

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting #168  
March 12, 1986

1. Chairman Speer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. The Chairman presented Dr. Nancy Speck, Director of Development. She distributed a packet of materials which reflect the many facets of the Office of Development. She mentioned the invaluable aid she has received from Mr. Bob Sitton and the Alumni Association in locating ex-students and friends of the University.

Dr. Speck noted the major function of the Office of Development is to raise funds. These funds fall into two categories: discretionary and designated. Discretionary funds have been used for travel; special projects, equipment, etc. Drs. Abernethy and McDonald, who are lecturing in Australia this summer, will have part of their expenses defrayed by discretionary funds.

One of her major goals, Dr. Speck said, is to solicit major donations to endow chairs, support events such as the Wedgeworth and Burr Lectures, and to add a monetary award to the Regents Professors.

In closing, Dr. Speck suggested the public is beginning to recognize the needs and deficiencies of colleges and universities. The current budgetary shortfall is helping educate the public concerning this fact.

3. Dr. Timothy Clipson, chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee, presented Dr. David Jeffrey, Acting Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Jeffrey spoke to the problem associated with the time lag experienced in awarding University research grants. He said this is a reoccurring problem. The process from the time proposals are presented until the grants are awarded was outlined.

Under the present policy, it is necessary to apply for a grant in December that ultimately will be awarded for the fall, spring, or summer of the next academic year. It is possible, Dr. Jeffrey noted, to get released time for a fall or spring semester. He also mentioned that grants do not effect summer employment but summer grants generally do not give stipends equal to salary. Additionally, he said having a research grant for summer does not preclude teaching one semester.

In closing, Dr. Jeffrey said department chairpersons are eligible for grants but can receive a stipend only if they are on less than a twelve month contract. He suggested spreading the research money among several grants might discourage

significant research. Money generated by the Office of Development could be used for research, he noted.

4. Announcements:

- a. Chairman Speer announced the resignation of Senator Paul Kellerhals effective the end of this semester. Lt. Col. Kellerhals is being transferred to Korea and the next Senate will name his successor.
- b. The Chairman also reported a nominating committee, composed of all third year senators, is working on a slate of nominees to be presented at the April meeting.
- c. The March 13 meeting of the Select Committee on Higher Education was mentioned.

5. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of meeting #167 were approved with the following corrections and deletion:

- a. The word "mute" was correctly changed to "moot" in the last sentence of 4b.
- b. The word "issues", which was incorrectly spelled in the last sentence of 6F3, was corrected.
- c. The third sentence of 7f., which mentioned few research grants are awarded for any semester other than the summer, was deleted.

6. Officer Reports:

- a. Senator Graves reported the following as of January 31, 1986:

Student Assistant Account	\$ 924.44
O & M	2013.37
Travel	139.61
	<u>\$3077.42</u>

- b. Chairman Speer reported the Board of Regents approved a 6.7% reduction in the budget as presented by Dr. Johnson. To achieve the reduction, there will be a hiring freeze, some cuts in call faculty, some reductions in maintenance, some administrative cuts, and renovations performed by University personnel. No further reduction in personnel is expected and no further cuts in the summer budget are anticipated.

Dr. Speer reported on his monthly meeting with President Johnson. The President is optimistic there will be no

further budget cuts. He does not expect to hear from Governor White concerning the proposal approved by the Board of Regents. Dr. Johnson plans to call a general faculty meeting soon and a new Dean for the School of Liberal Arts should be named soon. Dr. Johnson said consideration would be given to "banking" merit until the next biennium.

- c. The Chairman welcomed Senator Prewitt to his first Senate meeting since his election to replace Dr. John Austin.

7. Old Business:

- a. Senator Eastman, chairman of the Professional Welfare II Committee, moved final approval of the proposal submitted at meeting #167. A copy of the proposal, which establishes a new committee on professional ethics and responsibilities, is attached to the minutes. Motion carried. The Secretary was directed to send a copy of the proposal to President Johnson.

- b. Senator Eastman presented the following position statement and moved its acceptance:

The Faculty Senate would strongly suggest that an item be included in the questionnaire for student evaluation of faculty to provide the student with an opportunity to address the issue of the relevance to the course in question of the text or other material which the student was required to purchase.

On the occasion that a significant number of students indicate that the material they were required to purchase was not relevant to the course, the Senate would strongly encourage the Department Head in question to address the issue.

Senator Mace seconded the motion. A discussion followed centering on the purpose of the statement, whether students are qualified to evaluate materials, and the suggestion that department chairpersons could monitor this. The motion to approve was defeated, 7 votes for and 11 against.

- c. Senator Eastman presented the following position statement and moved its acceptance:

Whereas the Faculty recognizes that having a billing option available to students for the payment of tuition and fees on an installment basis may be in the students' interests;

And, whereas the Faculty recognizes its need to support the administration in a cooperative effort;

The Faculty Senate would recommend that such support, in the form of passing out billing notices, be limited solely to the classroom as mutual convenience permits; that faculty not be involved in tracing students to deliver the notices; that the faculty member be under no obligation to make up classwork, including examinations, missed due to nonpayment of tuition and fees; and that students who elect to employ the installment plan be required to secure an SFA Station post office box for the purpose of such delivery of notices.

Senator Reeves seconded the motion which was approved without opposition.

- d. Senator Eastman presented the following recommendation and moved its approval:

The committee recommends, for the reasons given in Dr. Todd's report, that the Senate forego participation in the National Faculty Exchange program.

Senator Todd reported that only 27 exchanges were made last year and that no SFA faculty member had requested an exchange. Texas law concerning the payment of salary makes exchanges difficult. The motion passed without opposition.

- e. Senator Shows, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported on the proposed change in grade reporting to reflect plus and minus grades. A questionnaire sent to faculty and students indicated opposition to the change. No action was taken on the proposal.
- f. Senator Shows reported on the proposed change in the final examination schedule. The committee was concerned that a change in the schedule might create more problems than it would solve. Senator Shows moved, and Senator Mace seconded, that the present schedule be maintained and that the procedure of rotating the class periods so that popular class periods would not always fall on Thursday and Friday be continued. The motion was approved without opposition.
- g. Senator Shows presented the following recommendation and moved its acceptance:

The committee recommends that the length of time a student needs to wait for a class which does not start on time be uniform for all classes and be equal to 15 minutes for a regular length class, and 30 minutes for a class which meets only once per week.

Senator DiNucci seconded. It was agreed that labs would be treated as a class. The motion was accepted without opposition.

- h. Senator Reeves, chairman of the Faculty Government Committee, distributed a questionnaire to be used to collect data concerning commencement exercises. Senators will administer the instrument to advanced classes and return them to the committee.
8. Unscheduled Items:
- a. The Senate extended congratulations to Dean Reese upon his appointment as Vice President for Academic Affairs.
  - b. Dr. Reese acknowledged the Senate's expression. He also announced the Wedgeworth Lecture scheduled for April 9. Historian A.C. Green will deliver the address.
9. Adjournment:
- The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

<u>Absences:</u>	<u>Ex Officio Members:</u>
Senator Ballenger (excused)	Dr. James Reese
Senator Carr	Dr. James Standley

Visitors:  
Mr. Terry Carter  
Dr. David Jeffrey  
Dr. Allen Richman  
Dr. Connie Spreadbury

  
-----  
Frank Smith  
Secretary, 1985-86 Faculty Senate