

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate
REPORT TO THE SFASU BOARD OF REGENTS,
Jimmi Fischer Rushing, Chair
July 14, 1998**

Introduction

The faculty joins with the Board in expressing appreciation for the contributions of Mr. Jimmy Murphy, the Mast Family and Ed and Gwen Cole for their support of the university. [Note: The Board honored contributions in the naming of 3 new facilities: The Patricia and Adeline Mast Arboretum, The Ed and Gwen Cole Concert Hall, and the Jimmy W. Murphy Wellness Center.]

Introduction of Senate chair and the Senate executive committee. [Handout distributed]

Summary of 1997-98 Activities

Policy Review and Development

- D-20, Intellectual Property, revisions submitted ~ passed by Senate, December 3, 1997
- Proposed new policy on Academic Freedom ~ passed by Senate, December 3, 1997
- A-2 Academic Complaints by Students, revisions submitted ~ passed by Senate, February 11, 1998

Resolutions and Reports

- In support of a request that Stephen F. Austin State University commission a study on the Status of Women and Minority Faculty at SFA ~ passed by Senate, November 12, 1997
- Evaluating the Need for Term Limits ~ Passed by Senate, February 11, 1998: Amendment to the Constitution required vote by all faculty and failed to pass
- Ethics Committee Report on the need for an Ethics statement in Policies and Procedures Manual ~Reported, November 12, 1997, no action required.
- Mediation: A Resolution ~ Passed by Senate, February 11, 1998
- Strategic Planning Committee: A Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Senate Standing Rules ~ passed by Senate, April 8, 1998. Noted Chair McDonald's contribution in recommending the formation of this committee in order to improve continuity and Senate response to issues of ongoing interest and concern.
- Election of Officers: A Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Senate Standing Rules ~ passed by Senate, May 13, 1998
- Resolution of Appreciation for Darrel McDonald ~ passed by Senate, May 13, 1998

Other Accomplishments

Introduction of web pages including the Current Issues Forum. Features:

- Core Curriculum updates (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/divisions/ctc/ip/core/main.htm>)
- Reinventing Undergraduate Education (Boyer Commission report) and

- DiversityWeb, which is sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the University of Maryland. It "links colleges and universities that are working to engage the diversity of United society in educational mission, campus climate, curriculum focus and connections with the larger society." This initiative has nine areas of focus: Institutional vision, leadership and systematic change; Recruitment, retention and affirmative action; Curriculum transformation; Faculty and staff involvement; Student experience and development; Campus-community connections; Diversity research, evaluation, and impact; and Political, judicial, and legislative issues. Sections under profiles of each participating institution include: Student Development, Institutional Leadership, Curriculum Transformation, Recruitment Retention and Affirmative Action, Campus-Community Connections, Diversity Research and Evaluation and Making Diversity News. 248 of the institutions invited to participate in DiversityWeb have been part of the Ford Foundation's Campus Diversity Initiative, which includes several consortial efforts, also funded by the Ford Foundation. The profiles link colleagues across the country to improve awareness of work being done on other campuses. Texas institutions include: Southwest Texas University, University of Houston -- Main Campus and UT-Arlington.
- Also coming soon: the Report of the AAU Task Force on A National Strategy for Managing Scientific and Technical Information ~ a new model for faculty research with an emphasis on certification, not on publishing.

Priorities for SFA Faculty Senate, 1998-1999

- Celebrate 75th anniversary (28 year anniversary for the Senate!)
- Review of Commission on the Future '03 recommendations
- SACS updates
There should be evidence is these recommendations of an increased emphasis on student research and teaching excellence as well as the increasing importance of technology. The faculty appreciates the Board commitment to maintaining and improving technological infrastructure and services as evidenced by actions today. Campus technology infrastructure and support is increasingly a measure of academic excellence.
- Monitor 1998-1999 Texas Legislative action:
 - House Higher Education Committee interim charges include a review of Hopwood, special funds and new funding formula, the costs of postsecondary education, the Western Governors University and student financial aid programs.
 - SB 610 (Haywood) was referred to the Finance Committee. This is a proposal for a public relations program for higher education. Related to that proposal might be the ACE fact sheet on nonfinancial returns of higher education (<http://www.acenet.edu/programs/DGR/nonfin.HTML>) [distributed to all Board members].

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmi Fischer Rushing, Chair, Faculty Senate

SFA Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 1998-1999

Jimmi Fischer Rushing, Chair, 409-468-1672; jrushing@sfasu.edu
Mark Simmons, Chair-Elect, 409-468-1687; gsimmons@sfasu.edu
Kandy Stahl, Secretary, 409-468-1432; kstahl@sfasu.edu
Florence Elliott-Howard, Treasurer
Brian Oswald, Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs

Academic Affairs; Frank Codispoti, Political Science & Geography

This committee shall deal with matters pertaining to academic standards and the academic relationships between faculty and students. The committee's responsibility includes, but is not limited to, curriculum, degree requirements, admission policies, standards of academic performance, types of degrees offered, and new programs.

Administration and Finance; Jill Dumensil, Mathematics & Statistics

This committee shall provide faculty interpretation of, respond to, and advice concerning university administrative and financial procedures. The committee's responsibility includes, but is not limited to, university expenditure and revenue policies relative to fund allocation, salary equalization, budget development, and financial planning.

Elections; Sherry Williford, Communication

This committee shall organize and conduct all senatorial elections and any other elections which the Faculty Senate is asked to conduct for the University.

Faculty Government and Involvement; Brent Burt, Biology

This committee shall deal with matters pertaining to the relationship between the faculty and the administration and with matters concerning the Senate as the representative body of the faculty. The committee shall be concerned with interpretation of the constitution, preparation of amendments, position of the Senate in the organizational structure of the University, re-apportionment of representation, review of the Faculty Handbook, policies and procedures for election of administrative officers, and other such matters of concern to the faculty and administration.

Professional Welfare; Lauren Scharff, Psychology

This committee shall be concerned with all university policies and procedures which affect the professional life of the faculty. In particular, the committee shall review policies relating to tenure, academic freedom, salary, promotions, employment practices, dismissal of faculty, evaluation of faculty, faculty workloads, fringe benefits, retirement, and any other such item about which faculty members are concerned.

Ethics; Joseph Divine, History

This committee shall be concerned with all matters which involve the faculty's professional and moral judgements and activities in the University environment.

Strategic Planning Committee; Mark Simmons, Economics & Finance

The Chair-Elect is the chair of this Committee. In addition, the Committee will consist of the Chair, immediate past Chair, and two other members appointed by the Chair of Faculty Senate. This committee shall monitor institutional, state and national faculty issues and trends, set goals parallel to institutional planning, and assess the progress of these goals from a faculty perspective.