

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting #172  
September 12, 1986

1. Chairman Eastman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:  
The minutes of meetings #170 and #171 were approved as distributed.
3. Officer Reports:
  - a. Senator Ballenger reported the following as of July 31, 1986:  
Balance in

Student Assistant Account	\$ 565.97
O & M	1,043.89
Travel	(24.53)
	<u>\$1,585.33</u>
  - b. Chairman Eastman reported from his attendance at the Dean's Council. The following announcements were from that meeting.
    - (1) The new telephone system is operational and the prefix change from 562 to 568 will take place September 19. Temporarily, 569 will remain operational for the University number and a recording will give the caller the new prefix.
    - (2) University professors under the Texas Retirement system are not affected by the legislature's recent enactment regarding retirement incentives.
    - (3) Fall enrollment figures are down slightly from this time last year, but the final count is expected to show only a slight decline overall.
    - (4) University policy on dropping a course without withdrawing is currently being adjusted to include P.E. courses that begin at mid-term.
    - (5) According to Dr. Jerry Vincent, there are some Research Funds still available for mini-grants. Deadline for applying is October 1, 1986.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Major Randall Fain, Military Science, was elected by ballot to fill the one-year unexpired term of Lt. Col. Paul Kellerhals.
  - b. Introduction of Senators.

5. New Business:

- a. Standing committee assignments were made.
- b. Regular meeting dates of the Faculty Senate were emphasized.

6. Unscheduled Items:

- a. Senator Howard moved that SFA retain its membership in COFGO. The motion was seconded by Senator Devine and passed without any opposition.
- b. Senator Joe Devine volunteered to serve as the Faculty Senate representative from SFA to COFGO. He was elected by acclamation.
- c. Dr. Hebe Mace, state president of the Council of Faculty Governance Organizations, briefly explained that group's function and responsibilities. Two recent articles from The Chronicle of Higher Education were distributed. They both related to the recent action of the Texas Senate regarding a financial exigency bill passed during the first special session. The articles described the detrimental effect this bill would have on Universities and faculty members state wide should it become law. Currently, the bill is in committee. Senators were encouraged to share this information with their colleagues and all faculty urged to convey their feelings to state legislators.
- d. After discussion, Senator Evans moved that the Faculty Senate establish a position statement regarding legislation declaring a state of financial exigency for state agencies and colleges.

The motion was seconded and approved without opposition.

After considerable discussion as to the necessity for expediency of addressing this most critical issue, Senator Graves proposed an amendment to that motion that the Professional Welfare Committee draft a position paper for the Faculty Senate that would be presented to the Executive Committee through the office of Chairman Eastman. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, the statement would immediately be mailed to key people in the state legislature.

The motion was seconded by Senator Howard and passed with no opposition.

- e. Senator McCune moved that the Senate canvas the insurance committee to see if they have looked into the possibility of dental insurance and to report their findings.

Senator Dean seconded the motion.

Senator Voigtel moved to amend that motion to include a summation statement from the insurance committee on all the different possible modifications of our last year's policy that were considered by the insurance committee before they recommended the continuation of the same policy, basically, for this year.

Senator DiNucci seconded. Senator Devine asked if the motion, as it was stated, would address the reason why Blue Cross requires permission for someone to be admitted to the hospital if it is not an emergency. Senator Voigtel answered in the affirmative.

The motion passed with no opposition and the Professional Welfare Committee was charged with this responsibility.

- f. Senator McCune, speaking for his colleagues, expressed their desire for a policy regarding smoking. He explained the need for designated smoking and non-smoking areas.

Senator DiNucci expressed concern and dismay over the lack of student and faculty discipline during registration that left the HPE complex extremely dirty.

Senator DiNucci then moved that the Senate, in conjunction with student government input, adopt a campus-wide smoking policy. Senator Dean seconded and the motion passed with no opposition.

Faculty Government and Involvement Committee was charged with this responsibility.

- g. Senator Devine moved to ask a committee to propose contingency plans for the summer school if we are reduced to just one session.

Senator Howard seconded and the motion passed with no opposition. Chairman Eastman charged the Academic Affairs Committee with this responsibility.

- h. Senator McCune questioned the legality of the legislature's rescinding the 3% anticipated salary increase if the signed contract stipulated that raise.

Senator Thornton acknowledged that he had been questioned by faculty members as to why some people had received raises and others had not.

Several Senators expressed concern over the low morale of all faculty members and that more dialogue between administration and faculty would certainly be beneficial, especially in curtailing rumors.

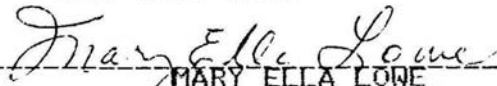
The Senate was in agreement that an invitation be extended to Mr. Robert Provan to come before the Senate and answer some of the legal questions that faculty have. In the interest of time, Senators were asked to submit these questions to the Chairman, who would be responsible for delivering them to Mr. Provan in advance of his visit.

7. Dr. Reese spoke briefly to the problem of morale. He acknowledged the stressful conditions under which faculty are functioning. He also conveyed his sympathy, and that of President Johnson, for the present state of affairs. He also stated that Dr. Johnson did expect action from the Legislature. Vice-President Reese conveyed regrets from President Johnson that he could not address the Senate at the first meeting as scheduled due to urgent matters demanding his attention in Austin. He does have a standing invitation to address the Senate at any time.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Excused Absences:  
Senator Bilan  
Senator McMillan  
Senator Thompson

Ex Officio Members:  
Dr. Jim Reese  
Dr. James Standley

Visitor:  
Dr. Rebe Mace



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MARY ELLA LOWE  
Secretary, 1986-87 Faculty Senate