



Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#437
April 6, 2016



I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on April 6, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., at the Early Childhood Research Center, Room 212. It was presided over by Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink.

Attendance

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

Senators not in attendance: Bradley Meyer, Kefa Onchoke, Jay Thornton

II. Presentations

- A. Dr. Danny Gallant, Vice President for Finance and Administration:** A three-year plan for raising Faculty Salaries was shared. Time was provided for questions. Chair Embry-Jenlink expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Senate.
- B. Mr. Chris Rivers, Assistant Chief of University Police:** The Campus Carry Committee recommendations were shared and are also included on the committee's webpage. Time was provided for questions.
- C. Ms. Jessica Waguespeck, Employee Wellness:** A presentation regarding the results of a campus wide survey of Smoking, Vaping, and use of Tobacco Products was shared. Tobacco cessation resources and support for students, faculty, and staff was presented. There will be a website specifically designated for tobacco cessation resources. Time was provided for questions.
- D. Dr. Steven Bullard, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:** An update to the Strategic Plan was given. Classroom upgrades over a five-year period was shared. SFA is intentionally building relationships with community colleges. Time was provided for questions.
- E. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost:** An Early Alert update was given regarding the process and the purpose. The app, Guide, was also shared. Time was provided for questions.

III. Recognition of 2016 Adjunct Teaching Excellence Awards

Recognition of Adjunct Faculty Members who were designated the Teaching Excellence Recipient by each of their Respective Colleges was given:

- James I. Perkins College of Education: Elizabeth Gound
- College of Fine Arts: Herbert Midgley
- College of Liberal and Applied Arts: Walter Scalen
- Steen Library: Dylan Wackerman



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Chair Embry-Jenlink presented each recipient with a personalized axe handle and extended a thank you to Chair-Elect Salas, Chair of Professional Welfare, and to Senator Austin, Senator Harris, Senator Kelso, Senator Solmonson, Senator Taaffe, and Senator Jones who served on the selection committee.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chair Embry-Jenlink requested approval of the minutes from Meeting #436. Senator Eaves moved that the minutes from meeting #436 be approved as written, Senator Hensarling seconded. Motion carried to accept Minutes #436 as written.

V. Officer Reports

A. Chair Dr. Karen Embry-Jenlink:

1. **Provost Search:** An update to the Provost search was given. Chair Embry-Jenlink thanked all Senators who attended the interviews.
2. **Non Salary Benefits Survey:**
3. **Ethics Committee:** Chair Embry-Jenlink met with Glenda Harrington regarding the Ombudsman proposal and will be furthering the conversation to speak about what the position will entail.
4. **Email List:** Chair Embry-Jenlink has been working with IT on having an email address for sending and receiving FS email

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

1. **Ombudsman:** Chair-Elect Salas shared that the Ombudsman initiative will continue with a change in culture and hopes this can be completed in the next term.
2. **Next Term:** Chair-Elect Salas is working on the website and is adding adjunct faculty adjunct pictures.
3. **Campus Carry Committee:** This committee is still fielding emails and addressing questions and suggestions. Please continue to send questions and concerns forward.

C. Secretary Dr. Kimberly Welsh: Secretary 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 March of \$1,534.09. Total expenditures from March 2016 to April 2016 are \$275.68. Expenditures include donuts and supplies for Senate Forums and refreshments for senate meetings. Account balance as of April 6, 2016 is \$1,258.41.

VI. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees



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- a. **Academic Affairs:** Chair Embry-Jenlink shared about the University audit process. Dr. Bullard asked that the information be shared horizontally in order to assist others in this process.
 - b. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** Senator Austin reported that Core Curriculum courses would be evaluated soon. An email was sent out this week from the committee regarding assignments and the redesigning of assignments. Time was provided for questions. Senators requested clarification regarding the assessment timeline.
 - c. **Distance Education:** Senator Solmonson reported the Committee has been reviewing feedback from the policy committee. Time was provided for questions.
 - d. **Graduate Council:** Chair-Elect Salas reported that the committee tabled the pass/fail for the thesis and will continue to keep an eye on this issue. The council did approve two documents for electronic thesis/dissertation submissions. This will be a completely optional process for departments. Dean Berry is trying to raise the grant funding for graduate assistants. Time was provided for questions.
 - e. **Policy:** Senator Kelso reported that this committee continues to review the Tenure and Promotion policies. It is still with the Dean's Council. Time was provided for questions.
- B. Internal (FS) Committees**
- a. **Academic Affairs:** Senator Stoehr has been appointed to serve on an additional University Assessment Governing Council.
 - b. **Administration and Finance:** Senator Bray stated that there is no update to report.
 - c. **Communications:** Senator Chapman and Senator Cuadra reported that the FS meeting is live streaming with 33 people watching.
 - d. **Elections:** Senator Hendricks reported that FS elections closed at noon today. Two colleges will need to have a second ballot. The outgoing Senators should be casting officer nominations. Adjunct Senators will also be elected in May.
 - e. **Ethics:** Senator Kosovich provided an update to the sexual misconduct policy.
 - f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Senator Meyers stated that there is no update to report.
 - g. **Professional Welfare:** Chair-Elect Salas reported that he met with the COE committee about the Adjunct Teaching Excellence process since they have their own procedure. This committee is also seeking to change the name of the award in order to increase the prestige.
 - h. **Strategic Planning:** Chair-Elect Salas stated that some of the policies are being reviewed to see what needs to be rewritten in order to be current with faculty and adjunct roles.

VII. Old Business

- A. **Distant Education Policy Feedback Summary:** This summary will be put on the website soon for review.

VII. Other:



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VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Karen Embry-Jenkins
Karen Embry-Jenkins, Chair

Kimberly Welsh
Kimberly Welsh, Secretary