

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #475
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Zoom Meeting
2:30pm

I. **Call to order** 2:30pm CST by Chair Uriegas: **Attending Senators:** Chris McKenna, Heather Olson Beal, Pamela Rogers, Sarah Straub, Christina Guenther, Maggie Leysath, Herbert Midgley, Chris (Joseph) Turner, Franta Majcs, Yanli Zhang (proxy Brian Oswald), Kristin Bailey-Wallace, Darrel McDonald, Gretchen Patterson, Diane Sizemore, James Adams, Sara Bishop, Xiaozhen Han, Michelle Klein, Jonathan Mitchell, Tina Oswald, Steve Cooper (proxy Michael Martin), Victoria Wagner-Greene, Daniel McCleary, Rebecca Davis (proxy Steve Kosovich), George Day, Bailey Thompson, Jeremy Becnel, Sarah Drake, Robert McDermand, Larry King, Louise Stoehr; **Not Present:** Rajat Mishra

II. **Presentations**

A. Dr. Scott Gordon, President

- a. Recognized the Listening Tours leading up to this one
- b. Invited Regent Karen Gantt to speak; shared meetings with Deans, Chairs, UBC, etc.
 - i. Discussed need for culture to change (inaccessible, intimidating)
 - ii. Discussed concern about budget, Board; asked for emergency Sunday Board of Regents Meeting regarding campus climate; this would be an executive session: <https://www.sfasu.edu/about-sfa/board-of-regents/meeting-information>
 - iii. Identified the Resolution that FS will be discussing later in the meeting – asked for caution and time
 - iv. Shared specifics from Listening Tour: Common theme of Board being inaccessible and unapproachable; theme of lack of recognition for faculty/staff/administration; expression of a need to be heard (goes against the current climate of following orders)
- c. Opened to discussion of grievances
 - i. Lack of clarity on where \$85K would be redistributed; additional \$25K escalators
 - ii. Faculty salaries lag behind peer institutions; question why presidential salary was considered but faculty salaries were not (Shared Hanover Study) <https://graphite.sfasu.edu/protected-docs/faculty-salary-study-2020> and <http://www.txhighereddata.org/index.cfm?objectId=0572BC10-D970-11E8-BB650050560100A9>
 - iii. Request for Faculty Regent position; request for Faculty Senate Chair to move up in the agenda for Board of Regents
 - iv. Request for Board to share performance criteria for 4 employees
- d. Thank you to Faculty Senate from President Gordon and Regent Gantt

B. Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost & VPAA- 4SP

- a. Shared that he is new on campus and learning this climate

- b. Shared support for President Gordon (transparency, new vision, challenges, etc.)
- c. Journals: Shared that he did not direct funds to be cut from journals. Requested that the list be shared with faculty and then back to deans.
- d. Addressed affirming responsibility of Deans; the request was funding/budgets conversations to be led by Deans but inclusive of faculty
- e. PAUSING the budget conversation due to lack of information
- f. Requesting a budget plan from faculty – what are the needs of the faculty (3 year, 5 year plan); hiring? Use the 4SP for this. This plan goes to UBC. Now led by Dean Bisbing; need priorities affirmed in this; if departments do this, it can be shared with Chair
 - i. Faculty shared frustration with recommendation to continue planning; action is necessary; shared Hanover as a great resource to begin
 - ii. Faculty asked for clarification regarding Athletics
 - iii. Faculty asked if AA makes additional cuts, what assurances are there to ensure that it's not reallocated
- g. CARRI: Application will be live soon and Steve Cooper will share that with us

C. Dr. Marc Guidry- Latin Honors

- a. Issue was minimum of 54 semester hours required for Latin Honors; one student did not meet that hours requirement. This was discussed at multiple levels. Question emerged: is 54 hours transfer friendly?
- b. Shared peer institution requirements that are significantly lower.
- c. Recommendation requested by end of semester:
 - i. Question 1: Do we want this more transfer friendly? (30 minimum, 42 is what is required to get the SFA bachelors, 54 is what we currently have)
 - ii. Question 2: Do we want to have our Latin Honors brackets remain lower than peers or increase to match? (We are lower than our peers)

