

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#439
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on September 14, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., at the Baker Patillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom 2.201. It was presided over by Chair J.D. Salas.

Attendance

Voting Senators in attendance: Mary Catherine Breen, Lauren Brewer, Erica Chapman, Carolyn Conn, Carlos Cuadra, Sharon Eaves, Dennis Gravatt, Paula Griffin, Janice Hensarling, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Kyle Jones, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, John Mehaffey, Bradley Meyer, Herbert Midgley, Olga Minich, Mark Montgomery, James Morris, Kefa Onchoke, Jason Reese, Chris Ryan, J.D. Salas, Pauline Sampson (proxy for Kerry Roberts), Paul Sandul, Le'Ann Solmonson, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Todd Whitehead

Senators not in attendance: Kerry Roberts

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA:

1. Dr. Bullard reported that the results of a Teaching Effectiveness Study have resulted in the development of recommendations that may be used as criteria for teaching effectiveness as required by SACS. Faculty should consider incorporating these recommendations in policy or faculty evaluation criteria.
2. Dr. Bullard also shared that the number of hours required in residency at SFA has been re-evaluated by several programs. Currently Policy 6.15 requires 42 hours in residency. Requests have been made to change the required hours to 36 hours in residency.
3. Groups will begin meeting to discuss the book *Undergraduate Experience* to encourage innovations to improve persistence by creating a sense of belonging. Time was provided for questions.

B. Dr. Janet Tareilo, Associate Provost: Dr. Tareilo described the new Student Success Center. The purpose of the center is to unite administration and other university services to address many of the challenges experienced by students during the first year of college. The Student Success Center will be located on first floor of the library. Time was provided for questions.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair J.D. Salas requested approval of the minutes from meeting #438.

Senator Meyer moved that the minutes from meeting #438 be approved as written, Senator Whitehead seconded. Motion carried to accept Minutes #438 as written.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. J.D. Salas

- a. Chair Salas presented the outcome of the senate review of policies to the Board of Regents at the July meeting. Policies may be re-evaluated prior to three years if there is sufficient faculty support.
- b. Faculty Senate committee memberships have been posted on the faculty senate website for all senators. Committees representing the four pillars of the strategic plan do not require Faculty Senate representation. However, a proposal to include a senate representative on each of these committees is being considered.
- c. The Campus Carry Implementation Committee has found no negative effects of the campus carry policy so far. The committee is working on plans for how to implement the policy during campus events.
- d. The Classroom Security Committee conducted a security study that showed that many campus keys are not accounted for. A plan is being designed to update locks to operate using card swipes to increase security.
- e. The Wellness Committee is working to implement the tobacco free campus policy. The website is active. Quit kits are available. A tobacco grant was obtained for the smoking cessation project. The Lumberjack Fitness Academy will offer seminars and encourage a commitment to work out. The Wellness Fair will be held November 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the ballroom.
- f. Membership in the Faculty Senate Chamber will be obtained after accounts are updated for this fiscal year.
- g. Updates will be sent out to senators using the Faculty Senate email account.

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson

- a. Chair-Elect Solmonson shared updates on equity raise. Attempts to obtain information on the distribution of equity raises have been unsuccessful. Chair Salas added that the reconsideration of summer salaries was received positively. Discussion of the relationship between student enrollment and faculty raises ensued.
- b. Chair-Elect Solmonson discussed the need to clarify how decisions are made about filling new positions on campus. It is unclear in which situations a job announcement is needed and which positions are appointed.
- c. The Strategic Planning Committee has not met.
- d. Students' complaints about parking on social media were discussed.

C. Secretary – Dr. Ginger Kelso: Secretary Kelso welcomed Visitors and Senators and reminded them to please sign in. Proxies should sign the visitor log and write the name of the senator they are representing.

D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt: Faculty senate had a previous balance from April 6, 2016 of \$1258.41. Total expenditures from May 2016 to August

2016 are \$670.00. Expenditures include dues for Texas Council of Faculty Senates, axe handles and stained glass SFA logo for out-going Senate Chair. Account balance as of September 14, 2016 is \$588.41.

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs:** Chair Salas shared that the Academic Affairs retreat dealt with the ScholarWorks update. Faculty are encouraged to submit scholarship to ScholarWorks. Student enrollment updates should be available soon. The Reimagining the First Year initiative is recommending that advisors should encourage students to take 15 credit hours per semester in order to graduate in four years.
- b. Core Curriculum Assessment:** Senator Minich shared that the core curriculum committee will continue conducting core assessments as planned. This year committee will begin considering assessment projects that may be used for upper level courses. Upper level courses will not be assessed this academic year.
- c. Distance Education:** Senator Onchoke reported that they have not met.
- d. Graduate Council:** Chair Elect Solmonson reported that the Graduate Council met to approve program changes over the summer. They are considering increased stipends for graduate assistance in the future.
- e. Policy:** Senator Sandul shared that 13 policies have been reviewed.

B. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs:** Senator Stoehr stated that they have not met. Faculty expectations for recruitment and retention will be a topic to be considered this year. The University Assessment Steering Council will be involved in promoting meaningful assessment. The steering council does not make policy, but may send recommendation to the Provost.
- b. Administration and Finance:** Senator Gravatt reported that they have not met. Items to discuss this year include professional development funds and how these are distributed.
- c. Communications:** Senator Chapman reported that they are having trouble with the live cast but will archive the September faculty senate meeting video.
- d. Elections:** Senator Onchoke reported that they have not met. Tasks this year will include reviewing the faculty senate constitution.
- e. Ethics:** Senator Kosovich reported that they have not met. The ethics committee plans to continue to work on getting the ombudsman and updating sexual misconduct policy.
- f. Faculty Government and Involvement:** Senator Meyer reported that they have not met.
- g. Professional Welfare:** Senator Eaves reported that they have not met. Tasks this year will include renaming the adjunct teaching award.

VI. Old Business

A. 2015-16 Policy Review:

Chair Salas reported that the faculty senate Faculty Government and Involvement committee will be involved in reviewing newly approved policies. Those policies that were approved at the July Board of Regents meeting will be emailed to the faculty senators.

B. Subcommittee Objective:

Chair Salas reported that subcommittee chairs are working toward setting objectives for the year.

VII. New Business

A. Classroom Security Presentation : Chris Rivers, Associate Director/Assistant Chief of Police, SFASU Department of Safety: Chris Rivers reported that SFASU Department of Safety will be involved in an initiative to install card access locks on classrooms, labs, and exterior doors of buildings. Offices will still have key access. The purpose of this initiative is to provide enhanced safety and remote locking of doors. Installation will mostly be completed on weekends and at night to prevent disruption of classes. Deans will be asked to identify a building coordinator for each building for door access. Time was allowed for questions.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Gravatt moved to adjourn the meeting, Senator Stoehr seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

J. D. Salas, Chair

Ginger Kelso, Secretary