

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting #166
November 13, 1985

1. Chairman Speer called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

2. Announcements

- a. Senator Speer announced that the extra-constitutional meeting scheduled for December has been cancelled. This was a meeting scheduled in case it was needed and the Executive Committee has decided that, at present, it is not necessary. Events between now and the February meeting could dictate a called meeting. Unscheduled meetings can be called by the Chairman or by any five members of the Senate.
- b. It was announced that the Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Clipson, will be monitoring the budgetary situation now being experienced by the University.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of Meeting #165 were approved with the following corrections and additions:

- a. To correctly note that it is not the University, but rather the Faculty Senate of Texas A & M University, that has filed a suit pertaining to sick leave.
- b. To add the University of Houston to the list of universities that use the plus and minus grading system.

4. Officer Reports

a. Senator Graves reported the following as of October 31, 1985:

Payroll	1,050.07
O & M	2,487.70
Travel	375.00

b. The Chairman's report was deferred until other matters were considered.

5. Old Business:

Senator Shows, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported his committee's work concerning possible changes in the grade reporting policy. After contacting the University of Houston, it was determined that their plus and minus policy was initiated by the Undergraduate Council. Students showed no initial concern but some questions did arise following issuance of grades under the new policy. For the past five years the report system has gone smoothly and there has been no thought of repealing it.

The Committee, with the positive straw poll taken at the October Senate meeting in mind, has decided to continue to pursue the matter. A questionnaire, with an explanatory letter drafted by Senator Carr, will be sent to the general faculty. The week of December 2-6 has been targeted for the distribution of the instrument.

Senator Ballenger asked what advantages for the system were cited by the University of Houston. Senator Shows mentioned the finer discrimination possible under the system and that Houston reported most grade point averages did not change significantly.

Senator Clipson suggested the questionnaire should be sent to Student Government Association leaders. Senator Shows concurred with the idea.

Mr. Brian Barrilleaux, SGA representative, reported the University of Texas at Austin attempted to implement this system three times without success. He thought it would be good to poll the students and felt the SGA could do the polling.

Senator Clipson suggested the same polling instrument be used for faculty and students.

Senator Carr asked how students would distribute the instrument. Mr. Barrilleaux mentioned a previous poll conducted outside the University Center.

Senator Dean pointed out that the results of that poll would likely be different if the data had been collected outside the library.

Senator DiNucci moved that the University faculty be polled and that the University students be polled with the same instrument and the students contact the Vice President for Academic Affairs for permission to conduct a random sampling of students based on the number of students who are attending this University. Senator Dean seconded the motion which passed without opposition.

It was pointed out that the SGA, in consultation with Dean Porter, would poll the students. The Academic Affairs Committee will work with the SGA.

The Chairman noted the large number of students present and welcomed them, and asked for their comments or suggestions.

Senator Ballenger asked why U.T. Austin rejected the plus-minus policy. The response given was in relation to top students and student entry into professional schools.

Senator Russell commented that admissions officers look at the transcript, not just at grade point averages.

Mr. Barrilleaux mentioned the necessity of having a 2.0 GPA before enrolling for advanced courses and the possible negative effect plus and minus grades might have.

It was noted that a Coordinating Board regulation requires re-calculation of grade point averages to eliminate pluses and minuses for entry into professional schools regulated by the Board.

6. New Business:

- a. Senator Shows, reporting for the Academic Affairs Committee, announced the committee plans to poll faculty members who have taught five-week summer sessions in an attempt to determine specific problems that might have been encountered. The questionnaire is due to be sent in January.
- b. A written report from the Professional Welfare I Committee concerning faculty evaluation was circulated. Since Committee Chairperson Mace was out of town, the topic was tabled until the February meeting.
- c. Senator Wright, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, reported possible inequities in the makeup of the Grievance Panel. This situation is the result of additions recently made to the School of Applied Arts and Sciences.

Senator Wright moved that Section 4a, pages VII-14 and VII-15 of the Faculty Handbook be amended to read:

- 4a. The University Grievance Panel will be composed of twenty-four tenured faculty members, three each from the library and each academic school (exclusive of the Graduate School).

Senator Ballenger asked if an even number of members would create problems. It was explained that the Panel is actually a pool from which seven members are chosen to hear a grievance.

The motion, which was seconded by Senator Howard, was approved without opposition.

The Secretary was directed to report this action to President Johnson.

- d. Senator Eastman, Chairman of the Professional Welfare II Committee, was absent due to a legal responsibility. His report was deferred.

7. Officer Reports, continued:

Chairman Speer reported his monthly meeting with President Johnson. Most of what was discussed was reported at the general faculty meeting November 11. The budget problem arose, partially, because representatives of the Legislative Budget Board increased enrollment and revenue estimates made locally. These were not changed even when local officials objected.

