

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #488
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 2:30 CST

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

- A. Present: Jeremy Becnel, Julie Bloxson, Jason Bruck, Gina Fe Causin, Arye Chakravartty, Rebecca Davis, Donald Gooch (proxy: George Day), Sarah Drake, Erika Hoagland, Lindsey Kennon, Michelle Klein (Treasurer), CC Conn (Chair Elect), Pam Rogers (proxy: Wenjing Li), Daniel McCleary, Rob McDermand, Darrel McDonald, Chris McKenna (Chair, non-voting), Herbert Midgley (Parliamentarian), Rajat Mishra, Jonathan Mitchell, Perry Moon, Tina Oswald, Emily Payne, Bidisha Sengupta, Louise Stoehr, Sarah Staub, Bailey Thompson, Leland Thompson, Chris Turner, Victoria Wagner-Greene, Jake Walburn, Yanli Zhang
- B. Absent (no proxy): Gretchen Patterson

II. **Presentations**

- A. Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost/Exec. VP for Academic Affairs
 - 1. PERM updates (if any)—including a requested Provost recap for Deans & Chairs
 - a. Program now as a website with placeholders. Population is forthcoming.
 - b. Draft - Handbook for Green Card and Tenure Support for International Faculty (Terminology, Point of Contact - Sharon Brewer, Guidelines for Support - Steps 1-5)
 - 2. Academic Affairs budget preparation for AY 2024 budget – anticipated process, goals, and objectives
 - a. Big Picture: How much does AA get? This is currently unknown. Once known (end of the month), how do we divide it up?
 - b. Currently looking at unmet needs (ex: Construction Management Program, Enrollment Management, CARRI, etc.)
 - c. Senators brought up decrease in funding allocated for research regarding approx. \$8 million in 2011 to \$3 million in 2022; undergraduate research was also discussed, Senators requested a more direct approach to assuring proper allocation of funding to AA, concerns addressed for Creative Designs representation in ORGS, Funding for student travel, funding for research travel, etc.
 - 3. Current status of pending system transition efforts affecting AA
 - a. April - SFA Board of Regents Meeting, *assumption* of approval for Interim President effective July 1 with Westbrook May retirement.
 - b. Mid-June - SACS Meeting to approve substantive changes (hopefully)
 - c. Change of governance and affiliation are two different things. Change of governance is (assumed) July 1.
 - d. August 31 - Actual affiliation will occur
 - 4. Proposal to instantiate annual Faculty Service and Scholarly Excellence Awards
 - a. Met with Becnel and McKenna regarding this effort (to be discussed further later in this agenda)

III. **Session Break** & transition to Senate business session (faculty only)¹

IV. **Approval of minutes from meeting #487**

A. Requested changes:

1. p. 2 D. Officers Report Subsection A, i. Are we looking for VP of AA? Update to VP of Student Affairs

B. Motion to accept by: Oswald; 2nd: Causin

V. **Officer Reports**

A. Chair (McKenna)

1. UBC has met for the semester & decision was made by co-chairs (Gina O and Tim B), because of the uncertainty regarding budget cycle and UTS, the UBC did not go through the process of examining all requests for new spending. May - UTS allocation will be communicated; but the UBD did go through capital requests and prioritized items according to established priorities to be presented to President
2. Academic Affairs Policy Committee members who will be working over the summer will be paid throughout summer
3. Research, Scholarly Activity Recognition (to be discussed in PWC report)
4. Faculty Senate Elections procedures were called into question and will be addressed with Elections Committee
5. No additional news on Presidential Search yet

B. Chair-Elect (Conn) - No Report

C. Secretary (Day)

1. Faculty senate webpage updated with most recent recordings and minutes

D. Treasurer (Klein)

1. current balance: \$1,983.92
2. expected outstanding debits/credits: \$1,666.10 (Faculty Excellence Award and unknown amount for ax handles)
3. Budget cut from \$4,000 to \$2,000. While budget wouldn't be restored for AY 22-23, we have commitment from Provost for funding, as needed basis; request for Senate Chair retreat funding (membership)

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. Academic Affairs (Midgley/Straub)

1. Policies reviewed since last Faculty Senate Meeting:
 - a. Policy 6.7 Class Attendance
 - b. Policy 5.14 English Proficiency of Faculty (approved)
 - c. Policy 5.2 Certificate Programs
 - d. Policy 5.1 Academic Program Review (approved)
 - e. Policy 5.16 Professional Educators Council (approved)
 - f. Policy 5.10 Establishing Centers, Institutes, etc.
2. Senator Concerns: Who is assigned to each policy (Athletics? Student Affairs?)

¹ public recording to be terminated during break

- B. Grad Council: (Conn, *ex officio*)
 - 1. SLATE Admission System
 - 2. Graduate Academic Advisor Position Filled - role is based on recruitment and SLATE system
 - 3. Assistant to the Dean Position open in Graduate Studies
- C. Core Curriculum Assessment (Conn, *ex officio*)
 - 1. Communication is still the tracking metric
 - 2. Next meeting: Friday
- D. Staff Council update (Thompson/Patterson)
 - 1. Absent
- E. Internal committees
 - 1. Administration & Finance (Davis)
 - 2. Communication (B. Thompson)
 - 3. Elections (Mishra)
 - a. Elections Procedures issues with Listservs. Resolved.
 - b. Tie with one College. Resolution will be a runoff election in Fine Arts based on Constitution Section 7A). This will be communicated later today.
 - i. PCOE: Sarah Straub
 - ii. Fine Arts: NTT Herb Midgley, TT Mario Ajero, TT (Tied for the second one)
 - iii. Forestry/Ag: Rebecca Kidd
 - iv. LAA: Hunter Hampton, Tyler Welsch, NTT Lisa Benton
 - v. Math and Science: Jason Bruck, Alexandria VanKley, Phil Reynolds
 - 4. Ethics (McCleary)
 - 5. Faculty Government & Involvement (Turner)
 - 6. Professional Welfare (Klein/Becnel)
 - a. Provost open to idea of 18 awards per year (including service/scholarly works)
 - b. Hope for the 2 new awards to be ready for fall
 - c. Hope for increased funds for these awards
 - d. 3 "Excellence" Awards Per College
 - i. Scholarly
 - ii. Service
 - iii. Teaching
 - 7. Strategic Planning (McKenna)
 - 8. Faculty Immigration Processes (Ad hoc; Stoehr et al.)
 - 9. Ad hoc committee on Ombudsman analysis/potential proposal report (Davis, et. al.)
 - a. Reviewed peer institutions
 - b. Work will continue

VII. Old Business

- A. Resolution of outstanding election issue (Mishra, McKenna, etc.) - See above

- B. Staffing of summer HOP efforts with AA Policy—volunteers and compensation-request status - See above

VIII. New Business

- A. Possible initial discussion of topics for next year's Senate to discuss/action:
- B. Expansion of voting eligibility and clarification in Standing Rules
- C. Development of college-specific Faculty workload policies
- D. Continuation of Ombudsman proposal initiative
- E. Additional lobbying and advocacy to improve faculty compensation
 - 1. Who do we target as the audience for our concerns when we are no longer meeting with the Board of Regents?
- F. Others?
 - 1. Funding for graduate students
 - 2. Funding for research initiatives
 - 3. Potential division of ORGS into Grad Studies vs. Research wings
 - 4. Summer research travel budgets
 - 5. Student Mental Health Support / augmented counseling services
 - 6. Possible reach out to SGA re: mutual institutional (ex officio) reps?

IX. Adjournment

- A. Motion: Jonathan Mitchell 2nd: Tina Oswald