

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 137
November 10, 1982

1. Chairman Devine called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting No. 136 were approved with one correction. Please correct the last sentence of the Treasurer's Report to read: "She also noted that \$1,133 remained in the student wage fund."

3. Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Carns reported that as of October 13, 1982, \$3,317 remained in the operational/maintenance/travel fund. However, since then, \$233.55 has been spent on typewriter maintenance, telephone bills, and miscellaneous expenses. A new balance of \$3,083.45 remains in this account. She also reported that \$1,057.62 remained in the student wage fund.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Devine reported that the University administrators do not wish to change the faculty evaluation review period from one to three years, as a Senate resolution had suggested. The administration feels that the shorter review period should not keep a faculty member from bringing his relevant accomplishments to the attention of the University for merit consideration.

The Chairman reported on a workshop of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations, which he attended in Austin in October.

He asked for the advice of the Senate in replying to a letter he had received from Mr. Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner of the Coordinating Board. Mr. Ashworth asked for support for a move to ask the legislature to repeal the law requiring faculty workload reports. The Chairman had also received a letter from TACT defending the requirement. After some discussion, the Senate indicated by a show of hands an inclination to retain the requirement (7 to 4, with 10 abstentions.)

Chairman Devine then reported on recent activities of the Academic Deans Council, principally concerning competency testing for student teachers and the University's Advanced Placement Policies.

4. Old Business:

A. Faculty Handbook Revision:

Senator Richter distributed a brief statement drafted by the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee and approved by the university attorney. He moved that the statement be accepted as a substitute for the contract disclaimer statement presently on the title page of the Handbook.

After some discussion, Senator Morley moved to amend the statement by the addition of a phrase expressing mutual responsibilities between the faculty and the institution. The amendment, then the amended statement, passed 20 to 0, with one abstention.

Senator Morley moved to substitute the words "policies and procedures" for "rules and regulations" in the second paragraph of the title page statement. The motion carried 20 to 0, with one abstention.

Senator Irwin moved to substitute the word "issued" for "approved" in the phrase "approved by the President..." in the same paragraph. This motion carried 18 to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The complete amended statement follows:

This Handbook is a guide to assist faculty in understanding their responsibilities to and their rights and protections within the University and the University community. It does not constitute an employment contract or agreement between the University and any individual.

The policies and procedures within this Handbook are subject to change by appropriate action of the faculty and administration. Such changes become effective on the date they are issued by the President of the University.

B. SGA Proposal for Statue of SFA:

Senator Nall moved that the Senate adopt the following resolution: "Whereas the Student Government Association has proposed honoring Stephen F. Austin, the pioneer for whom our university is named, by the erection of a statue, the Faculty Senate endorses the proposal and pledges its cooperation in helping to raise the necessary money from non-public sources." This resolution passed unanimously.

5. New Business:

A. University Utility Bills:

Chairman Devine explained that a projected overrun of \$500,000 in the University's utilities bills is of great concern to the administration who would welcome any ideas the faculty might have for reducing the problem. He appointed Senators Moore, Moses, and Hallman to serve as an ad hoc committee to study the problem, to collect faculty suggestions, and to recommend possible solutions.

B. Recommendations of Academic Affairs Committee:

1. Final Examination Length:

Senator Nicholson and his committee moved that the officially scheduled final exam periods for all terms, including summer, be the same length. The motion passed 19 to 0, with 2 abstentions.

Senator Whillock moved to require that all final examinations be scheduled for two hours. After some discussion, Senator Nall moved to table this motion. The motion to table passed 13 to 1.

2. Withdrawal from Classes:

Senator Nicholson moved to require a student who withdraws from class be given a grade of W; but, a student may only withdraw from a class within the first half of the course unless he or she is withdrawing from the University.

After some discussion of the recommendation, Senator Carns moved to table the matter until the next Senate meeting. The motion to table passed 19 to 1.

3. Current Policy on Withdrawal from a Course:

Senator Nicholson noted that his committee endorses the current policy regarding students who withdraw from a course because they are withdrawing from the University.

4. Minimum Requirements for Graduating:

Senator Nicholson moved to require that any student who graduates from SFA must satisfy minimum requirements of a 2.0 GPA over all course work taken at SFA and a 2.0 GPA over the courses listed on his official degree plan. After a brief discussion, Senator Carns moved to table this issue until the next meeting. The motion carried.

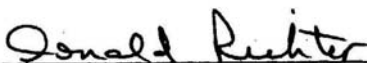
5. Report by Professional Welfare Committee II on Student Evaluations

Senator Nall distributed a report by his committee on student evaluations. Because of the lateness of the hour, consideration of the report was postponed until the next meeting.

6. A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Absences

Senator Quarles - Excused
 Senator Howard - Excused
 Senator Ormsby - Excused


 DONALD RICHTER
 Secretary, 1982-83, Senate