

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #469**  
**Wednesday, October 14**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**2:30pm**

**I. Call to order time: 2:30 CST Attending Senators:** Adams, James; Bailey-Wallace, Kristin; Bishop, Sara; Cegelka, Derek; Cooper, Dana; Cooper, Steve; Drake, Sarah; Gooch, Donald; Greule, Al; Han Xiaozhen, Jenny; Harden, Gina; Joubert, Dustin; Klein, Michelle; Lannen, Andrew; Leysath, Margaret; Majs, Franta; McDonald Darrel; McKenna Chris; Midgley, Herbert; Mitchell, Jonathan; Ogale, Pushkar; Olson Beal, Heather; Oswald, Tina; Patterson, Gretchen; Rogers, Laurie; Rogers, Pamela; Sizemore, Diane; Straub, Sarah; Turner, Chris; Uriegas, Brian; Zhang, Yanli

Absent Senators/Proxy: Christina Guenther- Proxy Michael Murphy

**II. Presentations**

- A. Dr. Scott Gordon, President
  - a. Update on enrollment
  - b. Plan for Fall
    - i. Impact on Auxiliaries
  - c. Alleged Incident
    - i. Thank you for the Resolution FS passed
    - ii. 360 review of policies procedures and practices of communications, see where the holes and issues are
  - d. Three Significant searches
    - i. Provost and Executive VP
    - ii. VP for Student Affairs
    - iii. Chief Marketing, Branding and Communications Officer

**QUESTIONS:**

? Rumor that we are looking at a 50% reduction in FTE. A: No. Faculty is the heart of the institution. We are going to have to reallocate positions. Non-growing programs may lose positions and put into growing programs.

? Clarification on reporting line for Chief Marketing Officer A: Position will answer to President of university.

? Why there is tailgating at the SFA football games... Doesn't think this is COVID sensitive. A: Athletics discussed...worked with FCAA to come up with guiding practices at the tailgating. If not following guidelines, let SFA know.

? Will those departments who are growing and who have retirements be able to fill those spots. A: Yes, we will have one database from BANNER to be able to start looking at trending data to see where the needs are.

? What is the latest with the SWAT incident: A: It is an alleged incident; we do have restrictions on what we can reveal; the one party didn't think we were moving fast

enough; other parties thought we were moving too fast...we are in the middle...all of the information that our detectives have gathered is at the DA office.

? Calendar updates: why have Calendar changes have been made but not communicated in a clear and timely manner. A: Gordon-This is news to me. Bullard-We are starting early. Thanksgiving must be a rumor.

? The calendar currently says 3 days for Thanksgiving 2021...A: We are not aware of that either (Bullard and Gordon).

? Calendar committee is working now? A: Yes. Bullard-not aware of any conscious decision to make changes to Thanksgiving. Gordon-calendar needs a major overhaul.

? We usually do 15 week semesters... are we going to 16 week semesters? A: We need to ask Marc Guidry to call in and respond to these questions. Guidry-these calendar changes were put in place in response to the emergency process; shared with deans, chairs, cabinet; changes were made to arrange for 6 8-week semesters as we were charged with. [Gordon, Bullard and Guidry discuss calendar and communication issues]. Lannen-please let faculty know when final calendar is made.

**B. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA**

a. Looking at a creative way to restructure academic programs

**C. Erma Brecht, Executive Director of Enrollment Management**

a. Fall enrollment higher than predicted

b. How the test-optional practice is going

i. Challenges due to COVID; tests sites not being offered and/or limited

ii. 2021 term test optional; how are we evaluating?

1. Top 10% of HS graduate test score is not required; expanded that to top 11-25% of HS graduates

2. Not top 25% - file review holds heavier weight ie rigor; curriculum type; community involvement aligned with career path; activities

D. ? Changes made in top 25% no test required are permanent. A: Yes for 2021; possible after review for longer term.

E. ? Acceptance rate 2019- 67.9% 2020 78.10%

F. ? Are we expecting to see any change in the academic preparedness of the student as a result of this lowering of testing requirements? A: All academic institutions have had to make changes due to COVID i.e. online/distance learning deliveries. I think we will see students whose prep will be different. We expect to see inconsistencies in their preparedness based upon their experiences during COVID.

**III. Break 3:37pm-3:42pm**

**IV. Replacement Senator from LAA**

A. Scott Drury has resigned

B. Daryl McDonald will be Chair of Ethics Committee

C. Replacement Senator

1. Nominated: Dana Cooper

2. Sarah Straub – second

3. Dana Cooper elected by acclamation

**V. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #468 & Special Session**

- A. #468- changes recommended? No; motion to accept: Straub; second Harden
- B. Special Session-changes recommended? Change to “students or faculty of color”;  
Motion to accept: Senator Oswald; second Senator McKenna.

