

Stephen F. Austin State University

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Faculty Senate
Gary Ford, Secretary
College of Liberal Arts
1994 - 1995

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Gary G. Ford, Secretary
DATE SUBMITTED: November 22, 1994
SUBJECT: Minutes for Meeting No. 243
Wednesday, November 9, 1994

MINUTES

I. Call to order

Meeting #243 of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chairperson C. P. Barton at 2:30 PM, in the Mildred Wyatt Room of Steen Library.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion

A motion to approve the minutes for Meeting #242 (October 12, 1994), with corrections, was made by Senator Gobel, seconded by Senator Daley, and was approved unanimously.

III. Remarks by President Angel

President Angel indicated that the transition to dealing with the new governor and his staff would require a tremendous amount of work on the part of the university administration in order to be prepared for the opening of the legislative session on January 10, 1995. He noted that the university would welcome any input from faculty or alumni acquainted with newly elected legislators or individuals appointed to political positions by the new Governor.

President Angel had a copy of the East Texas Study and quoted a passage from the Administrative Summary that reflected strong support for an Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership at SFASU.

President Angel read a news release stating that the university has overruled the SGA action of revoking recognition of the Gay and Lesbian Student Association. This action was taken in accordance with previous court decisions that have clearly supported the right of such groups to exist under the First Amendment.

Chairperson Barton asked whether the current round of budget cuts would affect the 1995 Summer Session budget. President Angel referred the question to VPAA Ashley, who indicated that the Summer 1995 budget was \$400K less than Summer 1994 in the initial 1994-1995 budget. No further cuts have been made in Summer funding. Senator DiNucci pointed out the shortsightedness of reducing the Summer budget--students will simply take the courses they need at other schools, with SFA absorbing the loss of funding and dormitory occupancy. President Angel reiterated that no new cuts had been made in the budget for the Summer semesters. He pointed out that a separate budget for Summer had not existed before he came to SFA. He and VPAA Ashley both indicated that they are not opposed to exploring methods of augmenting the Summer budget.

IV. Announcements

A. Council of Faculty Governance Organizations Meeting

Chairperson Barton discussed the CoFGO meeting he'd attended in Austin in late October. He found the meeting interesting and beneficial. He will furnish minutes of the meeting on request. Copies of a set of one-page summaries of the issues being addressed by each Faculty Senate chapter are also available from Chairperson Barton.

Presentations at the meeting focused primarily on concerns about funding. Another issue discussed was the Council of Presidents and Chancellors which meets regularly to discuss actions taken by the Coordinating Board, Legislature, and Governor and to develop strategies for influencing such actions. It was suggested that Faculty Senates in Texas develop a parallel organization to represent the interests and perspective of faculty regarding such issues. CoFGO is currently in a state of disarray due to the death of its executive officer last year.

The next CoFGO meeting will be March 31-April 1, 1995.

B. Results of FS Poll on University Admission Standards

Chairperson Barton reported that President Angel had requested input from the Faculty Senate on the issue of whether to retain the current University Admission Standards listed in the General Bulletin 1994-95 ("the matrix") or return to the Admission Standards stated in the General Bulletin 1992-93. Faculty Senators returning the mail ballots had favored a return to the old admission standards by a vote of nine to six. This

result was consistent with the opinion of the Academic Affairs Council and Chairs Forum. Chairperson Barton will convey the sentiment of the Senate on this matter to President Angel.

C. Training Sessions for Use of Senate List Server

Senator Wright announced that training sessions for using the Faculty Senate list server can be set up in the library, as soon as the server is functional. Chairperson Barton asked whether all faculty should be able to post comments on the list server. Senator Wright stated that a forum is needed where all faculty can present ideas they would like the Senate to consider.

Chairperson Barton will present more details regarding the list server at the December meeting.

V. Officers' Reports

Chairperson-elect Berry reported on a recent meeting he and Chairperson Barton had with President Angel and VPAA Ashley. It is hoped that a new Admissions Director will be in place by January 1995. The President is willing to consider the possibility of splitting the responsibility for admissions, financial aid, and registrar offices among several people. Chairperson Barton had again urged VPAA Ashley to make the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate a voting member of the Academic Affairs Council. She has taken the matter under advisement. The President stated that the \$1.3 million insurance fund is not being used by the university, nor is the interest the money is earning. He reported that a study of potential methods for the distribution or utilization of such escrow funds is being conducted by the Vice Presidents of Fiscal Affairs of the universities involved.

Secretary Ford reported that the minutes of Faculty Senate meetings are available to all faculty on the GOPHER system.

