

Faculty Senate

Minutes

Meeting #255

20 March 1996

Chair Berry called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. This was a called meeting as the regularly scheduled date for the March Faculty Senate meeting fell during Spring Break.

Chair Berry asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Senator Dumesnil offered corrections. Senator Daley moved the minutes be approved with corrections; Senator Choate seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Berry encouraged all senators and faculty to participate in the ACE project underway at the present time. Senator Berry is a member of the team studying how the process of change can enhance the university's future. Individuals interested in knowing more about the study or who want to contribute ideas can visit the web page set up for the ACE study. The address for the site is: <http://www.tahperd.sfasu.edu/ACE.html>.

REMARKS BY DR. ANGEL

Dr. Angel commented on interim legislative committee meetings that he recently attended in Austin. Topics reviewed included universities' Mission statements, Table of Programs, the Education Code, and Title III issues. The committee expressed concern that mission statements sounded similar even though individual campuses have different goals.

The committee also suggested that universities develop an enhanced Table of Programs which reflect long term educational goals as well as present current degree offerings.

Another issue that the committee received testimony about was the concept of a single University System. All ten administrative heads of Texas Systems were asked to comment on the idea. The consensus was that a single system approach did not seem like the best way to oversee Texas universities.

Dr. Angel pointed out that in the last decade or so the number of university entities has decreased from 19 to 10. Six are considered Systems. There are four single campus entities; these are Midwestern University, SFASU, Texas Southern University, and Texas Women's University.

The Systems see their components as parts of a single vehicle providing economies of scale for administrative and legal costs and a stronger legislative voice through concentrated representation. The smaller universities' position, particularly that of Dr. Angel, is that bigger is not always better and that the advantages of economies of scale are not evident. Further, Dr. Angel stressed that Boards with fewer entities to govern more easily focus on specific local issues.

Dr. Angel also pointed out to the committee that SFASU was not an "independent system" but fully part of the State of Texas System of universities.

Dr. Angel commented on the Wellness Center. He stated that he initially had misread Dr. Dahmus' letter which offered the expertise of five faculty members to the committee planning the Wellness Center. Since then, however, Dr. Angel has met with five (5) faculty to receive their advice for the implementation of the Wellness Center concept. He also will meet with Dr. Mel Finkenberg of Kinesiology, Dr. Peggy Scott, Assistant Dean of Student Development and SFA Wellness Network Coordinator and Dr. Robert Eanes, Director of the Health Center.

Senator Daley asked Dr. Angel if contracts for the Wellness Center were being advertised. The answer was yes.

Chair Berry asked for a time table of construction for the Wellness Center. Dr. Angel stated that the facility was to be ready for the Fall Semester (whether this will be September or later is not known at this time). Dr. Angel stressed that Wellness programs will be phased in after the building is completed.

Senator McDonald asked Dr. Angel's opinion concerning the suspension of admissions at UT because of the recent judicial decision that essentially stated that reverse discrimination was being practiced by the UT Law School. Dr. Angel stated his knowledge was based only on newspaper information at this date but added that all campuses will "have to pay attention to these issues" particularly as the courts rule from "unsteady judicial" positions.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair-elect Dahmus discussed several of the important issues brought up at the recent COFGO meeting in Austin. Senator Carbajal accompanied Senator Dahmus to the meeting. The main issues described by Senator Dahmus were Tenure (including post-tenure review), Sexual Harassment, and the Texas Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Post-tenure review is gaining acceptance with Boards and administrations across the nation. It is in place in the Texas A&M University System. The plan is under attack by faculties across the country as well. Keynote speaker, Dr. Ashworth, of the Coordinating Board, expressed the idea that post-tenure review will be less of a problem at larger flagship institutions but could pose a problem at smaller institutions. The national Chairperson of the AAUP was less optimistic about post-tenure review. Both tempered their remarks by saying it may be too early to tell the full impact of post-tenure review at this time.

The Texas Teachers' Retirement Fund is strong; it is listed as the sixth (6th) strongest public sector fund in the nation. Unless large numbers of teachers tap the fund in the near future, the fund looks stable and solid.

