

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Meeting #167
February 12, 1986

1. Chairman Speer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. The Chairman presented President Johnson who reported on several topics.

Dr. Johnson discussed Attorney General Mattox's ruling concerning faculty sick leave. He mentioned that the decision does not prevent a faculty member from being absent from work because of illness and to continue receiving his/her salary. He further mentioned that the next session of the state legislature could act on this issue.

Concerning the budget, Dr. Johnson reported an anticipated short-fall of 1.85 million dollars for academic year 1986-1987. It is the intention of the administration to recommend to the Board of Regents at the April meeting a plan to meet the anticipated short-fall. Included would be a continuation of cuts made for 1985-1986, but no additional cuts for instructional departments would be recommended. By making cuts in other areas and through the judicious use of Proposition II money, the deficit can be met. This can be done and still maintain the 3% pay hike budgeted for 1986-1987 and also permit merit to be awarded. Funding for summer school, as well as the fund for teaching assistants, may be reduced.

The President mentioned the planned renovation of the Rusk Building is still proceeding and that the awarding of a contract for the work is expected in July or October.

Dr. Johnson commented briefly on recent newspaper reports pertaining to appropriations per full-time equivalent students. He stated that these figures are often misleading because no two colleges or universities offer exactly the same programs.

3. Announcements

- a. Senator Speer commented on the loss of Dean Sidnell. He mentioned this was the first meeting of the Senate since the death of Dr. Sidnell, who was an ex-officio member.
- b. The retirement of Dr. Edwin Gaston, also an ex-officio member of the Senate, was noted.
- c. The retirement of Dr. John Austin and his resignation from the Senate was announced. The Secretary was directed to write a letter of appreciation to Dr. Austin for his devoted service to this, as well as the very first Senate.

- d. The Chairman called attention to a February 14, 1986 deadline for sending material to the VPAA search committee.

4. Officer Reports and COFGO Report

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

Payroll	\$ 924.44
O & M	2,051.42
	139.61
	\$3,115.47

- b. Chairman Speer reported Dr. Johnson has approved the Senate's recommendation concerning the Grievance Panel. If accepted by the Board of Regents, the panel will be comprised of twenty-four tenured faculty members, three each from the Library and each academic school (exclusive of the Graduate School).

President Johnson has asked for additional data relating to the recommendation that tuition for faculty members taking University courses be waived. Senator Speer provided the President with a figure of \$5,000 as an approximate cost per semester. No action has been taken on this issue.

As a point of clarification, Dr. Speer mentioned that the University is making a profit of about one million dollars a year on food services.

Finally, it was noted that the Board of Regents recently approved an increase in parking violation fees which made mute an agenda item for meeting #167.

- c. Senator Mace reported on her participation at the recently held COFGO meeting. She distributed a summary of the Attorney General's decision concerning sick leave. The summary is as follows:

"Restrictive language relating to faculty sick leave in Article V, section 8c, of the general Appropriations Act passed by the Sixty-ninth legislature does not conflict with general statutory law and does not violate equal protection or impairment of contract clauses of the Texas and United States Constitutions. This language, however, does not prohibit absences due to illness without a decrease in pay. A faculty member's sick leave that accrued prior to September 1, 1985, remains to his credit and may be used if he is an employee eligible to accrue and use sick leave."

Dr. Mace also reported on the agenda for the Select Committee on Higher Education and the schedule of meetings

the Committee has established. The Committee will meet on March 13, 1986, at Tyler Junior College and all faculty members are urged to attend.

At the COFGO meeting, Senator Mace was chosen president-elect for the organization.

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of meeting #166 were approved as distributed.

