

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Minutes – Meeting #473
Wednesday, April 14
Zoom Meeting
2:30pm

I. Call to order 2:30pm CST by Chair Lannen: **Attending Senators:** Adams, James; Bishop, Sara; Cegelka, Derek; Cooper, Dana; Cooper, Steve; Drake, Sarah; Gooch, Donald; Greule, Al; Guenther, Christina; 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; Patterson, Gretchen; Rogers, Laurie; Rogers, Pamela; Sizemore, Diane; Straub, Sarah; Turner, Chris; Uriegas, Brian; Zhang, Yanli
Proxies: Kyle Ainsworth, proxy for Tina Oswald; Christine Bishop, proxy for Kristin Baily-Wallace.

II. Presentations

- A. Dr. Danny Gallant, VP Finance Budget Presentation
 - a. Jessica Barrett Budget Director attending
 - b. Review of current status and budget projections.
 - i. Fall & Spring 2021 could see positive direction
 - ii. Dependent upon HERF 2 and 3
 - c. Senators requested input regarding possible solutions and pending ideas
- B. Dr. Scott Gordon, President-nonattendance; in Austin
- C. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA
 - a. Currently in place lenience on probation and suspension policy-continue for Fall 21?
 - i. FS discuss and provide input in New Business
 - b. Senators: some department chairs asking faculty to provide vaccination status. Can HR provide best practices for this?
 - i. Bullard: Yes; it will be addressed
 - c. Senators: Will faculty telecommuting be allowed Fall 2021?
 - i. Most likely not telecommuting except for employees who are extremely autoimmune compromised or etc. Depends upon personal basis.
 - d. Senators: Housing scholarships-how do colleges handle these scholarship allocations? What role should faculty play?
 - i. For enrollment incentives; deans of colleges managing this endeavor
- D. BreAnna Locke, SGA VP
 - a. Presented syllabus statement about mental well-being
 - b. Requesting FS to agree to syllabi placement
 - c. FS will discuss in New Business
- E. Mark Guidry
 - a. Rule in TAC Rule 4.6 – “The minimum of courses and limitation of amount of credit may earn: Students should not be allowed to earn more than one semester hour per week for the course of the term.”
 - b. Max limits for Parts of Term – suggestion: allocate number of limit of credits for all terms i.e. Fall Spring Summer, not parts of term, to simplify the process

- F. Jason Reese, Lumberjack Innovation Team Recommendations
 - a. Transfer credits
 - b. AP/CLEP credits
 - c. Centralized classroom scheduling
 - d. Classroom technology training
 - e. Revisions to processes that encourage scholarship

III. Break

IV. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #472

V. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. Andrew Lannen

1. Covid Response Team

-made recommendations for return to campus “normal” in Fall 2021. Masks and social distancing will still be required in classrooms, labs, and in shared spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained. Masks will be strongly encouraged in all other circumstances. Plan will be re-evaluated in Summer based on pandemic conditions.

2. Academic Affairs Council

-SFA is launching a mid-career initiative aimed at supporting Associate Professors in their push to be promoted to Full Professor

3. Cabinet

a. President Gordon announced President’s Innovation Fund. Faculty Selection committee will be made up of faculty members selected by each college’s council. Annual grants that can be applied for in order to provide start up money for innovative faculty projects. Intended to be done every year from now on.

b. SFA is offering housing scholarships intended to draw in new students who might otherwise have gone to other Universities who offered a better aid package. Housing would be paid for, but students would still be responsible for tuition and fees.

c. Senator Herbert Midgely is SFA’s faculty nominee to serve on the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Brian Uriegas

-LIT was covered by Jason Reese during his presentation

C. Secretary – Dr. Laurie Rogers-no report

D. Treasurer – Dr. Sarah Straub-no report

VI. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs Council (Lannen)

a. Report given in officer reports

2. Graduate Council (Uriegas)

-Met on 3/25. Committee finished work on approving curriculum submissions for new courses and programs. Discussed roles in the SACSCOC visit. Also discussed scholarship award winner and summer enrollment.

3. Policy (Gooch, Drake, Midgely)

-New workload policy is being discussed in Policy Committee, would like additional Faculty senate input on it

B. Internal (FS) Committees

1. Administration and Finance (Harden) and Faculty Government and Involvement (Cegelka) joint report

-Selected two faculty members from each college to sit on new University Budget Council

2. Elections (P. Rogers)

a. Constitutional Amendment proposed in March meeting passed by vote of faculty, final vote was 109-10.

b. First round results for Faculty Senate selections are in, but some runoffs are needed. Runoffs will be conducted, and then final results announced.

3. Professional Welfare (Joubert)

-Selected Non-Tenure Track Teaching Excellence Award, William Davis of Education Studies

VII. Old Business

A. Shared Governance document

a. Discussion of whether draft document is ready enough to send out to campus community for further comment. Only next step in the process, not the end

b. Noted that an annual "review and update" meeting is now specified in the document.

c. Motion made and seconded, voted to release document to campus community

B. Nomination process for Senate Officers for 2021-2022

-Nominations may be made via email to Brian Uriegas and Pamela Rogers, and nominations will also be taken at the April 28 meeting

VIII. New Business

A. Faculty Workload Policy

a. some discussion of what this would mean on practical level in that new proposed policy eliminated almost all specific definitions of courses as well as breakdowns of how undergraduate classes, labs, and graduate courses counted toward workload

b. Senator McKenna: College of Business had a report on this. It was almost impossible to follow the old policy exactly. Many colleges and departments violated workload policy every year because they needed to mold their courses to fit their specific area needs. New proposed policy would require workload to be defined at the level of each college rather than trying to come up with a campus wide policy

c. any senators who wanted to give further input on policy should contact Senator Midgeley before April 28th so that FS representatives on policy committee could have some feedback and direction

B. Probation and suspension policy extension

-Chose to stay with recommendation made in Fall 2020 semester that normal policies governing academic probation and suspension should resume

C. Mental Health statement in syllabi

a. SGA initiative

b. Some deans and chairs had already sent out such a statement, saying that it was the Provost's decision that it be required for inclusion in all syllabi

c. Motion made and seconded to endorse the Provost's decision to include the mental health statement. Motion passed.

D. Max limits parts of term

a. discussion made of whether setting max limits on credit hours taken per term over the whole term rather than parts of term would cause danger of students trying to take too many classes. Should students be able to take 15 hours all in one week session? Should that be an advising issue rather than a blanket prohibition?

b. Motion made to accept recommendation of Associate Provost Guidry that max credit hours allowed be set across the whole term rather than broken down into parts of term, and that the limits be unchanged from current maximums. Motion seconded. Motion adopted.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, adopted. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.