Senator Dahmus pointed out new information about the four (4) institutions which were self-insured. Texas Tech and Texas Women's University have not decided what to do with the funds; earlier

reports suggested that Texas Tech had kept the money. The University of North Texas gave back about \$1,000 per faculty member at the end of last year while SFASU completed the most diverse allocation of the insurance fund as funds were dispersed through annuities, scholarships and for the building of the Wellness Center.

Chair-elect Dahmus pointed out that applications for Internships through COFGO can be submitted. In addition, COFGO dues have been increased by \$50 per semester. These funds will be used mainly to hire part-time secretarial help. The secretary will be independent of TACT, but COFGO will continue to rent TACT facilities.

Chair-elect Dahmus reported that at the next Graduate Council meeting there will be the final reading of the new graduate degree program in Educational Administration and Supervision (doctorate).

Senator DuFrene reported that the 1 March 1996 balance of the Faculty Senate was \$3,410.80. Expenses incurred included student wages of \$128.75 and printing costs of \$14.20. This left a balance of \$3,267.85. Senator DuFrene pointed out that COFGO meeting expenses are still outstanding.

Senator DuFrene reported on the progress made toward obtaining a new computer for the Faculty Senate. Dr. Ashley's office continues to be helpful in making the final selection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Finance Chair DuFrene reported that the committee was reviewing options concerning faculty salary issues. In addition, Senator DuFrene asked for input about faculty interest in a Faculty Fair on campus to be organized by the Faculty Senate. The purpose of the event will be to highlight services and programs available to faculty, sponsor information sessions, and possibly offer a keynote speaker who will address current and faculty concerns.

Academic Affairs Chair Price reported that the committee had reviewed the issue to change the drop date for classes, which was proposed during a recent Faculty Senate meeting. Committee members decided their recommendation will be to make no recommendation for change in the policy because of the broad and diverse views among committee members and their constituents.

Chair Price pointed out that little data was available from a student's point of view concerning drop date guidelines. Senator Price added that the effects of drop dates upon student retention warrants attention. Dr. Ashley added that the drop day policies had been in place for quite some time, and she has not been made aware of problems, if any, with the current date.

Chair Berry suggested that some faculty wanted an earlier drop date.

Faculty Involvement and Governance Chair Dahmus reported that 263 or 46% of the faculty responded to the 2nd Faculty Senate survey. Senator Dahmus introduced Senator S. McCune to

review the preliminary results of the survey.

Senator S. McCune pointed out the means for the questions and brought attention to several questions which received a strong negative response from the faculty. These areas included faculty salaries and communication between levels of the university, particularly between the Faculty Senate and Board of Regents. Other areas that were perceived as needing attention included academic standards, merit pay allocations, and the current process of student evaluations of faculty. (Note: a summary of the descriptive statistics is available by contacting Secretary McDonald or by viewing the Faculty Senate campus gopher site.)

OLD BUSINESS

At Chair Berry's request, Senators Daley and Choate reported on meetings with Dr. Angel concerning the Wellness Center. First, Senator Daley commented that during his ½ hour meeting with Dr. Angel there was an atmosphere open to the exchange of information. Discussion focused on space allocation inside the approximately 9,000 sq. ft. facility (see attached preliminary floor plan). At present, 2,800 sq. ft. have been specifically assigned use in the building.

The issue of long term use for the facility was discussed, specifically the rumors that the Wellness Center will be a new field house for athletes. Senator Daley added that staffing issues and faculty use ideas were presented to Dr. Angel.

Next, Senator Choate reported a similar experience when meeting with Dr. Angel. Senator Choate pointed out that the facility should be accessible to all potential users and that a comprehensive approach to wellness should be taken in to account when planning programs and activities. In addition, Senator Choate suggested that the university look at combining the wellness with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Further, Senator Choate pointed out that several companies contract for wellness programs. It was brought up during the meeting that if the faculty did not use the facility, it might become a weight room for the athletic department (a self-fulfilling prophecy).

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Berry announced that reapportionment of representatives to serve on the Faculty Senate was underway at the present time. He asked all third year Senators to remain after the meeting to form a nomination committee for elections of officers to be held in late April.

Senator McDonald moved that the Faculty Senate support and continue to encourage the Ladyjacks on their successful year and achievements. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Choate moved the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Senator Carabajal. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.