6. Old Business

- a. A progress report by the Academic Affairs Committee concerning a proposed change in grading procedures was tabled.
- b. The recommendations proposed by the Professional Welfare I Committee were discussed briefly. Senator Mace moved, and Senator DiNucci seconded, the acceptance of the report. Motion passed. The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of the recommendation (which is attached to the minutes) to President Johnson.
- c. A progress report concerning the faculty exchange program was tabled.
- d. A written progress report pertaining to faculty involvement in the collection of student fees was presented and the issue was tabled until the March meeting.
- e. A written progress report concerning earning royalties was presented without discussion and the topic was tabled until the March meeting.
- f. The Professional Welfare II Committee presented the following:
 1. It is proposed that the Faculty Senate Standing Rules be revised such that the second paragraph of the section on Committees be changed to read--

Standing committees of the Faculty Senate shall be: Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Elections, Faculty Government and Involvement, Nominating, Professional Welfare, and Professional Ethics and Responsibilities.
 2. It is proposed that Paragraph F of the section on Responsibility and Purpose of Committees be revised such that the references to "academic freedom" and "evaluation of faculty" be deleted and referred to the following.

3. It is proposed that Paragraph G of the Responsibility and Purpose of Committees section be added, creating the standing committee noted above, and changing it as follows--

This committee shall be concerned with the Senate's positions on such issues as teaching practices, testing and assessment practices, research ethics, evaluation of faculty, professional accountability, and other professional and ethical issues which lie within the domain protected by academic freedom.

Senator Eastman moved, and Senator Clipson seconded, the acceptance of the report. Motion carried. According to rule, this proposal must be accepted by two-thirds of the Senate to become part of the Standing Rules. The issue will be brought to a vote at the March meeting.

7. New Business

- a. Senator Arscott reported a meeting with SGA members concerning the final examination schedule and class dismissal policy. The SGA has proposed a final examination schedule which would begin on a Wednesday, bridge the weekend, and conclude on Tuesday. Additionally, the SGA has suggested a policy whereby students are dismissed from class, without penalty, when the professor is not present. A discussion of these issues, including the results of surveys conducted by the SGA, was held. With this input, the issue was assigned to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- b. Senator Ballenger expressed concerns relating to the academic consequences resulting from the late registration policy. A brief discussion followed which indicated sufficient interest and concern is present relevant to this issue. It was referred to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- c. A concern relative to building maintenance was expressed. The sentiment was that this is not a topic for the senate at this time but rather one that might better be resolved by individual schools.
- d. Senator Ballenger distributed a chart revealing the appropriations per full-time student equivalent at state colleges and universities. President Johnson's remarks at the beginning of the meeting clarified most questions relevant to the issue.
- e. Senator Ballenger discussed the questionable decorum at commencement exercises. As a result of a short discussion, the Senate agreed this is a topic worthy of study. The prevailing sentiment was that the coliseum does not lend itself to a solemn ceremony. The Faculty Government

Committee was asked to consider the issue including the possibility of a separation, or partial separation, of commencement exercises by schools.

- f. Senator Dahmus questioned the time-lag now required in awarding University research grants. The time-lag is necessary in order that grants may be awarded for each semester, not just summer. In actuality, few, if any, grants are awarded for a semester other than summer. Input by senators and Dr. Vicent indicated sufficient interest in the topic and it was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee.
- g. Senator Thompson nominated Dr. Douglas Prewitt to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Dr. John Austin. Senator Arscott moved, and Senator Eastman seconded, that Dr. Prewitt be elected by acclamation. Motion carried. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to Dr. Prewitt announcing his election.
- h. It was the desire of the entire Senate that appreciation be expressed to Mr. Cage, and the search committee, for the series of receptions scheduled for the candidates for VPAA. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to Mr. Cage.

8. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Absences:


Dr. James Howard
Dr. Andrew Parr

Ex Officio Members:

President William Johnson
Dr. Bill Brophy
Dr. James Reese
Dr. James Standley

Visitors:

Mr. Brian Barrilleaux
Ms. Sheryl Gribble
Dr. Jerry Vincent
Dr. Connie Spreadbury



Frank Smith
SECRETARY, 1985-86, FACULTY SENATE