

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Meeting #252
8 November 1995

The meeting was called to order by Chair-elect Dahmus at 2:35 p.m.

Senators absent: Chairperson Berry

Senator Dahmus asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #251. Corrections were offered by Senators D. McCune, S. McCune, and D. DuFrene. Senator Choate moved to accept minutes as amended and Senator Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DR. ANGEL REMARKS

Dr. Angel briefly commented on five areas of university activities. First, in regard to telephone registration, some 600 students were able to use the new system. The average time to register was 6 minutes per student.

The fall SFASU showcase hosted 1,200 parents and students. The event went smoothly. The next SFASU showcase will be 30 March 1996.

Financial Aid disbursements have risen from \$26 million last year to \$29 million this year.

SFASU has received \$500,000 from the Coordinating Board to start a Masters in Environmental Science degree in the College of Science and Mathematics. The degree will include cooperative programs with the University of Texas Health Science Center.

The fifth point discussed was the Health Insurance Reserve Fund. About 350-400 of the 750 faculty/staff eligible have signed up for the annuity allotment. There are more sessions scheduled to help other faculty complete the process. The money stipulated for Academic Scholarships will provide two recipients with 100% funding to attend SFASU.

Dr. Angel reported that the Board of Regents will respond directly to the Faculty Senate concerning the Wellness Center resolution.

During a brief question period, Senator Ford asked if the scholarships were 1 or 4 years in length. Dr. Angel replied that the scholarships were part of the Sesquicentennial program and will be granted for four years.

Senator Sullivan asked if it will be possible to speed up telephone registration in the future. Her concern was focused on the time span of registration between A to Z under the current procedure of alphabetical order. Dr. Angel remarked planning changes will be implemented next fall and noted that approximately 1,000 students "shopped the registration line" the first day.

Chair-elect Report

During the Board of Regents meeting Chair Berry presented concerns of the Faculty Senate. He made a strong point that SFASU faculty salaries range between 30th to 32nd among the 35 state institutions (this includes all levels).

The Board of Regents were surprised at faculty response concerning the Wellness Center. There might be a meeting between the executive committees of the Board of Regents and the Faculty Senate. Mr. Adkinson is "willing" to talk about the issue. No meeting date has been set.

Chair-elect Dahmus reported that at the meeting with Dr. Angel and Dr. Ashley several issues were discussed. The Wellness Center was extensively discussed. Also, last year's Faculty Senate resolution (passed 11-94) concerning the evaluation of administrators was discussed. All parties decided to conduct a meeting among the Faculty Governance and Involvement Committee members, Senate officers and Drs. Angel and Ashley. The meeting will take place 13 November 1995.

In the Graduate Council meeting a list of goals and objectives of the council were presented. The committee discussed the wording of GRE score descriptions in the graduate catalog.

Chair-elect Dahmus reported on the COFGO meeting. The meeting provided a good forum to hear that other campuses are experiencing problems similar to and different from those experienced at SFASU. A keynote speaker was Dr. Rauch, Chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He encouraged more open communications among faculties, administrators and Boards of Regents.

The faculty summer intern program with the Coordinating Board was announced. If you are interested in working in Austin on educational issues contact Senators Berry or Dahmus.

A second major address was delivered by Dr. Marshall Hill, Director of Technology and Telecommunications with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. There will be \$150 million spent each year for the next ten years to improve distance learning and other technology-based instruction.

Representative Irma Rangel, Chair of House of Higher Education Committee, spoke at the COFGO meeting. She is interested in input from faculty about issues in higher education. Contact Senators Berry or Dahmus for details.

At the Academic Affairs Council meeting a proposal to change the policy concerning graduation with honors for transfer students was discussed and then sent to committee.

Dr. Rayburn reported that 77 faculty and 66 student computers will be replaced as part of the program to update computing capabilities on campus.

Treasurer Report

Dr. DuFrene reported that during October there were expenses incurred of \$38.92 for supplies and \$76.10 for travel to the COFGO meeting (additional travel expenses will be filed). These items totaled \$115.02. Subtracting last month's expenses left a balance of \$3,876.23 in the Faculty Senate account.

Senator DeFrene has sent a memo to Dr. Ashley to see whether the Faculty Senate can receive a replacement for our out-dated computer.

Committee Reports

Faculty Governance and Involvement - Chair Dahmus reported that replies to the Faculty Senate Effectiveness surveys are being reviewed. Senator Dahmus extended thanks to those faculty who took time to respond. The surveys are providing "interesting comments and suggestions."

Academic Affairs - Chair Price reported on several concerns raised in committee meetings. Committee members expressed concern over potential negative affects on academic policy that telephone registration could create as it moving forward. In particular, the issues of lack of advising and prerequisite enforcement might cause students not to follow required course sequences. The committee has decided to take a wait and see position but wants to be on record that these issues need to be addressed in the near future if telephone registration continues.

The committee also stated support for university goals of retention but felt that high standards and quality education must not be compromised to achieve retention goals.

The committee prepared a resolution that outlined a need to return to a more dignified commencement exercise. The resolution will be presented for vote during New Business.

Elections - Chair Kenner reported that the ballots to amend the constitution were distributed with the Faculty Senate Effectiveness survey. There was a 25.8% return. The ballot carried by a vote of 123 in favor of the amendment to 6 votes opposed to the measure.

Chair-elect announced the resolution on amendments passed and would be forwarded to Chair Berry for final processing.

Old Business

No old business was brought to the floor.

New Business

Dr. Price moved "to embark into discussions with appropriate university administrators to address the tone of commencement." Senator Carbajal seconded the motion.

Dr. Ashley was recognized. She felt the issue was “entirely appropriate” to pursue with a view of increasing the quality of graduation ceremonies at SFASU.

Other ideas to enhance graduation exercises such as banners carried in by students to represent colleges and the possibility of reinstating the sideline line-up of faculty were presented.

Senator Crouch interjected that students should be included in the review process.

Senator Choate asked if the administration might meet with the Academic Affairs Committee? Dr. Ashley gave a positive reply.

During discussions on the motion pros and cons of having the faculty line were discussed.

Senator Sullivan stated a real challenge was to get students to remain in the coliseum for the 3 to 4 hours of graduation. Some students do not take the ceremony seriously do not stay the entire time of their own graduation exercise. Senator Sullivan also pointed out that students who have no chance of graduating are being allowed to march across the stage so that they can graduate with their friends.

Dr. Ashley stated that she was not aware of this issue but will look into the situation to see whether changes need to be made in graduation procedures.

Senator McDonald called for the question on the commencement resolution. The motion passed.

In other new business, Dr. Ashley clarified information on the replacement of computers mentioned during this meeting. Computers that needed replacement were identified during last year's survey. The first phase of replacement targeted 77 faculty computers. Since that time some of those computers have been replaced by other funds. Dr. Ashley also mentioned that detailed information is being gathered to update the survey data. Other equipment needs by departments and laboratories are being considered.

Senator Choate moved that the meeting be adjourned. Senator Goodall seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.