

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting Special Session
Wednesday, September 30
Zoom Meeting
1:30pm

Attending Senators: Adams James; Bailey-Wallace Kristin; Bishop Sara; Cegelka Derek; ~~Cooper Steve~~; Drake Sarah; Drury Scott; 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; Oswald Tina; Patterson Gretchen; Rogers Laurie; Rogers Pamela; Sizemore Diane; Straub Sarah; TurnerChris; Uriegas Brian; Zhang Yanli

Excused Senators w/Proctors: Steve Cooper - Proxy Court Carney; Christina Guenther - Proxy Michael Murphy; Chris McKenna - Proxy Lucia Sigmar.

- I. Call of Meeting by Chair 1:30pm
- II. Meeting Topic: Official Faculty Senate statement regarding current events relating to the SWAT situation.
- III. Chair
Monday afternoon family gave news conference outlining incident. News media ran story Monday evening. Tuesday was national news. International news reported by evening Tuesday. Faculty began inquiring if FS would be making a statement. Executive senate officers wanted to consult FS as a whole; hence this special session to answer two questions:
 - a. SHOULD FS MAKE A STATEMENT REGARDING THIS CASE AT THIS TIME
 - b. IF SO, WHAT SHOULD STATEMENT SAY.
- IV. Should FS make a statement: Comments from senators –
 - a. Some discrepancy whether racial event or not. So yes to statement
 - b. Two topics: reaction to incident itself on behalf of fac; and how it was handled. Breakdown of communication between admin and other parties over two weeks. Institutional breakdown of communication.
 - c. Larger issue – growing image online April 2019 incident. Is this school unwelcoming to students of color?
 - d. A letter was sent previously regarding police training over the summer. Can we get report recently concluded by UPD about racial profiling?
 - e. Irrelevant of what we might find of this report...a statement regarding assurance to students of color would be important move. Shared governance.

- f. yes
 - g. Agreement importance of faculty making a statement. Discrepancy on racially motivated
 - h. Echo...students are mad.
 - i. Addressing this as a race issue. Important. Lot of fear, concern, anger. We have to be careful how we present our statement. We can harm rather than help.
 - j. Yes.
 - k. Polarizing issue. Statement addressing care for the students broadly; careful not to call the police are liars or imply liars; make sure to emphasize timing of two weeks without hearing of incident.
- V. Rollcall to have a statement – YES have it. 19 to 2
- VI. Statement
- a. Drawn up rough draft shared by Chair.
 - b. Change verbiage declaring student “wrongdoing,” instead rewrite to say that actions should be taken against those found responsible
 - c. Make sure that statement supports students but does not prejudice police response – still not clear what was known by police when they went to dorm
 - d. Caution that statement doesn’t get in the way of the investigation. Add more on specific note on concerns of people of color
 - e. Has it been determined it was a deliberate attempt or miscommunication? Room 103 vs 116? Lot of investigation to go. Statement needs to focus on care for students and concern for communication and incident policy processes.
 - f. Should we include her name? Concern over online harassment of her and her family. Consensus NO
 - g. Legal counsel before sending? YES. Chair will consult with SFA legal counsel.
- VII. ACTION ITEM: We will receive final copy of a statement via email and need to vote by 9am Thursday Oct. 1 2020.

Motion to adjourn – Chair Lannen 2:45pm