

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#448
Wednesday, November 8, 2017

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on November 8, 2017, at 2:31 p.m., at the Math Building, Room 101. It was presided over by Chair Le'Ann Solmonson.

Attendance: Dr. Bullard, Provost; Janet Tareilo, Associate Provost; Karyn Hall, Director Institutional Research

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

Senators not in attendance: D. Gravatt, C. Ryan, L. Stoehr, K. Roberts left meeting before business portion

II. Presentations

- 1) Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA
 - a) Interviews are being scheduled for 4 candidates for Graduate Studies/Research position. Will be advertised as well as recorded for viewing
 - b) Aramark "Food Now" for students in need. Notify Dean or Provost if anyone is in need. Thanks Aramark or Sam Smith for this.
 - c) Higher Education Strategic Plan (60x30 TX) – "Marketable Skills". By 2020 implement this area "students will graduate with clearly defined marketable skills and be able to articulate them." Need to address discipline specific technical skills.
 - d) Student Recruiting and Retention Forum. Please move forward with that idea. Regent Alders is looking forward to an update.
 - a. Dr. Bullard would like all ideas shared. There was a report created 4 years ago that went nowhere possibly.

- 2) Janet Tareilo, Associate Provost
 - a) Addressing dual credit programs
 - b) SFA wants to be sure to be as strong as possible in this area
 - c) There is no "watering down" of the quality of our students
 - d) Building relationships rather than credit hours

- 3) Karyn Hall, Director Institutional Research

1. Digital Measures Task Force presentation
 - a. SFA Faculty Activity Reporting
 - b. Changes
 - i. FAR Improvement Group
 1. Communication
 2. Continuous Improvement
 3. Implement Workflow
 4. Discrepancy Review
 5. Add Course Evaluation Summaries
 - ii. Future Suggestions
 1. Collaborate and Synergize
 - a. Establish Discipline Specific FAR working groups
 - b. Create a discipline specific reference
 - c. Propose enhancements
 2. Proactively utilize FAR
 3. Leverage FAR Opportunities
 - c. Other suggestions
 - i. Be sure you are updating dates on items if they are continuing
 - ii. Do not use acronyms to be clear for those outside of your discipline
 - iii. Make this a monthly (more regular) task to help clarity of the process
 - iv. Report ideas/problems to Chair/Dean/Task Force for improvements or contact Office of Institutional Research
 - v. Look at UTEP Faculty Evaluations as an example of how these are being used to automatically fulfill online faculty bios

III. Approval of minutes from Meeting #447

Senator Sosebee moves to approve, Senator Mehaffey 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. Responses for faculty feedback solicited highly diverse opinions
 - b. Negative morale may be concentrated in a couple of colleges but that is not hard data
 - c. Why are faculty not completing surveys about job satisfaction? Was it timing or dissatisfaction?
 - d. Sent back to provost so this feels like an information loop
 - e. We are a very active and productive faculty
 - f. Add recruiting to FAR or separate out recruiting report somehow

- g. Faculty engagement is a time issue as well as a “not being heard” issue
- h. Places where policies and budget are not in accordance with strategic plan
- i. 50 classrooms need to be renovated and this will take 10 years but we spent 1,4 million dollars to renovate a non-academic room (Ballroom). Therefore, our budget is not in line with our strategic plan
- j. Board members did offer some positive feedback
- k. New faculty orientation – “not valuable use of our time,” need to collect data in a different way possibly, may be more about the teaching approach rather than what is being taught “pedagogy vs. andragogy”
- l. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Conference – varying degrees of satisfaction with jobs, no faculty were included in 60x30 Plan, working to make that resource Texas Council of Faculty Senate) more effective
- m. Travel policy – added up time needed to rent a car to airport and back from airport

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Jason Reese

- a. Townhall Meeting in College of Business - got a lot of faculty feedback by listening
- b. Several curriculum changes were approved at board meeting
- c. Selection of firm for comprehensive fundraising campaign – selected Bentz, Watley and Fleshner
- d. Campus Master Plan – issuance of RQ for architectural firm to canvas athletic renovations (colliseum, field house and stadium, mostly ADA compliance)

