

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting No. 151  
March 21, 1984

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

2. Announcements:

- A. President Johnson has acknowledged receipt of the Faculty Senate report regarding the policy of withdrawal from class. This has been referred to the Deans Council.
- B. The University Retirement Committee is sponsoring a seminar to discuss Social Security and retirement.
- C. Dates for pre-registration for summer and fall classes are set for April 9-13, 1984. Pre-registration will be held in the Coliseum from noon to 6:00 p.m. daily. Tentative dates for pre-registration for Spring, 1985, are October 22-26, 1984.
- D. Other dates of note include a Board of Regents meeting on April 16-17 and presentations by the Regents Professors on April 9, at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. A brief ceremony in recognition of the addition of the 1,000,000th item to the Steen Library will follow these presentations.
- E. The Nominating Committee composed of all third year Senators is scheduled to meet on March 28.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting No. 150 were approved with no corrections.

4. Officer Reports:

Chairman's Report:

The Deans Council is now studying recommendations on minimal course requirements; part-time faculty; addition of courses in English, Math and Music; late registration for courses beginning at mid-semester; and Regents Professorships.

Secretary's Report:

Senator Rayborn reminded the Senators of up-coming Senate elections and asked for encouragement of Faculty participation.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance for O & M and Travel (3-21-84)	\$1,952.96
Student Wage	318.25

5. New Business:

- A. Professional Welfare Committee I. Senator Stephens, Chairman, reviewed the policy statement adopted by the Deans Council concerning procedural guarantees relating to termination and non-renewal of contracts.

Pending action by the Board of Regents, the faculty member may be suspended or assigned to other duties if he/she (1) poses a continuing danger to persons or property; (2) presents an ongoing threat of disrupting the University; (3) endangers the education of students; (4) has been convicted by a trial court of any felony or a crime of moral turpitude.

She then introduced Mr. Provan, General Council, who was invited to address the rationale for the proposed change. Mr. Provan explained that he drafted the proposed revision to resolve a discrepancy between the Faculty Handbook and the Regents' Rules. The proposal reflects careful study of legal decisions and is intended to protect the public and the profession. Mr. Provan's remarks suggested that recent University experiences indicated a need for more specific statements regarding termination and non-renewal of contracts. Several Senators expressed concern about the vagueness of provision 2. In response to that concern, Mr. Provan volunteered to share these reactions with President Johnson with the anticipation of possible changes in wording.

- B. Administration and Finance. Senator Smith, Chairman, introduced Dr. Gaston who had been invited to discuss budgetary matters. Dr. Gaston reviewed SFA budgets for 1983-84 and 1984-85 along with legislative riders pertaining to appropriations. Information was also distributed regarding merit pay for 1983-84. Dr. Gaston then addressed questions that had been submitted.
- C. Faculty Governance and Involvement. Senator Saunders, Chairman, presented the following recommendation from the committee:

The Faculty Governance and Involvement Committee hereby amends its final recommendation concerning Faculty Senate Reapportionment, due to the transfer of the Department of Communications from the School of Fine Arts to the School of Applied Arts and Sciences, as follows:

- (1) That the Schools of Applied Arts and Sciences, Education, Forestry, Liberal Arts, and Sciences and Mathematics retain their present representation;
- (2) That the School of Business be allocated four seats, a gain of one;
- (3) That the School of Fine Arts be allocated two seats, a loss of one.

Motion to accept the recommendation was made by Senator Arscott, seconded by Senator Mace and passed with no opposition.

- D. Basic Skills. Senator Dahmus, Chairman, submitted the following recommendation for implementation of competency testing approved at the February Senate meeting:

Every baccalaureate candidate from SFA must pass a standardized writing and mathematics competency test administered respectively by the Departments of English and Mathematics.

These two departments will develop standardized grading systems and grievance procedures. Students who fail competency tests may have recourse to the Academic Assistance Center or the appropriate English or Mathematics courses.

Students must take these competency tests after the completion of freshman level English and Mathematics courses. Transfer students must take these tests at the first testing period after enrolling at SFA. Competency tests will be scheduled at least once a year.

Questions regarding the development of the test, the appropriateness of requiring teacher education students to take two tests of basic skills, and identification of the expected level of competence were addressed to the committee.

Senator Arcsott moved that the recommendation be accepted. The motion was seconded by Senator Saunders and passed.

- E. Professional Welfare I - Merit Pay Procedures. Senator Stephens, Chairman, distributed copies of the report of that committee. Chairman Young accepted the report for consideration at the April meeting. The report identifies three recommendations relative to current merit pay procedures.

1. Each faculty member should be reviewed for departmental merit every year. Those receiving merit at the departmental level would be reviewed for merit at the school level and those receiving school merit would be reviewed at the university level. (This process is not exclusive.)
2. The peer review panel process be specified to (a) include an initial panel meeting to discuss criteria for evaluation and (b) allow group ranking by levels of performance rather than individual rank-ordering.
3. The committee reaffirms the present procedure of awarding merit on a monetary basis rather than a percentage of salary basis.

- F. Academic Affairs. Senator Price, Chairman, presented the proposal of that committee on computation of GPA and qualifications for graduation honors. These recommendations are:

1. That GPA be computed on the basis of all courses taken at SFASU for which a final course grade is recorded.
2. That to be eligible for graduation honors, no less than half of the total hours recorded on the SFASU transcript be earned at SFASU.

Chairman Young accepted the report for consideration in April.

- G. Professional Welfare II. Senator Whillock, Chairman, distributed copies of the report of that committee concerning student evaluation of Faculty. Because of the interest in this report, Senator Whillock proposed a time-line that allows Senators to share the report and solicit feedback from colleagues for the April meeting, followed by a report for action at the May meeting. Chairman Young accepted the report and the proposed time-line.
- H. Student Government Association(SGA)Resolution. SGA representative, Terry Spies, distributed copies of a recently approved SGA resolution affirming student interest in an evaluation of Faculty by students.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Absences

Senator Speer (excused)  
Senator Ormsby  
Senator Reeves

  
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Kay Rayborn  
SECRETARY, 1983-84, SENATE