees**

Secretary Tammy Harris conducted attendance. The following persons were present: Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Erica Chapman, George Franks, Dorothy Gottshall, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Janice Hensarling, I-Kuai Hung, Karen Embry Jenlink, Robin Johnson, David McKemy, Bradley Meyer, Jannah Nerren, Mary Olle, Violet Rogers, J.D. Salas, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Johanna Warwick, Kimberly Welsh. Absent: Norjuan Austin, Carlos Cuadra, Matthew Kwiatkowski.

**III. Presentations**

**A. Dr. Pattillo: No presentation**

**B. Dr. Ric Berry:**

Welcomed the new Faculty Senate and thanked them in advance for their service. Dr. Berry highlighted the new core, many new faculty, and new engineering program. He reported that preliminary numbers show a slight increase in student enrollment, a 2% increase in 1<sup>st</sup> time freshman enrollment but flat number of credit hours.

**C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson:**

Dr. Brunson announced a new focus on the Student Success Initiative. This would be a re-launch of the current advising platform. Its intention is to provide an additional focus of coaching and mentoring to the current advising role. At this time there are many inconsistencies in the advising process, focus and probation policies within the Colleges. University advisors have been retrained over the summer with retraining of Deans and faculty advisors to follow this fall. There will also be a focus on better utilization of university resources to support student's success.

**D. Danny Gallant, Vice President for Finance and Administration:**

Mr. Gallant gave a presentation outlining budget formation, funding sources for the university and the impact of student enrollment. He described student enrollment as the "lifeline" from which funding is determined. Differences between general revenue funding and formula funding were also explained. He reported on external mandates such as the Hazelwood Act and its impact on the budget.

**E. Dalcyce Franks, Assistant Director of Accounting Operations:**

Ms. Franks announced the purchase of a new module in Banner that would handle travel requests and reimbursement. The program will be rolled out with departments being added in phases. See attached handout for details.

**F. Ken Morton, Director of Campus Recreation:**

Mr. Morton gave presentation regarding the many employee wellness opportunities.

**Employee Wellness Program:** Provides many types of physical activity programs, health education and consultation. This is free of charge to all fulltime, part time, and adjunct faculty and staff.

**Campus Recreation Center:** The center is available to staff and faculty for a monthly fee and is free on Fridays.

**Wellness Release Time:** As part of the Employee Wellness Program, the Board of Regents approved Wellness Release Time which provides full-time, benefits-eligible employees 30 minutes of release time during normal work hours up to three (3) times a week for participation in physical exercise and wellness activities offered at the Campus Recreation Center, Employee Wellness Program locations, or walking on campus. Off campus activities are not included unless sponsored by the Employee Wellness Program.

**IV. Officer Reports:**

**Chair Franks:** Reported that for the coming year he would like the Faculty Senate to focus on their role in support of the university faculty and their interests.

**Chair-Elect:** No report – vacant position.

**Secretary Harris:** Harris reminded senators to sign attendance sheet.

**Treasurer:** No report – vacant position. Balance forward of \$4,532.02 from previous minutes.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Franks requested approval of minutes from Meetings #422 & 423.

Senator Bray moved that the minutes from meetings #422 & 423 be approved and was seconded by Senator Welsh; the motion carried.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. External (University) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Chair Franks reported that during the most recent meeting, last June, the main issue in the Committee was determining how to best fulfill the new student census requirements, the plan will be used during the Fall 2014 term, and will be based on the current final grading process.
2. Core Curriculum Assessment: Senator Rogers reported that they met over the summer to finish up new core and to assure implementation of new core for the fall 2014 semester. They will continue to meet regarding assessment of the new core.
3. Distance Education: Senators Cecil & Stoehr report planned meeting on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. Graduate Council: Chair Franks reports that this committee has not yet met.
5. Policy: Senators Taaffe & Johnson reported meeting last week. Reviewed policies regarding faculty conduct and post tenure review.

**B. Internal (FS) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Will request charge from Dr. Berry and schedule meeting.
2. Administration & Finance: Proposed budget was developed over the summer. Treasurer Lindsey stepped down and will be replaced.
3. Communications: Chair needed, no scheduled meeting at this time.
4. Elections: Senator Olle reported that several officer and faculty senate positions (2 seats from Business, 1 from Liberal Arts, and 1 from Math & Science) were vacated by Senators and in need of filling. Senator Rogers asked if these terms would be filled with 3 year terms or the remainder of the term left. As stated by the bylaws, it will be just for the remainder of the term. Senator Olle moved that the senate suspend the rules and hold open elections from the effected Colleges, this was seconded by Senator Rogers and the motion carried. Deans from these Colleges will be notified and elections held for vacant positions.

Open positions for senate officers were then addressed. Nominations were requested for Chair Elect. Senator Harris nominated Senator

Jenlink. No other nominations were made. Senator Rogers moved to close nominations. Senator Jenlink was elected Chair Elect until May 2016. Nominations were requested for Treasurer. Senator Stoehr nominated Senator Bray. No other nominations were made. Senator Rogers moved to close nominations. Senator Bray was elected Treasurer until May 2015. Nominations were requested for Parliamentarian. Senator Olle nominated Senator Bridwell. No other nominations were made. Senator Thornton moved to close nominations. Senator Bridwell was elected Parliamentarian until May 2015.

5. Ethics: Senator Cecil reported no meeting yet.
6. Faculty Government & Involvement: No scheduled meeting.
7. Professional Welfare: No scheduled meeting.

## **VII. Old Business**

- A. Peer Comparison Project:** Outgoing Senator Henderson has agreed to continue work with this project. A copy of the findings was given to the Provost. Chair Franks suggested comparison of other schools in relationship to resource utilization, faculty numbers and growth of administration so see how SFA stacks up. Senator Rogers requested some type of action on the data from the project. Chair Franks suggested that if action is to take place, a formal proposal and movement will need to be made at the next meeting.
- B. Senate Office Space Update:** Office space for the Faculty Senate is still in the works. Chair Franks will check and report progress at the next meeting.
- C. Survey Results:** Very few individuals responded to the survey. Senators are to interface with faculty and identify issues of concern that need to be addressed.
- D. Senate Constitution and Standing Rules Review:** At the last meeting past Chair Nerren suggested that a review of the senate constitution and standing rules might be needed for updates and clarification. Chair Franks will be appointing an internal committee for this review. He noted that the committee should include a member of the election committee.

## **VIII. New Business**

- A. Policies for Colleges:** Senator Welsh inquired about existence and location of policies for the Colleges with in the university. Chair Franks will discuss with Dr. Berry.
- B. Commencement:** Senator Johnson inquired about alternating commencement. Discussion centered on leaving it the same for consistency sake for students, families and faculty and the fairness of

some colleges always graduating in the afternoon. Chair Franks will discuss with Dr. Berry.

**IX. Adjournment**

Senator Salas moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Senator Bridwell seconded.