A 30 million dollar contingency fund was requested but a 6 million dollar fund was established. A fund of 30 million would have met most of the needs state-wide.

President Johnson said there was no issue of declaring exigency at this time and that he would use all resources at his disposal to prevent that from ever happening. In the unlikely event exigency ever became a necessity, the President said he would consult with the Senate as early as possible.

It was further noted that a partial hiring freeze is likely but it will be administered rationally. Necessary expense reductions will be prorated across campus.

At the last Dean's Council meeting, Vice President Gaston informed Deans how much they would have to reduce their budget. The Deans were given latitude in finding money to make up the deficit.

A discussion between Senators and Dr. Brophy and Dean Reese brought out the following points:

- a. No faculty member received a salary increase less than 3% this year. It was not known if pay raises for next year have been mandated or if the money allocated could be used to ease the budgetary shortfall.
- b. It has not been determined if there will be merit next year or pay raises accompanying promotion. It was mentioned that merit recommendations would be "banked" if merit is not awarded for accomplishment during academic year 1984-1985.
- c. A reduction of only 2% in enrollment created a 22% short fall because the reduction in enrollment was primarily foreign and out-of-state students. That revenue was lost plus the interest those funds would have generated.
- d. Next summer is a base summer and every attempt will be made to have as productive a summer as possible.
- e. Changes in the operation of food services contributed little to the financial shortfall.
- f. Some services across the campus, as well as athletics, will not have their budgets cut.

Chairman Speer mentioned that the Attorney General has not ruled on the constitutionality of eliminating sick leave. He also noted the Administration and Finance Committee will be monitoring the financial situation and events could lead to a called meeting of the Senate.

8. New Business:

- a. Senator Eastman arrived at the Senate meeting and reported for the Professional Welfare II Committee. He mentioned four items

of business.

- (1) Senator Todd has agreed to look at available material relative to the faculty exchange program.
 - (2) A resolution will be drafted pertaining to the faculty's role in relaying messages to students concerning tuition payment delinquencies.
 - (3) The Committee discussed the situation where faculty members earn royalties from the sale of materials to students in their classes.
 - (4) A proposal will be made to amend the Senate by-laws to create a committee on professional and ethical responsibilities. The Professional Welfare II Committee is an ad hoc committee which functions at the discretion of the Chairman of the Senate.
- b. Senator Howard, representing the Faculty Government Committee, presented a report relative to parking violation fees and the enforcement of parking regulations. The report was tabled until the February meeting.

Senator Ballenger asked if the University had considered barring freshman from bringing cars to the campus and if consideration had been given to establishing a separate place for commuters to park.

9. The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Absences:

Senator Arscott
Senator McCune (excused)
Senator Mace (excused)

Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Jim Reese
Dr. Robert Sidnell

Visitors:

Dr. Bill Brophy
Dr. Connie Spreadbury
Mr. Charles Gardner
Mr. Brian Barrilleaux
Ms. Bonnie Casebeer
Mr. Jay Coppock
Ms. Robin Face
Ms. Theresa Hawkins
Mr. Carl Johnson
Mr. Randy Johnson
Mr. Mitch Lee
Mr. Jeff Tant
Ms. Elise Winslow



Frank Smith
SECRETARY, 1985-86, FACULTY SENATE

FACULTY SENATE
Stephen F. Austin State University

November 13, 1985

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Professional Welfare Committee I

SUBJECT: Recommendations, VPAA Policy Statement draft of procedures for the student evaluation of faculty teaching.

We have reviewed the draft of VPAA Policy Statement #36 (copy attached) and find that it conforms to the Senate's recommendations on policies and procedures for the student evaluation of faculty teaching. We suggest, however, that some points in the procedure need further clarification:

1. Item #6 on the policy draft implies that quantifiable data collected from the classrooms is forwarded to the Computer Center, that the Center prepares computerized summaries of the data, and that these summaries, along with the raw data, are returned to the department chair for his or her use in preparing written summaries of results. We suggest that these steps be made explicit.
2. Item #7 states that all evaluation data (which we assume includes computer summaries, raw data forms, and written statements) "shall be retained by the departmental/divisional Chairman/Director." Since the accumulation of such data may eventually create a storage problem, we suggest that Dr. Gaston consider setting a "sunset date" for the retention of evaluation forms after which all data is returned to the faculty member to dispose of as he/she wishes.

In addition to these clarifications, we further recommend that

3. the policy state that quantifiable data will be recorded and stored on computer tape to be used as the basis for periodic studies of the validity of the evaluation instrument, and that the results of such studies be published and forwarded to all faculty and administrators;
4. that one of the members of the advisory be qualified as a statistical analyst and/or psychometrist;
5. that sufficient funds be allocated to the advisory committee to pay for clerical help and office supplies so that it can conduct its business efficiently.