

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Meeting No. 214
September 11, 1991**

1. Chairperson F. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in Regents Suite A of the University Center. Chairperson F. Smith dispensed with the usual order of business and turned the meeting over to President Bowen.

2. President Bowen's Remarks:

- * President Bowen indicated that work with the budget was an ongoing and constantly changing process. SFA received approximately the same appropriation this biennium as last time.
- * However, there are limitations on budgeting because the Sharp [Bill] Report has riders that directly affect SFA.
 - For example, funding for the Optional Retirement Program will receive 7.31% from the state instead of 8.5%. Since universities may make up the difference from local funds, SFA will use \$170,000 in local funds to make up the difference.
 - The Sharp Report allows the comptroller to deduct, from SFA's appropriation, that amount which he estimates SFA is spending on indoor plants--even though SFA does not furnish plants for offices.
 - In the second biennium Sharp has the authority to reduce SFA's appropriation up to 6% if certain savings state are not made throughout the state.
- * In order to "free up" money for salary increases, the university is postponing renovations of some buildings and is re-evaluating how the Heath allocation is spent. This action would "free up" the Heath money, used for legal purchases of equipment, and, in turn, the state money spent on equipment could be available for salary increases.
 - President Bowen feels strongly about implementing an across-the-board salary increase for classified employees.
 - President Bowen envisions making available a sum of money equal to \$1,000 per faculty member (plus the 2%), but that would not be allocated across the board. This money would be used to rectify some salary inequities, to have some merit money, and to provide an across-the-board increase.
- * These budget options could be risky, will result in unmet needs all across campus, but give priority to people who work at SFA.

- * The state will not put more money into higher education, so SFA has to look to other sources of funding--students. For example, students may have additional increases in fees and tuition.

3. Discussion, Comments, and Questions from the Floor

- * President Bowen responded and clarified that:

- Faculty will receive a 2% increase before taxes.
- Anyone employed as of September 1, 1991 will receive the 2% increase, including student workers.
- The \$1000 increase will not be awarded across-the-board.
- The Faculty Senate passed a resolution to have an across-the-board increase instead of the merit system.
- There is not enough money available to adjust salaries of graduate assistants, part-time workers, or call faculty.
- During the interim two-month budget, only people who were promoted received a salary increase. Others will not be excluded once the new budget is approved.

- Reduction of students living in the dormitories is costing the University \$500,000 in revenue because bond payments still have to be made.
- Temperature in the buildings has been a problem because the peak consumption period of September sets the electrical rate for the entire year, and SFA is attempting to reduce the peak-period usage.
- President Bowen did not have a breakfast for classified staff because he ran out of money.
- Expenditures for the motor pool and office furniture are "judgment calls" but are areas for future investigation.
- Decline in students at SFA seems to be following a national pattern, but SFA needs to gather hard data to explain its enrollment decline.
- Nothing is in place regarding re-organization of the academic schools, but changing the name from "schools" to "colleges" has been considered.

4. Comments from Ex Officio Member

- * Vice President J. Reese indicated that the Deans' Council held a series of nine meetings during the summer (and met with President Bowen four times) to discuss re-organization of the Schools. The Council concluded that any changes, like combining Fine Arts and Liberal Arts, would not save money, as individuals would still be needed to perform the duties of each dean. Instead there is a need to change attitudes and rules, not organization.

5. Approval of Minutes

- * The minutes of Meeting No. 212 were approved as printed.
- * The minutes of Meeting No. 213 were amended to reflect the excused absence of Senator W. Arscott. These minutes were approved as amended.

6. Chairperson's Report

- * Chairperson Smith indicated that he and Barbara Carr, Chair-Elect, have been serving on the Ad Hoc Budget Committee. Smith reinforced the fact that the budget has been constantly changing.
- * Dr. Smith reported on decisions made by the President on recommendations sent by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Bowen approved:
 - The establishment of the office of Ombudsman for the University. (The Senate to nominate someone for this position)
 - All the resolutions pertaining to the advisory and grievance procedure-
 - (1) imposing a time limit for presentation of evidence and questioning of witnesses,
 - (2) using a court reporter, and
 - (3) handling and securing of two independent audio tape recorders.
 - The establishment of a program for recycling paper and paper products on the campus.
 - President Bowen deferred action on the policy for compensation of faculty teaching overloads until consultation with the Council of Deans.
 - President Bowen deferred action on the Senate Resolution concerning across-the-board salary increases; however, subsequent events indicate that this resolution has been approved.
- * The Chair appointed Senator J.A. Seaton and Senator J. Robertson from the Welfare Committee to meet with Dr. Reese and the University attorney and to look at implementation of the advisory and grievance procedures resolutions.
- * The Chair reported that Dr. Reese has requested two faculty members from each School be recommended for appointment to a committee for teaching excellence.
 - The purpose of this new committee would be to maintain and enhance the high standards of teaching excellence that have been a tradition on the SFA campus.
 - Senate representatives from each school were asked to caucus and to nominate, from each respective school, two faculty members who would serve on this new teaching excellence committee.
- * Dr. Smith indicated that he had attended a called meeting of the Board of Regents where the Board approved extension of the present budget and the holiday schedule. The Board of Regents will meet in Nacogdoches on October 21 - 22, 1991.
- * Dr. Smith commented on matters of interest that were discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting held on September 3.

-Bids for telephone registration have been received and work is in progress. A trial run will probably be held next summer and possibly the system will be fully implemented next fall.

-The University calendar for the next two years has been presented. Dr. F. Rainwater has been asked to speak to the Faculty Senate regarding the Coordinating Board's rules and regulations which impact the University calendar.

-Permission has been asked to establish a waiting list of applicants that do not meet SFA entrance requirements. If the enrollment numbers are not high enough, SFA can draw from the waiting list. This proposal has been referred to committee for further study. Dr. F. Smith wants to know the Faculty Senate's stand concerning this proposal.

* Dr. Reese has asked the Faculty Senate to examine a draft copy of a contract for the employment of retired, tenured faculty on a part-time basis. Comments are to be made at the October meeting. [These employees will not be allowed to bring forward accrued sick leave.]

* Executive Committee authorized payment of the 1991-1992 COFGO dues.

7. Reports by Officers

* Chair-Elect B. Carr - no report.

* Treasurer D. Shows - The Faculty Senate finished the year with a \$0 balance. No money has been spent this academic year. The Faculty Senate has hired a new student secretary, Ms. Susan Konikson.

* Secretary L. Clark - New name tags are not ready but should be available for the October meeting.

8. Reports by Committee Chairs

* None.

9. Old Business

* The Ad Hoc committee on athletics will continue working on a questionnaire regarding faculty/student opinions on SFA's intercollegiate sports programs.

* The 1992 summer school session will begin at 8:00 a.m., per Faculty Senate Resolution passed in meeting No. 210.

10. New Business

* The Executive Committee has proposed to raise the status of the Ethics Committee from an Ad Hoc committee to a Standing committee. This amendment to the Standing Rules requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Faculty Senate at its next meeting.

11. Chairperson's Concluding Remarks

- * The smoking regulations on campus are being reviewed by a Presidential Committee.
- * The Mildred Wyatt room in Steen Library will be used on a trial basis for the October meeting.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

ABSENCES

R. Darville (excused)
J. Gotti

VISITORS

D. Bowen (President)
J. Reeves (Ex-officio, VPAA)
M. Carns (Political Science/Geography)
O. Evans (CSC)
T. Atchison (Science/Mathematics)
J. Speer (Psychology)

Libbyrose D. Clark
Libbyrose Clark, Secretary 1991-92