

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Meeting #426
November 12, 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 November 12, 2014 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

II. Attendees

Secretary Tammy Harris conducted attendance. The following individuals were present: Charlotte Allen, Norjuan, Austin, Joey Bray, Leisha Bridwell, Leslie Cecil, Erica Chapman, Carlos Cuadra, George Franks, Dottie Gottshall, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Janice Hensarling, I-Kuai Hung, Karen Embry Jenlink, Robin Johnson, Matthew Kwiatkowski, Bradley Meyer, Mary Olle, Kefa Onchoke, Karen Price, Violet Rogers, J.D. Salas, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Johanna Warwick, and Kimberly Welsh. Absent: Stephen Kosovich. Excused Absence: David McKemy. Absent: Stephen Kosovich. Guests: Nechele McClinton & Michael Wicker.

III. Presentations

A. Dr. Pattillo: No presentation

B. Dr. Ric Berry: No formal presentation but entertained questions.

Senator Thornton inquired about the use of exit surveys for all majors. Dr. Berry was unsure university wide use but would investigate and report back to the Senate.

C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson:

1. **Student Success Initiative:** Is moving along as expected. Next step will be to identify the "murky middle" (students who are not obviously at risk but still drop out). Workbooks and analysis for majors are to be distributed and reviewed by faculty & advisors. This data will be used to further identify these at risk students for target campaigns.

IV. Officer Reports:

Chair Franks:

1. Chair Franks attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Several resolutions were introduced at the Council and will be presented for review and approval to the Senate later in the meeting.

2. Chair Franks emphasized that the role of the Faculty Senate is to be the voice of the faculty. Several groups have requested time for presentations. These groups will be encouraged to put together presentations that the Senate will then sponsor.
3. Chair Franks announced that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is no longer solely responsible for the phasing out of underperforming majors. Dr. Berry explained that the Texas Legislature will take into consideration these underperforming majors when determining budgets for the universities.
4. Chair Franks discussed with Randy McDonald the filling of Faculty Senate seats on the Distance Education Committee. Franks has selected Dr. Lisa Beverly from the College of Science & Mathematics, a seasoned online instructor, to fill the vacant seat on this committee.
5. Chair Franks & Chair-Elect Embry-Jenlink will be scheduling meetings with Deans from all Colleges for outreach purposes. Further details to be discussed later in the meeting.
6. Chair Franks announced the possibility of town hall type meetings to be hosted by Faculty Senate for the purpose of identifying faculty concerns and input on issues.

Chair-Elect:

Chair-Elect Embry-Jenlink suggested the resending of the Faculty Senate Survey that was sent in May/June 2014. She felt this important with the addition of new Senators. Survey could be completed during the next meeting on cell phones or tablets. Senator Rogers suggested that it be sent earlier in the day for those who do not wish to complete on their cell phones as this is sometimes difficult.

Secretary Harris: Harris reminded senators to sign attendance sheet. Also needed is a list of all new Senators without name plates for the Senate meetings.

Treasurer: Bray reported the balance forward of \$4,532.02 from previous minutes and a current balance of \$4,258.65. Expenditures for the last month have totaled \$273.37.

V. Approval of Minutes

Chair Franks requested approval of minutes from Meeting #425. Senator Welsh moved that the minutes from meeting #425 be approved and was seconded by Senator Bray; the motion carried.

VI. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs: No meeting/ no report.

2. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** Senator Kwiatkowski reported that assessment of the mastery of Core Curriculum Objectives is underway. How assessment is to take place is included in syllabus for each course. As activities are finished they can be uploaded from D2L utilizing Live Texts. Problems have been identified with student not complete these requirements. Senator Stoehr reported escorting students to Larry King's office for completing of these tasks. Senator Cecil reported some problems with students not understanding that they must hit submit on 3 occasions in order to properly upload documents.
3. **Distance Education:** Senators Cecil & Stoehr reported the finalization of a survey focused on distance education and teaching. They are encouraging faculty to complete the survey as this information will be used to develop policies effecting distance education. It is hoped that polices will be written prior to the December Faculty Senate meeting.
4. **Graduate Council:** No meeting/no report.
5. **Policy:** Senators Taaffe & Johnson reported committee is progressing with post tenure review policy. It currently looks like this review may take place every 6 years with each College responsible for creating their own guidelines.

