

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #468**  
**Wednesday, September 9**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**2:30pm**

**Attending Senators:** Al Greule, Andrew Lannen, Brian Uriegas, Chris McKenna, Chris Turner, Christina Guenther, Darrel McDonald, Derek Cegelka, Diane Sizemore, Donald Gooch, Dustin Joubert, Franta Majs, Gina Harden, Heather Olson Beal, Herbert Midgley, James Adams, Jonathan Mitchell, Kristin Bailey-Wallace, Laurie Rogers, Margaret Leysath, Michelle Klein, Pamela Rogers, Pushkar Ogale, Sara Bishop, Sarah Drake, Sarah Straub , Scott Drury , Steve Cooper, Tina Oswald, Xiaozhen Jenny Han, Yanli Zhang

**Excused Senators w/Proctors:** Gretchen Patterson Absent/Proxy: Lisa Bentley  
**Guests: Dr. Scott Gordon, President; Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost and VPAA**

I. Call to order –Dr. Andrew Lannen 2:31pm

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Scott Gordon, President

- i. Enrollment – we are pleased but not satisfied; down a little bit. 2.7% down in headcount 12300+. Credit hours decreased 1.2% this is the biggest factor due to state funding.
- ii. Budget –away requirement for mandatory housing...900 person decrease in auxiliary plans. January legislative session will begin...it doesn't look real good. State of Texas budget revs are due billions of dollars so we don't know what that will result in; likely state budget cuts.
- iii. Town Hall in the works to go over numbers.
- iv. COVID 19- keeping up with the data; some universities are sending students home and contemplating sending students home. We are monitoring our numbers as of yesterday we have had a total 48 positive tests in last 7 days. That compares relatively low with institutions of our size. We are being diligent to keep selves and students safe; great relationship with city of Nac and the monitoring the city has done of various establishments; our location ie not metro area, helps. We are monitoring on a daily basis. Some of the trigger points for changing campus status:
  1. Community based – IE, is the state/county/city increasing their restrictions; increase/sustained hospital numbers.
  2. Campus based: significant absenteeism in offices and faculty; significant increase or clusters; isolation beds availability. We have a color code system. Green all open; Yellow some restrictions (current); Orange; Red completely all online.

- v. Two major searches
  - 1. Provost/Executive VP
    - a. July 1 target date
  - 2. VP for Student Affairs (formerly Dr. Westbrook)
    - a. January 1 target date
- vi. Questions:
  - 1. TESTING FOR COVID ON CAMPUS FOR STUDENTS?  
A=they can go to the health clinic on campus; are working with state to get a free state testing center on campus.
    - a. Health clinic needs to send out clarification for testing to students.
    - b. Update at end of meeting: clinic is not testing at all. Students are to go to local providers.
  - 2. UNIVERSITY HAD TO RETURN SOME RECREATION FEES TO STUDENTS...IS THERE A CONCERN IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN? A= Day after Thanksgiving we won't be face to face, so students won't have to stay; until then we don't know whether or not we will have to go off campus earlier thus causing potential financial constraints.
  - 3. WHAT IS THE ONCAMPUS POPULATION INCLUDING FACULTY STAFF STUDENTS...SEEING THE COVID NUMBERS RATIO. A= The number varies on a given day; approximately some 3000 living on campus; 2000 employees during a given day.

B. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA

- a. Third of our courses are face to face. That means there are a lot of people not on campus.
- b. Update on Non Tenure Track faculty ladder: all steps have gone through. The policies have been changed. Now figuring out estimate what it would cost if we were to implement.
- c. Commencement in December: plan to be an in-person event. It will be a different kind of event...maybe 5 ceremonies; 250 students per event; faculty taking the floor and students sitting in two sections of the stands. Other details are being worked out.
- d. Department chairs meeting planning Spring course sections, current guideline is to plan on what we know about this semester since we can't count on anything being sig different.
- e. Assessment compliance of certification SACS meeting – will be virtual; are expecting to have our on campus visit next spring.
- f. We are engaging significant activity for options in restructuring our academic units
  - i. Currently 6 colleges 29 units
  - ii. Team of 12 faculty 2 ea college plus Dr. Sampson and Bullard to develop options

- iii. In November will take the options to the next level to weigh in w pros/cons.

g. QUESTIONS:

- i. Spring 2019 COB faculty meeting announced all MBA would be going online. No previous notification had been discussed or voted by grad faculty. In Spring/Summer COVID townhalls: in all meetings, modalities and delivery structures were raised. Was assured faculty and supervisor would make these decisions. COB schedules were changed for Fall and Spring without prior discussion with faculty. HOW AND WHY IS UNILATERAL PROG CHANGES OCCURING AND WHEN IS THIS GOING TO END? Gordon- it is the prevue of dean, chair and faculty. Bring us a problem if it isn't resolved with your college dean. Bullard- work with your college unit heads.
- ii. CLINICAL PROMOTION- WE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD PROMOTION PORTFOLIO? Bullard- yes, we believe it's best to go ahead and submit through that process.
- iii. IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET PROMOTION AND NOT SALARY BUMP? Bullard- anything is possible; earlier reference was about NTT. But it would be difficult to be ok with promoting but not increase pay; it would take an apocalypse; salaries are a top priority.
- iv. FACULTY GUIDELINES – TELECOMUTING FORM – choices don't appear to be inclusive. Bullard – policy is for staff but can be used as a general guide. (College of Ed developed its own form for this issue.)
- v. SHED SOME INSIGHT ON THE DECISION TO NOT EXTEND THE COVID-EFFECTED COURSE EVALUATIONS? Bullard- what we want to try to do is not punish faculty for things not in control. Talk to academic head. Everything has to be considered in context.

III. Review of Senate Resolution on Role of Tenure in the Senate, adopted April 29, 2020

- A. Section 1 – after the invited presentations in the FS meeting, live recording would cease. Senators are in agreement.

IV. Break taken at 3.41pm; back at 3.45pm

V. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #467

- Senator Straub motion; Senator Uriegas second

VI. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. Andrew Lannen

- a. Board of Regents – made them aware decline in funding from COVID19 hampers faculty creativity and activities and will significantly hamper research.

- b. Open SFA taskforce – met May/June; meet 3 days a week to review updates state city campus and website updates, for example.
  - c. Academic Affairs Council – they are aware professional development funding cuts are a concern of faculty; working on how to restore funds.
  - d. Office of Research and Grad studies –Dr Sampson plans to repurpose travel money – grants to attend virtual conferences; shifting monies to fund internal grants.
  - e. Provost search – university employing a company to search for candidates; unknown whether closed or open search.
  - f. Zoom National council of faculty senate meeting – two days this coming weekend.
- B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Brian Uriegas active in:
- a. Academic Affairs council
  - b. Chair elect on graduate council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Campus climate committee
  - d. Lumberjack innovation team - moving to working groups to discuss the ideas and get feedback on ideas and to generate new ideas.
  - e. Faculty and staff welfare committee – need members
- C. Secretary – Dr. Laurie Rogers- nothing to report
- D. Treasurer – Dr. Sarah Straub
- a. Axe handles never got processed; those expenses will come out of this year’s budget. Money on snacks will not be spent. Some expenses have been delayed ie name plates, faculty mentoring program on hold

## VII. Committee Reports

### A. External (University) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs (Lannen) – noted earlier
  - b. Core Curriculum Assessment Committee (Gooch)- nothing to report
  - c. Distance Education (Cegelka, Harden, McDonald, Weaver)- nothing to report
  - d. Graduate Council (Uriegas) – nothing to report
  - e. New Faculty Orientation (McKenna) – limited festivities but provided handbooks, online orientation with CTL, library, etc.
  - f. Policy (Drury, Gooch, Drake)- nothing to report
  - g. Electronic Accessibility Team (Weaver)- nothing to report
- B. Internal (FS) Committees –charges will go out this week from Chair
- a. Academic Affairs (Turner)
  - b. Administration and Finance (Harden)
  - c. Communications (Greule)
  - d. Elections (P. Rogers)
  - e. Ethics (Drury)
  - f. Faculty Government and Involvement (Cegelka)
  - g. Professional Welfare (Joubert)
  - h. Strategic Planning (Uriegas)

VIII. Proposals for parent and caregiver employees (OWLE) – Current telecommuting policy feels like the “person above you” gets to decide whether or not request for telecommuting is valid. Caregivers of all types need to be considered.

FS Chair: Directed to professional welfare committee.

IX. Intellectual Property rights for online educational materials –Worth discussing again since so many faculty teaching online. The intellectual property rights was updated fall 2019. Chair asks professional welfare committee look into what other universities are doing with these sudden online courses. We need to review our policies to safeguard course materials, online research, etc. Are there concerns we need to address as FS?

FS Chair: Will create and direct to Ad Hoc Committee.

X. Old Business - NA

XI. New Business

1. Faculty senate deserves the answer at what point are the emergency powers of the President rescinded? Are changes made under emergency powers temporary or permanent?
2. Concerns over 8 week semesters rollout and the expansion of the schedule going forward in spring.
3. Tenure promotion some are digital some are paper – all people on those committees should be in the process. ANSWER – Provost is going to recommend the digitization of all portfolios for promotion and tenure.
4. Process for students in notification to professors of testing.
5. Clinic can give instructions to students. Symptomatic students and positive students are directed to other entities and should do the SFA Covid reporting portal.
6. Faculty days cannot be donated to staff, but can faculty donate to faculty? Can staff pool days to staff? ANSWER - Yes faculty can donate to faculty sick pool. Don't know if staff can donate to staff.
7. We are relying on students to do self-reporting. Should we also self-report hearing from Students who are not feeling well and not attending class? ANSWER that's an option not a requirement.

Motion to adjourn – Senator McKenna second Senator Bishop 5:01pm