

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#446
Wednesday, September 13, 2017

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on September 13, 2017, at 2:33 p.m., at the Math Building, Room 101. It was presided over by Chair Le'Ann Solmonson.

Attendance: Dr. Berry, Dr. Bullard, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Brown, Dr. Murphy, Kim Childs, Deborah Pace, David Alders, Mark Ludorf, Jennifer Perry, Janet Tereillo, Nick Long, Jennifer Hanlon, Student Affairs students (did not get names noted)

Voting Senators in attendance: K. Ainsworth, W. Berg, M.C. Breen, L. Brewer, R. Brown, C. Conn, P. Dutra, D. Gravatt, P. Griffin, A. Jones, K. Jones, S. Kosovich, J. Mehaffey, H. Midgley, M. Montgomery, J. Morris, K. Onchoke, J. Reese, K. Roberts, H. Samuelson, P. Sandul, K. Sheriff, L. Solmonson, S. Sosebee, L. Stoehr, J. Stovall, J. Weaver, T. Whitehead

Senators not in attendance: C. Ryan

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost -VPAA

- a. No specific openings remarks. Welcome all. Introduction of David Alders

B. David Alders, Board of Regents Chair

- a. Board expresses sincere appreciation to faculty for dedication to teaching.
- b. "Climate change" of American Education. We must keep abreast of changes to avoid extinction. Apply business model to educational setting. Informational technology is more important than ever. Must offer truly transformational opportunities
- c. Direct interaction with faculty, cutting edge academic programs, accessible and consistent with industry standards, civil and respectful campus culture. Vision statement of strategic plan. Expansion of resources and raise faculty salaries to appropriate levels if the goals are met. Systemic embrace of culture to do what is in best interest of our students.
- d. Guest Taafe asks why SFA is not paying our faculty as well as others. Mr. Alders recognizes that this remains a problem and promises that the board is striving to overcome however resources continue to be constrained. Board is examining revenues with the intention to raise funding outside of the state budget. Scrutinizing the athletic programs/expenses as well.
- e. Senator Sosebee asks for clarification of "entrepreneurial" tact? What are SFA's innovations? Need upgrades on technology. Mr. Alders recognizes that other institutions receive more support from funding. Board has discussed

expenses of marketing campaign. Balancing those expenses with more scholarships etc... Focusing on the relationships of faculty and student experience here at SFA. Dr. Bullard reiterates his interest in meeting with each department about challenges to open discussion on solutions.

- f. Question: Lack of respect of faculty time. Faculty are often critical of the “new” strategic plans that simply ask them to do more. Losing track of valuing faculty. Mr. Alders: sorry for any perception that the board does not recognize faculty first.
- g. Senator Brewer recognizes efforts to invest in classroom technology. Transformational experiences take place outside of class time as well. Innovating classrooms is great but do not cut support of research and conferences and other experiences. Mr. Alders: corrects any reference to “classroom” to be “academic” and include all of those other activities.
- h. Senator Weaver asks how can we serve what students “want” without losing what they actually “need.” Mr. Alders: recognizes that as a challenge to alter a student’s expectations as they mature across their career here. Must attract high achieving students who want to be educated.

C. Drs. Nick Long and Jennifer Hanlon, University Research Council and ORSP

- a. Each college has one representative
- b. Contact representative about potential grants and research needs
- c. Recommend guidelines for awards for internal research grants
- d. Internal grants – Jennifer Hanlon and Sherry Tucker
- e. External Grants – Jennifer Hanlon and Beverly Moorehouse
- f. LAN Room 421
- g. Deadlines Oct 9 for RPS/RGD and October 27 for RCA
- h. Senator Brewer asks for some clarification on the policy which potentially puts student “first author” papers in competition with resources for faculty

