

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda - Meeting #482
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
2:30 pm CST

I. Call to Order

- a. Roll Call
 - i. *present:* Jeremy Becnel, Julie Bloxon, Dennis Gravatt (proxy for Jason Bruck), Gina Fe Causin, Arye Chakravartty, CC Conn (Chair-Elect), Rebecca Davis, George Day (Secretary), Sarah Drake, Dylan Parkhurst (proxy for Erika Hoagland), Lindsey Kennon, Michelle Klein (Treasurer), Wenjing Li, Daniel McCleary, Darrel McDonald, Chris McKenna (Chair, non-voting member), Herbert Midgley (Parliamentarian), Rajat Mishra, Johnathan Mitchell, Perry Moon, Tina Oswald, Gretchen Patterson, Bidisha Sengupta, Louise Stoehr, Sarah Straub, Bailey Thompson, Leland Thompson, Chris Turner, Victoria Wagner-Green, Jake Walburn, Yanli Zhang.

II. Presentations

- a. Dr. Steve Westbrook, University President. Expected discussion topics:
 - i. Status of State System affiliation analysis and timeline.
 - 1. Input and suggested questions to be sent to the four systems interested in SFA are requested to be submitted by 9/23/22 (the portal will remain open until 10/14) with responses expected from the systems by 10/3/22. Once responses are received, they will be posted along with the questions to the portal website.
 - 2. The Board of Regents ("The Board") subcommittee working on this issue is expected to meet with representatives from the four systems on Sept. 27 and 28. With one more round of feedback to the Board from SFA faculty and staff afterward during the October Board meeting (Oct. 30 & 31).
 - 3. The Board will call a special meeting "in the near future" for the purpose of announcing whether or not to join a system and which system.
 - ii. Status of Presidential Search. The search will not begin until a decision is made regarding whether or not SFA joins a system. Dr. Westbrook has agreed to remain until after the current legislative session if needed. If SFA joins a system any resolutions regarding the faculty & staff's wishes to have an active role in the search will be provided to the system. Dr. Westbrook also has recommendations for faculty and staff participation in the search if we remain independent. Those recommendations came from the Senate and Chairs Forum after the Gordon hiring in 2018
 - iii. Legislative Appropriation requests and potential legislative highlights.
 - 1. SFA has no control over the weighted Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) process from which funding is driven by how much funding the legislature enters into the formula. This is a base year that will drive university funding for the next two years.
 - 2. Increase in appropriations from state is not keeping up with cost of growth in students and our best way to impact the funding is to increase semester hours taken.

3. In addition to LAR funding, there are non-formula items/exceptional requests: (special items) funding beyond the formula; we have 4
 - a. Funding for deferred maintenance issues; approximately \$130M including deferred capital expenses and campus renewal (replace Miller Science + Kennedy Auditorium: (\$100M w/multidisciplinary facility)
 - b. \$2M request for first-gen student support (GenJacks)
 - c. \$1.7M for STEM teacher prep program (JackTeach)
 - d. \$1.07M for Center for Entrepreneurship
- iv. Enrollment management search.
 1. The search firm recommends that SFA considers re-titling the position to attract more applicants (has been done; now called VP position). Also considering tighter integration with graduate admissions/recruitment.
- v. Miscellaneous: UT-Tyler med school – looking to create a guaranteed slot for our students (nothing to do with joining a system)
- b. Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost/Exec. VP for Academic Affairs. Expected discussion topics:
 - i. Rationale for the current composition of the Academic Affairs Policy Committee.
 1. Not a group that votes for policy changes, but strives to reach unanimous consensus to pass on recommendations to the Provost; the claim is that faculty are not underrepresented for this reason
 2. Possible solution, rather than adding more faculty allow for a written statement of dissent
 3. Process: policy committee goes to Dean’s council which can accept or ignore the committee’s recommendation which goes to the Provost (who can also ignore the recommendation)
 4. Provost resistant to increasing faculty representation on policy commitment; prefers to get it in writing from the Faculty Senate. Chair McKenna made a counterargument to Provost stating our need for equal representation (faculty want to have equal numbers with administration) by reinstating the recently deleted library position and by adding one faculty spot to the committee's makeup
 - ii. Review of library reorganization changes.
 1. 6 people moved from Library to other positions across campus
 2. No changes to the tenure/promotion process for librarians
 - iii. Status of Ombudsman proposal (4SP process).
 1. 4SP engaged, faculty overall want Ombudsman (the process is with the chairs)
 2. Ombudsman would only work in Academic Affairs and is not expected to possess the authority to adjudicate issues outside of Academic Affairs.
 - iv. Provost is curating the faculty’s questions about system joining; will not modify
 - v. Space Usage Efficiency (SUE) scores –fall ‘23, spaces removed from inventory will help fix SUE scores. The goal is to remove 20-30 spaces; for spring ‘24 is to improve space use efficiency. Question raised about the possibility that moving classrooms and other SUE related changes could lead to a loss of a sense of community in certain classes/programs.

