

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #487**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 2:30 CST**

**I. Call to order (McKenna)**

- a. Present: Jeremy Becnel, Julie Bloxson, Jason Bruck, Gina Fe Causin, Arye Chakravartty, Rebecca Davis, George Day (Secretary), Sarah Drake, Erika Hoagland, Lindsey Kennon, Michelle Klein (Treasurer), CC Conn (Chair-elect), Li Wenjing, Daniel McCleary, G.W. Scott (proxy: Rob McDermand), Chris McKenna (Chair), Herbert Midgley (Parliamentarian), Rajat Mishra, Jonathan Mitchell, Perry Moon, Tina Oswald, Gretchen Patterson, Emily Payne, Bidisha Sengupta, Louise Stoehr, Bailey Thompson, Leland Thompson, Victoria Wagner-Green, Jake Walburn, Yanli Zhang
- b. absent (no proxy): Darrel McDonald, Chris Turner

**II. Presentations**

- a. Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost/Exec. VP for Academic Affairs
  - i. PERM update: PERM is in place and operating now. Financial support is available for expense reimbursement up to \$5k for faculty needing assistance. To date, three faculty members have received assistance through PERM. Other faculty members needing PERM assistance should follow up with Dr. Smith's office. [Chair McKenna requested Dr. Smith to please communicate the program's status to the Deans and the Chairs at his next convenient meeting with them to ensure broader program awareness.]
  - ii. Academic Affairs (AA) budget and preparation for AY 2024 budget
    - 1. *capital expenditures*: approx. 90 requests have been received and prioritized; also categorized are requests for equipment, computers, and furniture being the primary categories; capital requests should go from Chairs to the Provost (for prioritizing within AA), then to the UBC for additional prioritization advising, and then on to the President
    - 2. *operating budget*: SFA will submit a draft operating budget to the UT System (UT-S) in May with a final version expected in June. The Provost noted that improving the budget requires increased enrollment (high priority) principally, though increasing student-faculty ratios can also help conserve operating funds (+1 ratio equaling approximately \$2 million in savings). The Provost recognizes that some programs cannot increase student/faculty ratios. He also noted that 50% of the operating budget generally goes to AA functions in UT-S compared to the 25% attributed to AA at SFA, thereby creating a likely need to redistribute operating capital within the university.
    - 3. SUE scores: Chairs should be working with J. Callahan to optimize space usage; for the upcoming semester, approximately 20 'spaces' have been taken "offline" in the hope of improving our scores.
  - iii. Q&A
    - 1. Senators expressed concern about access to UT System subscriptions to journals; differences between what UT appears to have proposed (in that we won't have automatic or pass-through access to everything the system members like UT-A subscribe to). The current expectation: We will have to buy into the agreements, but at a significant discount.

- b. Andrew Dies, Dean of Students, Asst. VP for Student Affairs
  - i. Transition into the UT System requires a merging of the Student Code of Conduct and Academic Dishonesty Policies, effective Fall 2023
    - i. With this transition, the new HOP lives under the Dean of Students Office for adjudication and record maintenance
  - ii. Changes include the creation of two new (in bold) violations: Cheating, plagiarism, **collusion, misrepresentation (inventing data)**
  - iii. New resolution process expected for suspected student infractions
    - i. Faculty Resolution (if the student is eligible for faculty-level resolution)
      - 1. Full acceptance (students accept all findings and proposed penalties)
      - 2. Partial acceptance (students accept some of the findings and/or sanctions)
      - 3. Decline (non-acceptance of all findings and proposed sanctions)
    - ii. Formal hearing (structure of hearing individual/bodies still TBD)
    - iii. Consolidated record of charges/process outcomes kept within Student Affairs
  - iv. Training: Dies already working with Academic Affairs Policy Committee, Chairs Forum, Associate Deans, Deans Council, and CTL on policy and training. Training will occur in early fall and likely throughout the fall in multiple formats
  - v. Take-Aways
    - i. Due process obligations have to be followed (notice of a hearing, right to a hearing, etc.)
    - ii. Grade on assignment or class cannot be finalized in the case of an academic integrity issue without following this process (due to student “due process” obligations)
- c. **Session Break & transition to Senate business session (faculty only)<sup>1</sup>**
- d. **Approval of minutes from meeting #486**
  - a. Requested changes: correction to VI.e.ii
  - b. Motion to accept by: [Oswald]; 2<sup>nd</sup>: [Causin] motion passed
- e. **Officer Reports**
  - a. Chair (McKenna)
    - i. Request from Dr. Westbrook to sit on the search committee for VP of SA (to be filled by Sen. McCleary)
    - ii. From Dr. Westbrook: see the email sent by the President on 3/2/23, subj: System Transition Update for details.
  - b. Chair-Elect (Conn) – no report
  - c. Secretary (Day)
    - i. Faculty Senate webpage updated with the most recent recordings and minutes
  - d. Treasurer (Klein)
    - i. current balance: \$1983.92
    - ii. expected outstanding debits/credits: \$1000 (NTT award); expenses for plaques & axes
    - iii. available balance of \$239.92
- f. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Academic Affairs (Moon)

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<sup>1</sup> public recording to be terminated during break

- i. The policy committee will not be making any substantive changes to the workload policy in the near future; no review of the faculty workload policy effected at the Feb. 16 meeting
  - ii. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities policy (7.3) to be combined with policy 7.16 (Purchased Instructor Generated Materials); action taken to bring SFA policy in line with UT-S policy.
  - iii. Code of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity (Policy 4.1) policy drafts were approved at Feb. 16 meeting
  - iv. Discussion of faculty workload policy updates: There is a need for clear policies from each college to comply with most recent policy updates (from last year); discussed that this issue may need to wait until SFA is part of the UT-S before Senate action/discussion, but a likely follow-up item in the Fall
- b. Internal committees**
- i. **Elections** (Mishra) – sent a request for nominees to the admins of each college for transmission to the faculty; had an issue with a chair not sending nomination requests to the faculty; nominations have been received and will be put into the system in the next couple of days for voting; only one nominee from College of Forestry; ballots should be ready by the return from spring break; anticipate results by next FS meeting; Sen. Mishra is creating a document that will help future elections committee chairs/members
  - ii. Ad hoc committee on Ombudsman analysis/potential proposal report (Davis et al.)
    - 1. Did meet; will meet again in March; planning on reporting to Smith about UT-S ombudsman offices work in the system; contacting ombuds in the system to learn about workload, etc.; also challenge/investigate chairs reports of the number of faculty complaints
- g. Old Business**
- a. PERM – The body elected to keep the committee together to ensure that promises from Provost become reality & notifications about the possibilities are communicated to international faculty, Chairs, and Deans.
- h. New Business**
- a. Staffing of summer HOP efforts with AA Policy—possible volunteers to be requested? – request made that a stipend be requested from Provost for faculty working on this; discussion of maintaining continuity of the committee during the spring-summer-fall. Chair McKenna agreed to broach the stipend issue with the Provost and to confirm likely manpower need to Dean Williams of the Policy committee.
  - b. Possible inquiries into university-level Faculty Service & Research awards have been requested. (Professional Welfare is working on a proposal/memo that they can send to Smith directly or to him through the FS Chair)
- i. Adjournment**
- a. Motion: [Mitchell] 2<sup>nd</sup>: [Wagner-Green]