III. Approval of minutes from Meeting #445

Senator Roberts moves to approve, Senator Griffin seconds, all in favor, motion passed. Minutes are approved. Notify Secretary Conn if there are minor edits to be done before they are archived.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. Le’Ann Solmonson

a. July Board of Regents Presentation

- i. Still pushing for awareness of need for salary adjustments to be competitive in the state
- ii. Only a few Universities took a budget cut and we were among them, impression that we are a “status quo” university
- iii. Must “rally the troops” to get faculty engagement, show up, use our voices, rally your departments/schools

b. SFA Way Project

- i. Please read the proposal included in your September 11 email
- ii. Adam Peck will present at October meeting

c. Appointment of task force

- i. Comparison of budgets
 - ii. Academic affairs vs. athletics, turnover rates, administrative positions, programs etc...
 - iii. Goal to present at October board meeting
 - iv. Interested in serving Senator Sosebee, Senator Moore, Senator Stovall
 - v. Have discussed this task force with Provost and it was accepted
 - vi. Would there be any advantage to moving for SFA to be a part of a system
 - d. Bylaws are approved
 - e. Still working towards ombudsman
 - f. Policies under review – leave of absence, academic appeals by students scheduled review? But this was done last year?, sexual misconduct policy
- B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Jason Reese**
- a. Welcome new senators
 - b. Represent our colleges/departments, be sure to meet with your colleagues to better represent them
- C. Secretary – Carolyn Conn**
- a. Please be sure to sign in on the paper passed around. Indicate if you are here for another senator. I will have sign in sheet prepared for next meeting.
- D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt**
- a. Account balance as of September 13, 2017
 - i. O&M FY 17-18 \$1,711.85
 - ii. Travel Pool FY 17-18 \$168.71 (may not roll over)
 - iii. Total expenditures May 1, 2017-September 12, 2017 are \$784.08
 - 1. Outgoing chairperson plaque, axe handles, BPSC room fee and food
 - iv. FY 18 budget \$1,100 for travel and \$3,253 O&M

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** not met yet
- b. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** not met yet
- c. **University Assessment Steering Council:** met, made some changes to purpose statement, will be meeting again next week
- d. **Distance Education:** met twice over summer, charge from Provost to investigate D2L vs. Canvas, moved to keep D2L for 5 years while other platforms are investigated, CTL understaffed at this time
- e. **Graduate Council:** not met yet
- f. **Policy:** met once, asked to look for 'alternative leave' policy

B. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** recommendations for how student evaluation of teaching can be more effective and useful, how can it be improved, rewarding teaching effectiveness, need feedback from across campus on how satisfied are faculty with the current system? What should be improved?

- b. **Administration and Finance:** Met last week, discussion regarding future budget discussions (Financial Forum) and how to get more faculty in attendance. Also working to understand professional development funding to see how the monies are being apportioned across departments.
- c. **Communications:** Senator Conn reported that the communications group is working to improve and facilitate the Livestream process. Hope to be onboard and working next meeting. Also will continue to look at website clarity. Currently discussing the faculty senate newsletter and will continue submitting it when we get the plan together.
- d. **Elections:** see in new business
- e. **Ethics:** conference call with UT ombudsperson, should be faculty only not faculty/staff, provost is supportive, do we need to issue a statement regarding DACA? Bring something to October meeting
- f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** ideas on changing/redefining our culture, enrollment down 3-4%, increase enrollment 18-20% by 2023 “at no additional cost,” Recruitment and Retention Forum, assign course reductions to satisfy department needs, meeting 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month
- g. **Professional Welfare:** looking at titles for adjunct and non-tenured faculty and their opportunities for advancement
- h. **Strategic Planning:** each committee has a liason, align your work with strategic goals

VI. Old Business

A. Adjunct Award –

- a. L. Solmonson makes a recommendatio to call it the Faculty Senate Teaching Award – for a non-tenured or tenure track instructor
- b. Senator Montgomery moves to approve, Senator Midgley seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

VII. New Business

A. Elections –

- a. Liberal and Applied Arts – no responses, tabled for next meeting
- b. Adjunct nomination – Chef Todd Barrios, clinical instructor
 - i. Senator Montgomery motion to accept, Senator Brewer second, all in favor, motion passes

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Brewer motion to adjourn, Senator Morris second, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Le’ Ann Solmonson, Chair

Carolyn Conn, Secretary