C. Secretary – Carolyn Conn – no report

D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt

1. Account balance as of November 8, 2017:
2. O&M Pool FY 17 - 18 \$3,167.66
3. Travel Pool FY 17 - 18 \$ 1,025.00
4. Total expenditures from October 12, 2017 to November 8, 2017 are \$160.34.
5. Expenditures: \$75.00 for Registration Fees, \$47.32 graphics shop, and \$38.02 for snacks at the October Faculty Senate meeting.
6. Note: No funds have been rolled over from previous fiscal year to date.

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

1) Academic Affairs

University Records Management Program

CIO Search – using outside firm

Adding enrollment management position is no extra cost

Administrative Leave with Pay for staff is confirmed

2) Core Curriculum Assessment – no report

3) University Assessment Steering Council – no report

4) Distance Education

Deans and Chairs are no longer exempt from Graduate application process

Must be enrolled while completing graduate work so working toward a one hour course to allow students to access library and resources

5) Graduate Council

6) Policy- see under old business

B. Internal (FS) Committees

i. Academic Affairs

- a. compiled feedback from faculty about evaluation process
- b. parallel work being done about this with strategic planning
- c. -no clear definition or measurement of teaching effectiveness
- d. strong feeling against a strong uniform policy
- e. identify unintended consequences
- f. faculty ratings and how they are used (too much weight on numbers)
- g. less reliance on numerical, multiple measures, shorten surveys
- h. watch "customer service" questions
- i. should meet with strategic plan committee

ii. Administration and Finance – no report

iii. Get financial forum on calendar!

iv. Communications – no report

v. Elections – no report

vi. Ethics – not met

- Chairs forum voted on ombudsmen position and rejected it

vii. Faculty Government and Involvement

1. Recruitment and Retention Forum, Math 101, 1:30 December 1
2. Regent Alders has requested to attend but there are concerns about people feeling free to speak with a regent present. But Deans and chairs will be present
3. Solicit feedback and participation from your departments
4. Get people there!
5. Consider need for release time for a faculty member to lead this area in a given department

viii. Professional Welfare – no report, continuing research on titles for adjunct (clinical vs. not)

ix. Strategic Planning – no report

VI. Old Business

A. Elections

- a. Mary Catherine Breen has turned in resignation leaving an opening in Education
- b. Open the floor for nominations (no Elementary Ed or Kinesiology)
 - i. Dr. Gena Kausin
 - ii. Dr. Chrissy Cross
 - iii. Motion to accept J. Reese, seconded by S. Kosovich
 - iv. Majority vote is for Dr. Chrissy Cross
- c. Kristin Baily Wallace nominated for Liberal and Applied Arts opening
 - i. Motion to accept Kristin Baily Wallace by acclamation by J. Reese, seconded by A. Jones, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes
- d. New Senators are Chrissy Cross and Kristin Baily Wallace

B. SFA Way Committee –

- a. Dr. Peck acknowledges that he can create this committee without Faculty Senate support but he would like some faculty senate input, one faculty senator expressed interest

C. Academic Appeals Policy-

- a. Concern expressed concerning short-term (7 week) courses etc...
- b. Many concerns were expressed from Elementary Ed., M.C. Breen has list
- c. “student evidence” wording needs to be addressed
- d. Motion to accept as written S. Sosebee, seconded by K. Onchoke.
- e. Discussion regarding concerns. None are seen as
- f. 1 abstention, motion passes to indicate support of policy.

VII. New Business

A. AAUP Shared Governance Survey

- a. Has some pull where Faculty Senate may not
- b. Red Book –
- c. Complete the Shared Governance Survey and return to Chair Solmonson

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Mahaffey motions to adjourn, Senator Dutra seconds, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. The recording of this meeting may be viewed at:
<https://sfasu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=aa477875-d539-4a75-9df2-32500f9432df>

Le' Ann Solmonson, Chair

Carolyn Conn, Secretary