

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #432**  
**September 9, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink called to order the regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate at 2:30 p.m. on September 9, 2015 at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201.

**II. Attendees**

Secretary Tammy Harris conducted attendance. The following individuals were present: Kenneth Austin, Joey Bray, Lauren Brewer, Erica Chapman, Carlos Cuadra, Dennis Gravatt, Tammy Harris, Stacey Hendricks, Janice, Hensarling, I-Kuai Hung, Karen Embry-Jenlink, Ginger, Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, David McKemy, Bradley Meyer, Kefa Onchoke, J.D. Salas, Paul Sandul, Le'Ann Somonson, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, and Kimberly Welsh. Absent: Karen Price.

**III. Presentations:** Chair Embry-Jenlink opened the meeting by welcoming the new Senators and reviewing the purpose of the Faculty Senate. She also reminded the Senate of their role in the strategic planning process and challenged members to think about how they would fit into this work.

**A. Dr. Bullard – Interim Provost:** Shared with the Senate some views of higher education, technology and the changes that were taking place. He encouraged embracing the changes and looking for ways that SFA could be selectively different. He discussed the importance of the strategic plan for the university's future and the opportunities that would be available for faculty engagement in the process. He voiced that he looked forward to working with the Faculty Senate and felt that much would be accomplished in the coming year.

**B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson – Associate Provost:** Shared an update on SFA's Student Success Initiative and the implementation of the new advising platform. Advisors have been trained and will begin using more options available such as assigning advisors, scheduling advising appointments and ability to send student text messages. Kiosks will be available at advising centers so that students can swipe their ID cards. This will help log advising sessions and time spent. SFA will also participate in a pilot group working with the new student enable application "Guide". This application focuses on addressing what students have the most problems with on campus. It will send notices to students regarding outstanding issues that students need to address like bills that are outstanding, etc.

- C. **Tristian Harris – Student Government President: Smoke/Tobacco Free Campus:** Announced that the SFA Student Government Association would be supporting and promoting the issue of a smoke/tobacco free campus. He shared that the association looked forward to working with Dr. Patillo & the Faculty Senate in developing a joint resolution supporting this issue.
- D. **Dr. Judy Abbott – Chair of Policy Committee:** Dr. Abbott described the work of the committee and the process for policy review. She provided a handout of policies that were currently under review and the status of each policy. She shared her intent to keep the Faculty Senate informed and involved as policies moved forward. She charged the Senate with seeking and compiling input from the faculty at large and reporting to the Policy Committee on October 27, 2015.
- E. **John Calahan – Space Scheduling & Utilization Coordinator:** Announced that SFA's space scheduling and utilization were working and assisted the university in receiving funding for the new STEM building. He discussed classrooms with standardized technology and room configurations. He fielded questions from Senate members and acknowledged that he knew there were some problems with type of classrooms being assigned and location on campus and that they were working to address these problems.

**IV. Officer Reports:**

**Chair Embry-Jenlink:**

1. **Ombuds Position:** Request has moved forward from the Senate to the Office of the Interim Provost. Chair Embry-Jenlink shared the proposal as an informational item to the Board of Regents in July. It is felt that the proposal supports the new strategic plan and will be implemented in the future.
2. **Faculty Senate Meeting Room in McGee:** Is ready for use. The Chair encouraged Senate Committees to utilize this space and proposed the scheduling of several coffees throughout the academic year. Possible topics could include: New Faculty Meet & Greet and the Chair is open to other suggestions.
3. Chair also announced possible formation of Senate Task Force on space, scheduling & utilization issue and sought Senator feedback on the concealed carry handgun law to be implemented by August 2016.

**Chair-Elect: Vacant**

**Secretary Harris:** Senator Harris reminded senators and visitors to sign the attendance sheet. She also announced that she would resigning as secretary. Chair Embry-Jenlink expressed appreciation from the Senate for Senator Harris' service as Secretary during the 2014-2015 academic

year. Senator Harris announced she will remain on the Senate to completion of her term.

**Treasurer Bray:** Bray reported a previous balance of \$1,726.15 with expenditures over the last month amounting to \$919.94. Expenses included purchase of furniture for Faculty Senate office space, name plates and live streaming equipment.

Account balance for end of fiscal year 2015 is \$806.21.

Current account balance as of September 9, 2015 is \$4,353.00. This includes funds from university for new fiscal year of 2015/2016.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Embry-Jenlink requested approval of minutes from Meeting #431. Senator Meyer moved that the minutes from meeting #431 be approved and was seconded by Senator Bray, motion carried.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. External (University) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs:
  - a. Dates to remember:
    - 9-10-15 Open House for Teaching Excellence Center
    - 9-24-15 ORSP
    - 5-3-16 Bright Ideas Conference
  - b. SFA Cloud – Location for storing and sharing work.
  - c. Yammer - a private social network that helps employees collaborate across departments, locations, and business apps.
  - d. Chair discussed supplying senators with updates from Directors meetings with Interim Provost.
2. Core Curriculum Assessment: Senator Ken Austin will represent Faculty Senate. They will meet on 9-11-15. Senator Taaffe asked if it would be possible to see a copy of the final assessment report.
3. Distance Education: No meeting yet.
4. Graduate Council: No report. Newly elected Chair Elect will represent Faculty Senate.
5. Policy: Senators Taaffe, Kelso & Sandul will represent Faculty Senate. Senator Taaffe announced that policies will be brought before the Senate for review and input.

### **B. Internal (FS) Committees**

1. Academic Affairs: Senator Stoehr discussed that work this academic year will focus on core curriculum assessment and assessment in general, working with the Interim Provost.
2. Administration & Finance: Senate office space complete. Senator Bray to develop goals with committee for the coming year.

3. Communications: Senator Chapman and committee will continue to work on live streaming. Equipment is now available and will be implemented.
4. Elections: Senator Hendricks announced four Senate seats remain vacant: Business, Education, Fine Arts and Liberal Arts. The Election Committee will open these positions on Monday for nominations. Adjunct positions for 2015/2016 will be filled later in meeting (New Business).
5. Ethics: Ombuds proposal has been presented and met with positive feedback. It will work through process with hopeful implementation. Committee has not met yet and is looking for new project.
6. Faculty Government & Involvement: Will be updating Faculty Handbook.
7. Professional Welfare: Responsible for selecting Outstanding Adjunct each year. They will be working on smoke/tobacco free campus resolution this year.

**VII. Old Business: None**

**VIII. New Business: Elections**

**Chair Elect** – Senator Hendricks announced that Senator Salas has been nominated. Floor was opened for additional nominations, none received. Senate voted and Senator Salas was elected as new Chair Elect.

**Secretary** – Senator Hendricks announced that Senator Welsh has been nominated. Floor was opened for additional nominations, none received. Senate voted and Senator Welsh was elected as new Secretary.

**Parliamentarian** – Senator Hendricks announced that Senator Hensarling has been nominated. Floor was opened for additional nominations, none received. Senate voted and Senator Hensarling was elected as new Parliamentarian.

**Adjunct Faculty** - Senator Hendricks announced that two seats were open for adjunct faculty. Mr. David McKemy has been nominated to serve another year. He has already served two years but is eligible to serve for one more year. Floor was opened for additional nominations, several individuals were discussed but none had been verified. Senate voted and Senator McKemy was reelected as Adjunct Faculty Representative. Nominations for vacant seat will be sought.

**IX. Adjournment**

Senator Solmonson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Senator Bray seconded, motion carried.