

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#444
Wednesday, April 12, 2017

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on April 12, 2017, 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, Derek Cegelka, Susan Clarke (proxy for Erica Chapman), Carolyn Conn, Carlos Cuadra, Sharon Eaves, Dennis Gravatt, Paula Griffin, Janice Hensarling, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, John Mehaffey, Bradley Meyer, Herbert Midgley, Olga Minich, Mark Montgomery, James Morris, Kefa Onchoke, Karson Radford (proxy for Kerry Roberts), Jason Reese, Chris Ryan, J.D. Salas, Le'Ann Solmonson, Scott Sosebee (proxy for Paul Sandul), Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe

Senators not in attendance: Kyle Jones, Todd Whitehead (with proxy), Paul Sandul (with proxy), Erica Chapman (with proxy), Kerry Roberts (with proxy)

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Steven Bullard, Provost -VPAA

- a. Dr. Bullard reported that the ombudsman is still being considered. Senator Gravatt stated that there are a variety of definitions of an ombudsman. Dr. Bullard indicated that ombudsmen at other institutions are being researched to help define the position at SFA.
- b. Dr. Bullard reported that one topic of interest that has emerged from the book discussions was how SFA will emphasize high expectations for academics as a defining feature of the university. Faculty will be required to hold high expectations for all students and to provide the support necessary to allow students to reach those expectations.
- c. Questions have also arisen concerning the composition of the university assessment steering committee. Dr. Pace reported that the university assessment steering committee has representatives from each college, faculty senate, library, chairs forum and the graduate school.

III. Approval of minutes from Meeting #442

Chair Salas requested approval of the minutes from meeting #443.

Senator Eaves moved that the minutes from meeting #443 be approved as written, Senator Stoehr seconded. Motion carried to accept Minutes #443 as written.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. J.D. Salas

- a. Chair Salas reported that the next Board of Regents meeting will be in April. The Board of Regents has been given the two resolutions from the faculty senate and statement of support.
- b. Chair Salas also reported that the adjunct teaching excellence award was presented on April 11th. The faculty senate will consider providing an honorarium for the adjunct teaching excellence award in the future. Marie Kelly was the recipient this year. All award nominees have been invited to attend the May faculty senate meeting and will be provided axe handles to acknowledge their achievements.
- c. Regent Alders will be the chair of the Board of Regents for the coming year. He was invited to attend the May faculty senate meeting, but is unable to attend. He will be invited to attend a meeting of the faculty senate in the fall.
- d. This was the first year to have an email address for the faculty senate. However the emails sent from this address were not received by the deans of each college. This will be corrected in the future.

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson

- a. Chair-Elect Solmonson reported that she is looking forward to beginning her term as faculty senate chair in the coming year. She indicated possible goals for the coming year including: Determining if there is a more appropriate measure than student evaluations for faculty performance review; exploring the idea of a career ladder for non-tenure track positions; starting the process of forming faculty senate committees and setting goals prior to the first senate meeting in the fall.

C. Secretary – Dr. Ginger Kelso

Secretary Kelso reminded senators to please sign in. Visitors should sign the visitor log. Proxies should sign the visitor log and write the name of the senator they are representing. If an absence is planned in advance, please notify Secretary Kelso of the absence and the name of the proxy by email prior to the meeting.

D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt

Faculty senate had a previous balance from March 8, 2017 of \$2,034.88 in O&M and \$560.22 in Travel. Total expenditures from March 2017 to April 2017 are \$0 for O&M and \$0 for Travel. Account balances as of April 12, 2017 are \$2,034.88 in O&M and \$560.22 in Travel.

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** Chair Salas reported that he was unable to attend the most recent academic affairs meeting. The meeting included discussion of the Board of Regents reports.
- b. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** Senator Minich reported that the core curriculum assessment committee is working on methods to score the teamwork core assessment by the end of the semester. They are in the process of redefining the core assessment process.

- c. **Distance Education:** Senator Midgley reported that the distance education committee has not met.
- d. **Graduate Council:** Chair-Elect Solmonson reported that the graduate council held their final meeting. The committee approved proposed curriculum. They also discussed the graduate recruitment fair that occurred April 12. The committee is also working on finalizing deadlines for thesis and dissertation forms and submissions.
- e. **Policy:** Senator Taaffe stated that there is nothing to report.

B. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** Senator Stoehr stated that there will be a presentation later concerning the university assessment steering committee.
- b. **Administration and Finance:** Senator Gravatt reported that the administration and finance committee hasn't met. But, they will be working on defining their goals concerning how to address professional development.
- c. **Communications:** Senator Hicks stated that there is nothing to report.
- d. **Elections:** Senator Onchoke reported that elections will occur after the Easter break and run-off elections will occur between May 1 and May 10. All colleges have enough nominees to fill open senate positions, except the College of Business. The College of Education will also need to add an elected one-year term to complete the term of Chair-Elect Solmonson as she moves into the Chair position next year.
- e. **Ethics:** Senator Kosovich reported that the ethics committee met about the ombuds position. A final meeting will occur next Friday with legal counsel to address legal issues concerning the role of the ombudsman.
- f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Senator Meyer reported no new business
- g. **Professional Welfare:** Senator Eaves reported that Joe and Mary Devine declined having the adjunct teaching excellence award named in their honor. Other names have been recommended. Renaming of the award will continue to be discussed in the future. Chair Salas brought up the idea of providing an honorarium for the adjunct award. Discussion ensued about amount of the award. Teaching excellence award recipients from each college receive an honorarium of approximately \$750. However, the faculty senate budget currently does not allow for enough funds to provide an equal honorarium. Discussion ensued concerning ideas to reduce expenditures to allow enough money in the faculty senate budget to provide an equal honorarium. The idea of moving the meeting to another room to save money on room, technology, and food fees was discussed. The rules for use of faculty senate funds will need to be consulted to determine if providing an honorarium with those funds is possible. Senator Gravatt motioned that an honorarium of \$500 be awarded this year. Senator Ryan seconded. Motion carries.
- h. **Strategic Planning:** Chair-Elect Solmonson reported the strategic planning committee hasn't met.

VI. Old Business

A. Constitution Amendment Vote

- a. Chair Salas introduced the idea that the adjunct faculty senate seats should be voted on by non-tenure track faculty. This is something that can be addressed in the future. The logistics of getting the ballots to the non-tenure track faculty will need to be considered. The vote today will be on the current proposed revisions to the faculty senate constitution.
- b. A ballot vote was taken concerning the proposed amendment to Article 1 Section 6 of the faculty senate constitution. Senator Stoerh motioned to vote on the proposed amendments to Article 1 Section 6 as written. Senator Brewer seconded the motion. The amendments passed with a unanimous vote.
- c. Two versions of amendments to Article 1 Section 7 of the faculty senate constitution were provided. Senator Stoehr motioned to consider amendment version #1. Senator Onchoke seconded the motion. Motion carries. A ballot vote was taken concerning version #1 for the revisions to Article 1 Section 7. Senator Gravatt motioned to vote on the proposed amendments to Article 1 Section 7 as written. Senator Hicks seconded the motion. The amendments passed with a unanimous vote.

B. Policy Review Recommendation

- a. A draft policy concerning the Role of Faculty Senate was presented and is available for review. Discussion ensued concerning content and wording of the draft policy. Revisions were made to the policy draft. The policy will be sent to the academic affairs policy committee for review.

VII. New Business

A. Resolution Response

- a. The two resolutions passed by the faculty senate concerning the use of grade distributions and course evaluation completion rates in faculty performance reviews were for the purpose of communicating the position of the faculty senate on those issues. This intent will be communicated to the Board of Regents. The Chair's Forum provided a written response to these resolutions. However, there is no need to respond to the Chair's Forum since the resolutions are not a matter of policy.

B. University Assessment Steering Council Draft

- a. Dr. Debbie Pace provided an overview of the role of the university assessment steering council. This council has developed a proposal with general guidelines to consider revamping how we do assessment on campus. A draft of the guidelines was shared with the senate. The purpose of the steering council is to improve the process and culture of assessment at SFA.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

J. D. Salas, Chair

Ginger Kelso, Secretary