B. Internal (FS) Committees

1. **Academic Affairs:** Senator Stoehr has met with Dr. Berry and will be scheduling meeting to discuss the committee's focus for the coming year.
2. **Administration & Finance:** Senator Bray reported no meeting scheduled as of this date. Treasurer report given earlier.
3. **Communications:** No meeting/no report.
4. **Elections:** Senator Olle reported no meeting/no report.
5. **Ethics:** Senator Cecil reported no meeting/no report
6. **Faculty Government & Involvement:** Senator Austin reported a desire to wait and see how post tenure review policy progresses with possible interest in this issue.
7. **Professional Welfare:** Senator Salas reported no meeting/no report.

VII. Old Business

- A. Senate Office Space Update:** Office space for the Faculty Senate is almost complete. Chair Franks has not received a key yet. When finished an open house reception will be planned and committee meetings can proceed in this location.
- B. Peer Comparison Project:** Past Senator Henderson has reviewed data to be distributed. The Faculty Senate would also like to convey its appreciation for all his hard work on this very substantial project. Senator Embry-Jenlink reported that the cover letter which will accompany the report has been written and reviewed by administration.

Chair Franks & Chair-Elect Embry-Jenlink will be scheduling meetings with Dean's from all Colleges to distribute & discuss the findings.

- C. **Faculty Senate T-shirts:** Faculty Senate T-shirts that have not been picked will be available for pick-up after the meeting today.

VIII. **New Business**

- A. **Resolution Regarding Hand Guns:** Chair Franks introduced a resolution regarding hand guns that was based on the resolution recently passed by The Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Secretary Harris read the resolution as written (see attached). A motion was made by Senator Austin to accept as read and seconded by Senator Bridwell. Discussion followed. Senator Rogers voiced her agreement with the resolution. Senators Embry-Jenlink & Kwiatkowski questioned its relationship to the Charter School. Chair Franks explained that it would depend on the provisions of the law. The resolution passed unanimously.
- B. **Resolution Regarding Funding:** Chair Franks introduced a resolution regarding funding that was based on the resolution recently passed by The Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Secretary Harris read the resolution as written (see attached). A motion was made by Senator Bridwell to accept as read and seconded by Senator Meyer. Discussion followed. Senator Stoehr questioned why we were requesting only a 25% increase when a 27.3% increase was needed. Chair Franks explained that the 25% request was still well over what would be expected but showed a willingness to work together and negotiate. The resolution passed with one dissension.
- C. **Resolution Regarding Hazelwood:** Chair Franks introduced a resolution regarding Hazelwood that was based on the resolution recently passed by The Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Secretary Harris read the resolution as written (see attached). A motion was made by Senator Austin to accept as read and seconded by Senator Rogers. Discussion followed. Senator Austin requested that the wording "armed forces of the United States" be changed to "United States armed forces." Senator Rogers reported that the university was left picking up a large amount of the Hazelwood funding. Dr. Ric Berry explained that this was an act passed by the Texas Legislature but not being fully funded. The approximate funds received by the state will be around \$180,000 with the projected expenditure being around 6 million dollars. This projected expenditure includes the Hazelwood Act and the Hazelwood Legacy Program. The resolution passed unanimously.
- D. **Resolution Regarding T.E.O.G.:** Chair Franks introduced a resolution regarding T.E.O.G. that was based on the resolution recently passed by The Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Secretary Harris read the resolution as written (see attached). A motion was made by Senator Welsh to accept as read and seconded by Senator Salas. Discussion followed. Senator Olle pointed out that the wording "increased funding" was vague. Senators

Allen & Rogers agreed. Chair Franks explained that again this was a request to the Texas Legislature and showed a willingness to work together and negotiate. The resolution passed with one dissension.

- E. **Exit Survey:** Senator Thornton inquired about use of exit surveys within the university's colleges and majors. Senator Harris reported that the nursing program did use an exit survey and surveyed student employers after graduation. Dr. Ric Berry indicated that he would look into the university wide use and report back his findings.

IX . Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