## VI. Officer Reports

- A. Chair – Dr. Andrew Lannen
  - a. FS officers met with search firm for Provost
  - b. Attended the first Nat’l Council of Faculty Senates
    - i. Faculty keep track of extra hours spent due to COVID helps with review
  - c. Operations team
    - i. Looking at COVID reports on SFA portal. Over time, the numbers have remained low and stable in the area.
  - d. Question sent to board
    - i. *In March 2020, emergency powers were issued; what criteria used to restore operations?*
      - 1. Once board and President Gordon are in agreement that emergency conditions are no longer prevailing. Not a concrete date; depending upon environment.
    - ii. *Will any Emergency powers changes be permanent?*
      - 1. Unless the board takes actions to ratify a policy change, policies will revert back to prior to emergency status.
- B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Brian Uriegas
  - a. Lumberjack Innovation team-made recommendations and will be sending those out to colleges: calendar year. Will make sure the calendar committee and university calendar committee are in agreement and that communications are clear.
- C. Secretary – Dr. Laurie Rogers
  - a. Regarding taking Senator roll\_ I am using the Report function in Zoom, hence not requesting that you ‘sign in’ using Chat or some other function.
- D. Treasurer – Dr. Sarah Straub
  - a. No change

## VII. Committee Reports

- A. External (University) Committees
  - a. Academic Affairs Council (Lannen)
    - a. Navigate software –Training sessions are helpful
  - b. Core Curriculum Assessment Committee (Gooch)
    - a. Not met
  - c. Distance Education (Cegelka, Harden, McDonald, Weaver)
    - a. Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct
  - d. Graduate Council (Uriegas)
    - a. Changes to graduate admissions
      - i. Notifications to department via email
    - b. Graduate office now requires only final transcript of undergraduate degree

- c. Policy of 2.8 final 60 hours changed. No longer required. The program can require.
- d. Program approval and reviews are up this year along with curriculum training and changes are going on now.
- e. Policy (Gooch, Drake)
  - a. Textbook submissions should be aligned with all of the new semester schedules? No change on this question for now.

## B. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs (Turner)
    - i. We were charged with two topics
    - ii. We have met and discussed
      - A. Policy of other universities student observation of holidays. Should we consider a policy.
        - a. Office of Multicultural Affairs being consulted and info gathering phase.
      - B. How the FS could ensure changes in the curriculum are driven by the faculty rather than administrative pressures.
        - a. Meeting resulted in these ideas :
          - i. New position on university president cabinet and be filled by FS Chair.
          - ii. New position carry same rights and responsibilities as other cabinet members.
          - iii. New position recommend individuals to be placed on standing committees and created committee which deal with curriculum, execution and management of that curriculum.
        - b. Proposed actions driven from desire to assist the president and his publicly stated vision of SFA being faculty driven.
        - c. ...And a desire to improve and streamline communications concerning curriculum and faculty; establishing a direct line of communication.
      - C. Document drawn up by Academic Affairs FS subcommittee– put on Agenda for next FS meeting as New Business- a draft resolution
 

?Question-does the committee have an idea what those set of committees could be which the recommended faculty would be on? A-Senate chair would recommend what and who. Basically any committee which does not have faculty rep. Faculty Senator Recommendation- have an idea/list of those committees which do have missing faculty representation when final resolution is presented to Cabinet.
- b. Administration and Finance (Harden)
  - i. How to make Budget decisions more transparent- gave follow-up questions to Dr. Gallant in Feb/March, so are resubmitting follow-up questions.

- c. Communications (Greule)
  - i. No report
- d. Elections (P. Rogers)
  - i. Look at data from HR by faculty category and counting senate seats – adjusting FS needs in Spring.
- e. Ethics (McDonald)
  - i. No report
- f. Faculty Government and Involvement (Cegelka)
  - i. Not met
- g. Professional Welfare (Joubert)
  - i. Draft resolution sent out
- h. Strategic Planning (Uriegas)
  - i. Policies aligning with strategic plan of University – some areas are already being looked at by FS committees
  - ii. The supporting goal of building connections- what are we doing to connect with industry which could result into internships and other experiential learning options.

**VIII. Professional Welfare - Statement on faculty with children and caregivers**

- A. Resolution shared with FS.
- B. Points D and F updated
- C. Move to adopt: Senator McKenna second Senator Olson Beal

**IX. Intellectual Property Ad Hoc Report and Suggested Actions**

- A. Implications due to COVID 19
  - 1. Document shared on screen:
    - a. do nothing- “we have bigger fish to fry”
    - b. go big-could push for compensation and clarification re online teaching
    - c. go small-reassurance of protections of faculty property; clarifications of specific content, examples such as youtube channels.
    - d. AAUP recommendation – faculty ask for recognition
- B. Decision-Table to next year but make a small request of university to endorse the AAUP statement. AdHoc committee will continue to work on larger issues.

**X. Old Business**

NA

**XI. New Business**

NA

**Motion to adjourn: Senator Straub second Senator P. Rogers @ 5:20pm**