

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting No. 138  
December 8, 1982

1. Chairman Devine called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting No. 137 were approved with no corrections.

3. Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Carns reported that as of the last meeting in November, \$519.10 was spent in expenses in the operational/maintenance/travel fund leaving a total of \$2,564.35 in that account. The balance of the student wage fund is \$962.14 with \$95.48 being spent as of the November meeting.

4. Chairman Devine introduced President William Johnson who reported on a number of topics of interest to the University community. He explained the complexities of faculty salary funding and explained why a percentage increase voted by the legislature in faculty salaries appropriations, such as 6%, would not mean that every member of the faculty received that percentage increase. Among factors affecting salaries are the hiring of new people and the ratio of senior, higher paid professors to junior, lower paid professors. Dr. Johnson mentioned the strong recommendation of the Legislative Budget Board for the funding of faculty development leaves, but he cautioned that pressures on the legislature to budget for non-educational needs of the state may prevent its accepting the LBB's recommendation. Significantly improved funding of Departmental Operating Expenses has also been recommended by the LBB.

Dr. Johnson noted that in the next biennium SFA may become exempt from the refund penalty for off-campus courses if the legislature accepts a recommendation that universities with only limited off-campus courses not be penalized.

Dr. Johnson discussed the employment contract question in relation to the Faculty Handbook. He thought the disclaimer statement as proposed by the Senate's Faculty Governance Committee would be acceptable if a change of one word was made. He announced that he had approved the essence of the changes in admissions standards proposed by the Academic Deans Council and the Faculty Senate, but with one alteration: for the sake of simplicity the requirements for the third and fourth quartiles of high school graduating classes should be the same. (Dr. Johnson did not comment on the Senate's recommendation that entering students admitted on the condition that they pass twelve hours with a "C" in the SFA summer school be required to take nine of those hours from core curriculum.)

Dr. Johnson concluded by reporting that the Long Range Planning Committee (of which the Senate's Chairman and Vice-chairman are members) has two subcommittees studying the Campus Master Plan and the academic organization of the University.

5. Old Business:

A. Recommendations from the Academic Affairs Committee:

1. Length of Final Exams:

Chairman Devine reminded the Senate that the committee recommendation that final exam periods for all terms be scheduled for the same (but unspecified) length of time was passed by the Senate at the November meeting. He noted that Dr. Johnson had already approved this recommendation.

Another motion made at the November meeting which would specify 2-hour final exams, had been laid on the table. A motion to take this issue from the table was not forthcoming; the Senators did not see any need to act on this matter.

2. Policy for Withdrawing from Class:

The Senate considered at some length the Academic Affairs Committee's recommendation to allow no withdrawals from class after mid-term unless a student was withdrawing from SFA, but to allow withdraws with a W up to mid-term.

SGA representatives Leah Poston and Ross Crow commented. Ms. Poston read a resolution of the SGA and gave information on an informal student poll, both of which indicated student opposition to the proposal.

A standing vote on the proposal resulted in an 11 to 11 tie; with all Senators present, including the Chairman, voting. The motion failed.

3. 2.0 GPA Requirements:

After a brief discussion the Senate approved, 13 to 8 with 1 abstention, the Academic Affairs Committee's proposal that graduates be required to have a 2.0 GPA in all courses taken at SFA instead of just a 2.0 in those courses listed on their degree plan.

B. Faculty Handbook:

Senator Richter commented that Dr. Johnson had just approved the Senate's amended version of the controversial title page contract disclaimer essentially as proposed. Work on the Faculty Handbook could now be completed soon.

He then distributed a memo from his Faculty Government and Involvement Committee concerning a proposed policy on university vehicle driver certification. Debate on this topic was postponed to the next meeting.

6. New Business:

Items listed on the agenda under New Business were postponed to future meetings because of the lateness of the hour.

7. A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Absences

Senator Howard - Excused  
Senator Young - Excused

*Don Richter*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DON RICHTER  
SECRETARY, 1982-83, SENATE