

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#449
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on December 13, 2017, at 2:34 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

Voting Senators in attendance: K. Ainsworth, T. Barrios, W. Berg, C. Conn, C. Cross, P. Dutra, P. Griffin, D. Gravatt, 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. Sosebee, L. Stoehr, J. Stovall, K. Bailey Wallace, J. Weaver, T. Whitehead

Senators not in attendance: L. Brewer (excused), A. Jones

II. Presentations

- 1) Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA
 - a) Disconnect between action and knowledge of said action
 - b) Please invite Dr. Bullard to department meeting to discuss anything
 - c) September 18 will be 95th anniversary of SFA, beginning 5 year capital fundraising toward September 18, 2023
 - d) Facilities consulting to review space issues, should be completed soon

III. Approval of minutes from Meeting #447

Senator Weaver moves to approve, Senator Dutra seconds, all in favor one abstention, 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. Inconsistency in leave reporting across campus being investigated by Dr. Tareilo
 - b. Met with Dean Childs, Dean Murphy and Dr. Stewart about Dean's survey
 - i. One third of faculty responded
 - ii. Not currently distributing hard copy to protect some qualitative data (names)
 - iii. Comparison of surveys have identified faculty concerns so no more surveys are being conducted until action is taken
 - iv. Deans want decisions and changes to be faculty driven

- v. Reference to one page handout about Academic Excellence and creating a unified voice
 - vi. Get feedback from faculty and get faculty to endorse (or not) without negative ramifications
 - vii. Discussion regarding getting executive summary of the report so that we can discuss specific topics
 - viii. Faculty Senate should begin by examining the document and adding or subtracting items
 - ix. Create committee to organize efforts to engage faculty in the process of defining academic excellence
 - x. Discussion regarding creating a separate document of “assumptions” or supports that the faculty requires to make academic excellence happen
- c. Short discussion to confirm our intent to live stream – all are in favor

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Jason Reese

- a. Summary of Recruiting and Retention Forum
 - i. About 72 in attendance, good set of items shared
 - ii. Faculty are engaged in recruiting
 - iii. A lot of opportunities where high school students are on campus
 - iv. Additional budget is needed
 - v. Highlight successful and growing programs
 - vi. Research enrollment growth over 5 or 10 years
 - vii. Cohesive point of contact regarding Recruiting and Retention
 - viii. We need more scholarship money to attract more/better students
 - ix. Incentivize growing department/colleges

C. Secretary – Carolyn Conn – no report

D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt

- 1) Account balance as of December 13, 2017

O&M	FY 17-18	\$5,105.02
Travel Pool	FY 17-18	\$618.74
- 2) Total expenditures posted to Banner from November 9, 2017 to December 13, 2017 are \$406.26.
- 3) Expenditures: \$406.26 for travel to Texas Council of Faculty Senate

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- 1) Academic Affairs – no meeting until January
 - Graduate Dean Search is completed through committee but final decision awaits, Chairs forum ranked candidates
- 2) Core Curriculum Assessment – no report
 - Committee looking at overlap of core classes in scheduling
- 3) University Assessment Steering Council – no report

- 4) Distance Education – no meeting
- 5) Graduate Council - December meeting cancelled
- 6) Policy – no report, looking at curriculum modifications
- 7) Hiring Committee for Enrollment Management Position –
H. Samuelson representative, not yet met

B. Internal (FS) Committees

- 1) Academic Affairs –
 - a. Reluctance to delve into a University-wide teaching policy for evaluations
 - b. Looking at “best practices” solution
 - c. Should reach out to Strategic Planning committee to see what they are considering so we are in the conversation
 - d. Suggested that we investigate other methods of evaluation of teaching
- 2) Administration and Finance –
 - a. Financial Forum, January 12, 8AM, Business 133
 - b. Send questions to Senator Gravatt
 - c. Senator Gravatt will share the questions with us to pass along to faculty
 - d. Rally your colleagues to attend
- 3) Communications – no report
- 4) Elections -
- 5) Ethics – not met, Chairs forum voted against ombudsman, cannot determine why, how do we apply pressure?
- 6) Faculty Government and Involvement
- 7) Professional Welfare – not met
- 8) Strategic Planning – not met

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- A) Unified Voice on Academic Excellence
 - a. Motion by Senator Sosebee to support a faculty driven effort to develop a unified voice related to establishing academic excellence as the highest priority of the University. All in favor, motion passes.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Sandul motions to adjourn, Senator Samuelson seconds, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m. Live stream and recording of this session is not available due to technical difficulties.

Le’Ann Solmonson, Chair

Carolyn Conn, Secretary