Senate Parliamentarian Mueller reported on the recent meeting of the Academic Affairs Council, which he attended in the place of Chairperson Barton. The Council endorsed the return to the 1993-94 University Admission Standards. Dean Kitterle, College of Liberal Arts, proposed an accelerated degree program and requested faculty input. A revision of Policy E-20A (Evaluation, Merit Pay, Promotion and Tenure) was presented. Under these revisions, all faculty, tenured and non-tenured, would be evaluated annually and the merit process would be handled exclusively at the departmental level. The College of Liberal Arts proposed a Pass-Fail option for students in some of their elective courses. The Council felt that there should be greater academic input in the university's computer and telecommunications policy-making. Proposals for reducing the length of commencement exercises were also presented.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs

Senator DiNucci distributed a handout containing two resolutions concerning admissions policies that were approved at the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee. (The resolutions were discussed in the New Business portion of the meeting.)

B. Professional Welfare

Senator Mueller reported that he had met twice with a representative of the Student Government Association regarding the issue of student evaluations of faculty. The discussion is ongoing.

Senator Mueller reported that the committee's recommendations from the October meeting concerning the Call Faculty issue (see Attachment A) would be discussed during the Old Business portion of the meeting.

Chairperson Barton announced that the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, Senator Turner, has agreed to take over the assignment of monitoring developments in the status of the \$1.3 million insurance escrow fund for the Faculty Senate. As a result, Chairperson Barton announced that the assignment was being transferred formally from the Professional Welfare Committee to the Administration and Finance Committee.

C. Faculty Government and Involvement

Senator McDonald distributed a revised set of the committee's resolutions regarding the evaluation of administrators (see Attachment B). (The resolutions were discussed in the Old Business portion of the meeting.)

VII. Old Business

A. Call Faculty Issue

Senator Mueller, Chair of the Professional Welfare Committee, reported that he had reworked and resubmitted the Committee's resolutions, presented at the October meeting, regarding the Call Faculty issue (see Attachment A). He described the information presented to the Committee by Call Faculty in the Department of English and Philosophy and explained the Committee's rationale in developing each of the resolutions.

Motion

Senator Mueller moved that the Senate adopt Resolution I from the Professional Welfare Committee report. The motion was seconded by Senator Griffith.

Senator Mace heartily endorsed the long-overdue attention being given to the treatment of Call Faculty. Other senators expressed concern regarding the duties being assigned to Call Faculty by various departments and whether the use and misuse of Call Faculty might serve as a means of reducing the number of full-time faculty positions.

Motion

Senator D. McCune moved to amend Resolution I by deleting all references to specific issues in the resolution. It would be amended to read: **That the Faculty Senate direct the Professional Welfare Committee, or such other appropriate committee of the Faculty Senate as directed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate, to examine the entire Call Faculty issue.** The motion was seconded by Senator Mueller. The amendment passed, with three opposed.

The amended resolution was approved unanimously.

Motion

Senator Mueller moved that the Senate adopt Resolution II of the Professional Welfare Committee report. Senator Daley seconded.

Senator Turner pointed out that since different departments seem to have very different policies regarding the use of Call Faculty, there would probably be very little use in attempting to impose a uniform policy until the detailed study of the Call Faculty issue has been completed. Senator DiNucci stated that the amendment of Resolution I had put all issues pertaining to Call Faculty on the table for the appropriate committee; therefore, there was no need to discuss other, more specific resolutions at present. Senator Gobel pointed out that if Resolution II were adopted, the administration, as well as the Senate, would be put to work on the Call Faculty issue. Senator Price felt it would be premature to ask the university to develop a policy before the Committee's study has been completed. Senator D. McCune suggested that the other resolutions be tabled pending the outcome of the Committee study.

Motion

Senator Mueller moved that the Senate postpone consideration of Resolutions II-V until the appropriate Faculty Senate Committee study is completed. It was seconded by Senator Lisieski. The motion carried with four opposed.

B. Evaluation of Administrators

The Faculty Government and Involvement Committee's amended resolution regarding the evaluation of administrators (see Attachment B) was presented.

Motion

Senator Hearell moved that the resolution be adopted. It was seconded by Senator Mace.

Senator Griffith suggested that the awkward wording of section d, number 1 could be clarified by deleting a portion so that this portion of the resolution would read: **"a minimum of 25% of the faculty within each of a simple majority of departments within the said academic college; or"**. The proposed amendment was seconded by Senator McDonald. The motion to amend the resolution carried, with one opposed.

Senator Wright made a motion to modify section b of the resolution to read: **"associate and assistant deans and directors be evaluated as policy states;"**, in order to include library administrators. The motion was seconded by Senator Hearell and was adopted unanimously.

Senator Dahmus questioned whether section c of the resolution was stated with sufficient precision. He pointed out that we wouldn't want faculty members excluded from the process of evaluating a dean based on the technical point that the faculty member is supervised by a department chair, not the dean. Senator Hearell proposed that section c be amended to read: **"all faculty members in an academic unit will be included in any evaluation of the administrator or administrators of that unit;"**. Senator D. McCune seconded the motion to amend, which passed unanimously.

The resolution, thrice amended, was adopted by unanimous vote.

