

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 140
February 9, 1983

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

The minutes of Meeting No. 139 were approved with no corrections.

3. Officer Reports and Announcements:

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Devine reported on a meeting of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations, which he attended in Austin in late January. This group, representing 17 campuses, will serve the important function of establishing contact between faculty governance bodies and the staff of the Coordinating Board. Chairman Devine reported on workshops on insurance programs and faculty merit policy.

The Council, which is presently an informal body, is about to become a formal organization, membership in which will be a matter to be considered by the Senate later in the meeting under New Business.

Chairman Devine asked Senator Maamary, who has replaced Senator Morley as chairman of the Professional Welfare Committee I, to report on the status of work on Copyright. One recommendation of the committee will be that each department be provided a copy of the book, The New Copyright Law: Questions Teachers & Librarians Ask, published by the National Education Association in 1977.

Senator Maamary also reported on the committee's work on the procedure for evaluation of deans. Dr. Gaston has requested that the committee 1) shorten the instrument, 2) improve its organization, and 3) provide for sliding scale evaluations.

Vice Chairman's Report:

Senator Thornton made a progress report as chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Advising. ~~Senate discussion revealed some faculty support for the assigning of a particular permanent advisor for each student, although the committee does not tend to support this.~~

Treasurer's Report:

O & M/Travel Budgets (1-19-83)	\$2,514.53
Expenditures (no report received)	0.00
Balance	\$2,514.53
Student Wage Budget (1-19-83)	\$ 891.79
Estimated Expenditures	118.25
Estimated Balance	<u>773.54</u>

4. Old Business:

A. Policy on Driving University Vehicles:

This administration-proposed policy was introduced and discussed briefly at the January meeting. The policy would require the following of all University employees to qualify to operate University vehicles:

- 1) approval by the employee's department,
- 2) a valid Texas drivers license,
- 3) a satisfactory driving record as reflected in the files of the Texas Department of Public Safety,
- 4) demonstration of proficiency in the operation of the type of vehicle to be driven, if it is appreciably different from the standard vehicle, and
- 5) satisfactory completion of a Defensive Driving Course (DDC) every 3 years (to be paid for from department funds).

Senator Richter, chairman of the Faculty Government and Involvement Committee, distributed a committee report on this matter and moved that its recommendation be endorsed by the Senate; the motion was seconded. The committee recommendation was in support of the proposed requirements. After some discussion, Senator Nicholson moved (and it was seconded) to amend the recommendation by adding the phrase, or have a valid Texas Chauffeur's License to requirement No. 5. The amendment failed 9 to 6.

Senator Crocker moved to amend the policy by omitting the phrase conducted by the Department of Continuing Education, a phrase appearing on the original administration draft of the DDC requirement, but not in the committee report. This amendment was seconded and passed without opposition.

Senator Price moved to amend the committee report to omit requirement No. 5, the DDC requirement, altogether. This motion was seconded and then failed 12 to 6.

Senator Howard moved to amend the report to remove the words "to be paid for from department funds" from requirement No. 5. This motion was seconded.

Senator Nicholson asked for a "straw vote" to determine how many senators would take the DDC. Eight senators indicated that they would; four would not.

Senator Howard's amendment was then approved 13 to 4.

Senator Schoenewolf moved, and it was seconded, to table the issue until the next meeting. The vote was a tie, 8 to 8; the motion to table therefore failed.

A vote on the amended report then followed. The recommendation to endorse the proposed Motor Vehicle Policy failed 9 to 7.

5. New Business:

A. Council of Faculty Governance Organizations:

Consideration of whether to join this newly formalized organization was postponed to a later meeting.

B. Academic Standards:

1. Board of Regents decision on admissions standards:

In order to express the disappointment of the Senate in the Regents' rejection of the proposed raising of entrance standards, Senator Schoenewolf introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ASKING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO RECONSIDER RAISING THE SAT/ACT SCORE REQUIRED OF ENTERING STUDENTS IN THE LOWER HALF OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES FROM 800/18 TO 900/20.

RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate ask the administration to request the Board of Regents to reconsider, for the following reasons, its recent decision not to raise the ACT or SAT scores required of entering students ranked in the second half of their high school graduating class: 1) SFA lacks the capacity to enroll all applicants; therefore, since some must be denied admission, the university should admit the most qualified. 2) A higher minimum standard would enhance SFA's academic reputation and attract better students; not to join the state-wide trend to raise admission's standards will harm SFA's reputation. 3) The increase in standards recommended by the Faculty Senate, the Academic Deans Council and the Student Government Association would deny admission to only a small number of students, and those who are denied admission are unlikely to succeed at SFA. 4) The few applicants who are qualified for college work despite low SAT/ACT scores can prove their qualifications by passing twelve hours with a "C" in the SFA summer school. Requiring a higher SAT or ACT score would not affect this "safety valve" for the exceptional applicant.

After some discussion, the resolution passed 14 to 2.

2. Admissions Standards Exemptions:

Senator Nicholson, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, read a committee report, for the information of the Senate, which detailed methods students can use to enter SFA which bypass admission standards compliance.

3. Policies on Transferring:

Senator Nicholson discussed the present method of transferring credits from other institutions and its potential for abuse.

The committee asked for guidance on whether or not to continue studying these issues. The sense of the Senate was in favor of continuation.

6. A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Absences

Senator Hallman - Excused
Senator Holt - Excused
Senator Morley - Excused
Senator Ormsby -
Senator Quarles - Excused
Senator Whillock - Excused

Don Richter

Don Richter
Secretary, 1982-83, Senate