D. Jonathan Helmke- Potential Library Resource Cuts

- a. In light of Provost presentation, expressed need to reconvene. However, clarified that there still exists a deficit; regardless O&M budget was cut 76%
- b. Goal: Reestablish journal packages; rolling this through the 4SP; caveat – timeline is strict based on licensing end dates
- c. Expressed appreciation for feedback from faculty and desire for more:
 - i. How specifically the journals are used in classrooms
 - 1. “I have an assignment where I use Westlaw. Then we do X, Y, Z to complete the assignment with the end goal of getting accreditation”
 - ii. Use of library materials to save students money in lieu of textbooks
- d. Request to report back to FS after meetings with Deans and Provost.
- e. Expressed appreciation for the faculty support
- f. Senator Olson Beal requested that Faculty Senate draft letter of support for discouraging resource cuts; echoed by Senator Louise Stoehr and faculty members in the audience

III. **Break** (if needed) 5:00pm Return @ 5:05pm

IV. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #474**

Motion: Senator Straub; Second: Senator Turner

V. **Election of CoE Senator**

No Vote: Senator Mishra

Selection: Amanda (Mandi) Moore – Kinesiology & Health Science by plurality

VI. **New Business Item #7 Moved Up**

Proposed 2021-2022 FacSen Resolution #1

1. Open discussion with members of the faculty senate; should poll be for both, one, neither (President/Board of Regents)
2. Suggestion: include the elimination of online stipends; add reference to Hanover study
3. Goal: Poll faculty on their thoughts regarding the issue
4. Discussion: Should this be escalated for the vote of no confidence; should it more strongly be phrased in direction at President; focus on president no confidence vote; concern statement to; shared that other bodies would support our decisions

Motion to go to Executive Session: Senator Wagner-Greene, Seconded Senator King; passed

Return to General Session

VII. **Officer Reports**

- A. Chair – Dr. Brian Uriegas
- B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Chris McKenna
- C. Secretary – Dr. Sarah Straub – Request for monitor for chat
- D. Treasurer – Gretchen Patterson – Allocated \$500 for new faculty orientation; did we get a stipend from this year or last year?

VIII. **Committee Reports**

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs Council (Uriegas): No longer exists; subcommittees deal with 4SP which are also on hold
2. Core Curriculum Assessment Committee (Drake)
3. Distance Education (McDonald)*
4. Graduate Council (McKenna)
5. Policy (Drake): Faculty Workload Policy and Small Class Size Policy are up for review. & Room assignments and scheduling
6. University Budget Committee (McKenna): Meeting Friday; seeking to understand budget and structural deficits; potential request for more accountants. Can't make decisions without this support

B. Internal (FS) Committees

1. Academic Affairs (Turner)
2. Administration and Finance (Sizemore)
3. Communications (Day)
4. Elections (Rogers)
5. Ethics (Klein)
6. Faculty Government and Involvement (Adams)
7. Professional Welfare (King)
8. Strategic Planning (Mitchell)

IX. Old Business

1. Shared Governance Document: This will go to the Board of Regents for approval in October; request that what is passed is actually implemented

X. New Business

1. Senate Meeting Modality
 - a. Senators expressed support and concern for this; brought up Hybrid option
 - b. Point of Information: Requesting copy of the statement

Motion to Continue Meetings Via Zoom: Senator Straub, Seconded: Stoehr, Passed

2. Guest Speaker Time Limits
 - a. Discussion on time limits; invited guests, etc. Speaker times set, with discretion of Chair to extend it
 - b. Motion for Speaking time 10 minute at Chair Discretion; second Wagner-Green, Passed
 - c. Discussion to limit questions to Senators;
3. Representatives for Distance Education Committee (2-3)
 - a. Senator McDonald continues on this committee; add Senator Straub, Senator Klein, Senator Moore, Senator Midgley, Senator Bishop
4. Consider Approval of 4SP Charges 1 and 2 – discussed via email
5. 2021-2022 Committee Charges
6. 2021-2022 Items to be taken up by the Senate
7. Proposed 2021-2022 FacSen Resolution #1

Adjourned meeting at 7:46 PM Motion Senator McDonald Second Senator Mitchell