Dr. Smith indicated that this topic could be considered in tandem between interested parties and John Callahan

III. Session Break (3:35-3:40 pm) – followed by the transition to Senate business Segment (Faculty members only).

IV. Approval of Minutes from meeting #481

- a. requested changes:
- b. Motion by: Senator Oswald Seconded by: Senator Causin

V. Officer Reports

- a. Chair (Chris McKenna) –
 - i. Update from the Board meeting in July: 4 issues focus: ombudsman, state affiliation analysis, budget (not released yet); presidential search;
 - ii. Committee membership assigned; changes to the make-up of committees based on the workload of individual committees; ad hoc committees formed as needed; share the load
 - iii. University Budget Committee (UBC) – leadership change upcoming
 - iv. Committees are added to the agenda only if they are needed; committees to meet earlier than later
- b. Secretary (George Day) – no report
 - i. Discussion of issues relating to the academic calendar – Senator Day reported on the state of the Calendar Committee’s discussion of changes to the academic calendar and received further feedback from the Senate to take back to the Calendar Committee.
- c. Treasurer (Michelle Klein) - \$2000 in the account (lost surplus)

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs: (Sarah Straub)
 - i. Reviewed 3.2 Lab Fees, 4.5 Designation of School Status, 5.2 Certificate Programs, 7.15 Guest Lecturers
 - ii. Coming up 6.10 Drop Date, 7.6 UG Class Size, 16.33 Use of University Facilities, 4.9 Selection of Academic Deans, 7.29 Tenure and Continued Employment
 - iii. Looking to move from a 3-year to a 5-year cycle

VII. Old Business

- a. Follow-up from AY 23 Senate elections (McKenna).
 - i. Welcomed Perry Moon, Sarah Straub, & CC Conn for completing terms of senators that had to depart the senate.
- b. Selection of new Chair-Elect
 - i. Nominated: CC Conn & Jonathan Mitchell
 - ii. Candidates were given the opportunity to speak (3 min each)
 - iii. CC Conn elected (18-13 vote) and assumes the position of Chair-Elect
- c. Discussion regarding the vacant non-tenure track position in the Senate
 - i. Forestry & Agriculture do not use their non-tenure track seat; a question was introduced regarding what to do with the vacant seat; suggested:
 - 1. at-large seat for the non-tenure position or leave it for Forestry & Agriculture to fill;
 - 2. motion: send issue to the election committee to develop and present options. motion by Senator Wagner-green and seconded by Senator Oswald; motion carried

VIII. New Business

- a. Disposition of Senate lounge in McGee building (McKenna & Vote)
 - i. The Senate received a request from Dean Bisping to return Senate lounge space (McGee 477) back to College of Business; motion to grant back the space back to the College of Business – Senator Turner, seconded by Senator McDonnel; motion carried
- b. Academic Affairs Policy Committee constitution (All)
 - i. Faculty under represented on the committee – discussion on options for response to the Provost’s position
 - ii. Decision was made to draft a statement from Senate to the Provost. Ad hoc committee was formed to be chaired by Senator Turner to draft with Senators Oswald, Davis, and Thompson
 - 1. statement should address equal representation and clarification on process & ex officio members, restoration of library reps
 - iii. *note: the Provost communicated with the Senate on the evening of Sept. 14th that he would add a 4th representative to the Policy Committee.*
- c. Chair McKenna addressed questions regarding livestream for Senate meetings. He noted that livestreaming increased length of meeting while face-to-face meetings facilitates managing meeting duration. The chair invited members to ask for this issue to be added to the next meeting’s agenda for further discussion if desired.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Motion by: Senator Wagner-Green Seconded by: Senator Davis