Senator DiNucci asserted that the issue of merit and the importance of distributing it at the departmental level needed to be revisited and should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Senate. Chairperson Barton reported that the Professional Welfare Committee will review the policy revision from the Academic Affairs Council prior to the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

A. Admissions Standards

Motion

Senator Hearell moved that the Senate adopt Resolution 1 submitted by the Academic Affairs Committee: **Be it resolved: Before new or revised admission standards are adopted by the University, the Faculty Senate should be consulted. Specifically, the standards should be presented to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee for discussion and a recommendation for full**

Faculty Senate consideration and action. Senator DuFrene seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion

Senator DiNucci moved that the Senate adopt Resolution 2 submitted by the Academic Affairs Committee: **Be it resolved: The Office of Admissions should answer directly to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.** It was seconded by Senator Berry. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Faculty Computing

Senator Wright distributed a handout of a resolution regarding faculty access to computer technology. The resolution read: **Be it resolved that the university set a firm goal to have every faculty office on campus equipped with a computer and wired to the campus network by August 31, 1996.**

Be it further resolved that adequate training be offered to all faculty through Academic Computing, the Library, and other departmental efforts to communicate through campus e-mail and to be able to begin navigating the Internet (Information Superhighway). Senator DiNucci moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Senator Hearell.

Senator Price proposed that the first sentence of the resolution be amended to read ". . . wired to a **fully operational** campus network by August 31, 1996." The change was accepted as a friendly amendment by Senator Wright.

Other discussion focused on the issue of whether faculty who would not make any use of computers should nevertheless be supplied with them, considering the current financial plight of the university. Senator DiNucci asserted that he supported the idea, but that financial resources need to be allocated judiciously. Providing computers for people who would not use them would be a waste of money. Senator McDonald asserted that it would be in our students' interest for every faculty office to have a networked computer. Senator Daley asked whether call faculty offices would be included and Senator S. McCune asserted that they should be.

The amended motion was adopted unanimously.

IX. Remarks by Vice-President of Academic Affairs Ashley

VPAA Ashley indicated that the return to the 1993-94 University Admission Standards had been endorsed unanimously by the Academic Affairs Council and the Chairs Forum. She would add to that list the endorsement of the Faculty Senate. The change would include the elimination of the SFA Prep program and the Deferred Admission program.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator Hearell and seconded by Senator Berry. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Attachments

Attachment A: Professional Welfare Committee Report

Attachment B: Faculty Government and Involvement Committee Report

Visitors

Jasper Adams

Sylvia Bierschenk

Vickey Daley

Mary R. Devine

Constance Hall

Attachment A

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate**

Professional Welfare Committee

Resolutions of the Committee from the Report to Faculty Senate on the Request by certain members of the Department of English and Philosophy "On Call" Faculty for the Faculty Senate to examine their situation. Presented October 12, 1994.

I. That the Faculty Senate direct the Professional Welfare Committee, or such other appropriate committee of the Faculty Senate as directed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate, to examine the entire Call Faculty issue, to include, but not limited to:

- A. their use on this campus;
- B. their compensation in relation to their student hours and economic contribution to the University; and
- C. if means should be developed to afford recognition to these faithful and loyal supporters of academic excellence at this University.

II. That the Faculty Senate in cooperation with the Administration should develop a uniform policy as to the use and employment of Call Faculty in keeping with the University Self Study of 1988-1989, and within the letter and spirit of SFA 98.

III. That the Faculty Senate recognizes the parsimonious nature of the stipends afforded the Call Faculty in the Department of English, while at the same time accept the fact that any possible relief is in the hands of the Administration.

IV. That the Faculty Senate urges those Departments, who utilize Call Faculty, to make reasonable efforts to provide a degree of security for the Call Faculty. In particular aid in their ability to plan and budget by making early and reasonable predictions as to future needs from semester to semester.

V. The Faculty Senate urges the University to make efforts to seek ways to allow those Call Faculty who will likely teach full-time, both long semesters, to be able to extend their pay over the same length of time each semester, or perhaps even to spread the compensation into the summer so medical coverage and other benefits could be maintained.

Attachment B

Faculty Government and Involvement Committee Report
9 November 1994
Meeting #243

Amended Resolution

Be It Resolved That:

The Faculty Senate at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) supports the continued evaluation of administrators as policy states with the following amendments included as a constructive effort to further professional development of administrators and to foster stronger communications between the faculty and the administration:

- a) new administrators will undergo an evaluation at the end of their first year at SFASU to establish a level of rapport with faculty ; and
- b) associate and assistant deans be evaluated as policy states; and
- c) all faculty members supervised by the administrator will be included in any evaluation; and
- d) a called evaluation should be initiated within an academic college if a signed petition represents:
 - 1] a minimum of 25% of the faculty within each department of the college and the number of individual departments constitutes a simple majority of departments within the said academic college; or
 - 2] a minimum of 30% of all faculty within the academic college.