



Stephen F. Austin State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
#435  
February 10, 2016



### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on February 10, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., at the Baker Patillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201. It was presided over by Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink.

### Attendance

Voting Senators in attendance: Spencer Acadia (proxy for Erica Chapman), Kenneth Austin, Joey Bray, Lauren Brewer, Carlos Cuadra, George Day (proxy for Karen Price), Sharon Eaves, Dennis Gravatt, Karen Embry-Jenlink, Tammy Harris, Janice Hensarling, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Kyle Jones, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, David McKemy, Bradley Meyer, Olga Minich, J.D. Salas, Paul Sandul, Le'Ann Solmonson, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Kimberly Welsh, Todd Whitehead, George Willey (proxy for Stacy Hendricks)

Senators not in attendance: Joey Bray, Erica Chapman, Stacy Hendricks, Kefa Onchoke, Karen Price

### II. Presentations

**A. Dr. Steven Bullard, Interim Provost:** An update to the Strategic Planning was given.

**B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost:** An overview of SFA's involvement with the *Reimagining the First Year* project was provided. Time was given for questions.

**D. John Calahan, Space Scheduling and Utilization Coordinator:** An overview of the software, *Platinum Analytics*, was shared. Time was given for questions.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink requested approval of the minutes from Meeting #434. Dennis Gravatt moved that the minutes from meeting #434 be approved as corrected, Louise Stoehr seconded. Chair Karen Jenlink requested that the sentence in her Officer Report (V.A.1.) "Another election will need to be held for Karen Price who has three unexcused absences," should be struck through. After contacting Karen Price, and learning of extenuating circumstances, Chair Embry-Jenlink excused Price's absences. Motion carried to accept Minutes #434 as amended.

### IV. Officer Reports

#### A. Chair Dr. Karen Embry-Jenlink:

- 1. Welcome:** Welcomed Carlos Cuadra back to the Senate. Thank you to those who are Live Streaming the meeting today. A Holiday Tea was hosted in December and 16 Senators were able to come.
- 2. Search Committee for Provost:** The committee is vetting applications and is continuing to move forward.
- 3. SFA Envision:** Karen Embry-Jenlink continues to serve on the committee for Attracting High Quality Faculty and Staff as a FS representative.
- 4. Board of Regents:** The BOR approved a tuition hike that will provide merit pay for faculty. Dr. Gallant provided a three-year roll out for raising salaries according to the CUPA data.



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5. **Wellness Advisory Board:** SFA will be a smoke free campus beginning in August.

**B. Chair-Elect Dr. J.D. Salas:**

1. **Policy** – Faculty have been providing feedback and recommendations on Policies that are up for review.
2. **Ombudsman** – This initiative is still moving forward for implementation.
3. **Campus Concealed Carry Committee:** The Student Government Association is hosting a Town Hall meeting. An email and website has been set up. Faculty and student feedback is welcome.
4. **Faculty Forum:** A Faculty Forum was hosted in December and another one will be hosted on Friday, February 19, from 9-11, in McGee 483.
5. **Brochures:** Brochures have been printed highlighting the Faculty Senate and to attract new Senators and Officers.

- C. Secretary Dr. Kimberly Welsh:** Kimberly Welsh welcomed Visitors and Senators and reminded them to please sign in. If you are serving as a Proxy, please sign the visitor log and write the name of the Senator you are representing.

- D. Treasurer Dr. Joey Bray:** Faculty Senate had a previous balance from November of \$3,779.63. Total expenditures from November 2015 to February 2016 are \$2,245.54. Expenses included: refreshments and technology services for Faculty Senate meetings; food and supplies for Faculty Senate Christmas party; and food, supplies, and printing expenditures for Faculty Senate Forum. Account balance as of February 9, 2016 is \$1,534.09.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. External (University) Committees**

- a. Academic Affairs:** Karen Embry-Jenlink reported that Dr. Bullard split this committee into a Deans' Council and a Directors' Council. J.D. Salas attended as Embry-Jenlink's proxy in the Directors' Council last week.
- b. Core Curriculum Assessment:** Ken Austin reported that the committee has had ongoing discussions about students' workloads in relation to assignments. The committee has recommended that six components be explored and that Core Curriculum be spread out over two years. A letter will be sent to faculty stating that members of the committee will be speaking to all colleges about how assignments can be designed to address all six components. Time was given for questions.
- c. Distance Education:** Le'Ann Solmonson reported the Committee has sent their recommendations forward and the policy is on the FS website for review. Focus groups and surveys were completed prior to recommendations being made. A webpage with a summary of the focus groups is available for viewing. An overview of the context of the recommendations was given, as well as an explanation of the draft policy that is up for review. Time was given for questions.



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- d. **Graduate Council:** J.D. Salas reported that the committee should hear soon whether there is any financial support for graduate assistants. Salas also serves as Chair-Elect and is in the process of course reviews and modifications. Some departments are utilizing an electronic thesis and dissertation submission.
  - e. **Policy:** Ginger Kelso reported that this committee continues to review policies that are open for review.
- B. Internal (FS) Committees**
- a. **Academic Affairs:** Louise Stoehr solicited input from Senators in the area of assessment.
  - b. **Administration and Finance:** no report
  - c. **Communications:** no report
  - d. **Elections:** Jay Thornton reported that elections are coming up. Nominations will be solicited this week. A nomination form is on the FS webpage. Time was given for questions.
  - e. **Ethics:** Stephen Kosovich reported that other committees were overseeing the Ombudsman and Discrimination policies.
  - f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Bradley Meyers reported that a new faculty handbook is being written and will be given to the FS upon completion.
  - g. **Professional Welfare:** J. D. Salas reported about the Adjunct Teaching Award. The process has been updated to include documentation from the nominees.
  - h. **Strategic Planning:** J. D. Salas reported about the upcoming FS Forum next Friday. Also, a faculty census is being considered to gain the most up to date information.

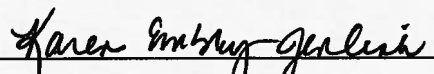
**VI. New Business**

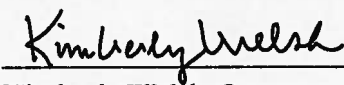
- A. **Current concerns / Future items for Senate:** Chair Embry-Jenlink solicited input from Senators about any current concerns or items that the FS could address in the future. Discussion ensued.
- B. **Recruitment for Senate seats (2016-2019):** Please take brochures to advertise for open seats.

**VII. Other:** The Honorable Travis Clardy, TX State Representative, District 11, will speak at the March FS meeting. The Lone Star Legislative Summit will be held on the SFA Campus, March 2-3, 2016. This is a free event for all.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

  
Karen Embry-Jenlink, Chair

  
Kimberly Welsh, Secretary