

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2000 Meeting #297
(Subject to Approval at December Meeting)

I. CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Kandy Stahl at 2:30 PM

Absent:

Excused: Betty Alford, Joe Ballenger, Ray Horn, Mitzi Perritt, Sharon Spall

II. General Announcements

The new student assistant to the Senate is Casey Lawrence.

Kandy will forward to the board of regents the names of anyone interested in serving on the next presidential search committee.

Kristy Middlebrook requested the Senate's sponsorship of a blood drive.

VPAA Janelle Ashley is a finalist for the presidency of another university.

Al Cage: The Southern Association standards say that we "must have" a policy regarding the weeding of library books. The library does not make the decision of whether or not to sell weeded materials. A request was made to have the librarians inform relevant faculty when weeding is to be done; some already do so.

Serials review: cuts may be necessary in the near future if there is again no budget increase.

To subscribe to the library's e-newsletter, talk to Al Cage.

Al Cage asked the senate to think about an increase in library use fees of \$1 or \$2.

Question: How are the library resources for new programs paid for? The cost is mostly absorbed by the library.

III. Approval/Correction of minutes of Meetings #293 & #294 (May 2000)

Amendment to minutes: in the Academic Affairs report, "crednetials" (typo) should be replaced by "credentials".

Senator Zagrodnik voted "no" on the resolution mentioned above in the original vote (not the typo correction). The minutes should be amended to reflect this "no" vote.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. Chair:

Report from Academic Affairs Council meeting:

Should we publish the general bulletin yearly? The wrong bulletins were distributed at Showcase Saturday (they had the old repeat policy and core). Senator Sullivan: the

bulletin is essentially a contract with the student. Also, if the content of a bulletin changes, the cover should also change so that people can tell there is something different.

Developmental education issues (in particular, awarding college credit for developmental courses) were tabled. Al Cage: the senate was focusing on the wrong issue in saying that awarding credit for developmental courses is not fair to students who are not enrolled in developmental courses.

Should the policy for faculty attendance at commencement begin in the summer? The issue was tabled.

Discussion about changing faculty identification numbers from social security numbers was put off until a later agenda.

Senators Devine and Stahl discussed the presidential search with Drs. Smith and Ashley. The cost of the failed search was between 75 and 80 thousand dollars. This "happens all the time" and is "not a setback." Given that search firms are expensive, is one necessary?

Senator Howard: the cost of the failed search is not merely in the cost of the search firm; for example, some contracts and donations will not be forthcoming.

The purchase of Java Jack's was to relocate telecommunications. Should we suggest a new site for telecommunications (like the units)?

B. Chair-Elect:

We received e-mail regarding the Austin meeting. Chair-Elect Devine expressed the opinion that mathematics is one of the most important subjects we teach; there is a web program available to help algebra teachers.

C. Treasurer: Money was reinstated from last year's budget for the purchase of a computer.

D. Secretary: No report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs:

Three resolutions: Motion to change the calculation of semester length from the 15-weeks method to the 45-days method. Motion passed with 4 abstentions.

Motion to request the creation of a Calendar committee passed unanimously.

Motion to request an increase in graduate student stipends to the \$7500 recommended by the graduate council over the next few years passed unanimously.

B. Administration and Finance: No report.

C. Elections: No report.

D. Faculty Government and Involvement: postponed to December meeting; please read the handouts.

E. Professional Welfare: The intellectual property policy is to be voted on in December; talk to Jerry Williams for more information.

F. Strategic Planning: We need to have faculty representation on the presidential search committee. Chair Stahl will send a letter to the board expressing our concern and submitting names of those willing to serve on the committee.

VI. Old Business

The cheating and plagiarism policy was rejected by the Academic Affairs Council. Senator Howard objected to this on the grounds that it permits students to assign their own grades in cheating cases. Motion to resubmit (?) passed 8-6-5.

The draft of the faculty personal leave policy under consideration by the board was rejected by the senate; motion to submit a response calling the proposal "abhorrent, insulting, and unprofessional" passed with 4 "no" votes.

VII. New Business

Discussion of whether the Senate should sponsor a blood drive: Is this one of the Senate's responsibilities? Is it an appropriate thing for the Senate to do? It falls in the category of "service", a responsibility of all faculty, whom the Senate represent. Motion to sponsor blood drive failed 10-9.

Should call faculty have representation on the senate? Many are actually full-time employees. Issue referred to Faculty Government and Involvement.

Resolution to forward a recommendation not hire a search firm for the presidential search passed 12-8.

Tabled issues: life-experience credit and relocation of telecommunications.

On the agenda for the next Senate meeting: a vote of confidence/no confidence in the board of regents.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.