

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2001 Meeting #301
(Subject to approval at May Meeting)

I. CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Kandy Stahl at 2:31 PM

Absent: Aileen Smith, Charlie Jones, Patti Nason

Excused: Betty Alford, Roy Alston, Sharon Spall, Kandy Stahl

II. GUESTS

A. Dr. Ashley was present.

III. General Announcements

Amanda Price will serve as the new student assistant to the faculty senate. Her e-mail address is amandadelta@yahoo.com.

IV. Approval/Correction of Minutes of Meeting #301 (March 2001)

The approval section appearing in the February minutes should be stricken from the March minutes.

V. Officers' Reports

A. Chair:

Chair Stahl was attending a meeting out of town; she will present her report and report on both the April and May Academic Affairs Council meetings.

B. Chair-Elect:

We do not seem to have any additional information about the presidential search beyond what is reported in the news.

Nominations for officers for next year are as follows

For Chair-Elect: Joe Ballenger and Larry King

For Secretary: Mike Pickard and Karen Zagrodnik

For Treasurer: Tom Caffery and Jim Howard

The elections will be held at one of the May meetings.

The graduate council passed a resolution asking for an increase in the funding for the library's budget. Chair-Elect Devine submitted a resolution endorsing the graduate council's resolution. Discussion centered around the observation that the proposed resolution did not address benefits to undergraduates strongly enough; a friendly amendment to include such issues passed unanimously. Motion to table resolution

failed. Motion to pass resolution with modifications to be made at the chair's discretion passed with 1 no vote and 1 abstention.

Chair-Elect Devine also charged each senator with the task of nominating candidates for various University committees; the details of his charge are to be submitted to all senators by e-mail.

C. Treasurer:

The treasurer's report was submitted to the senate as a handout.

D. Secretary: No report.

VI. Committee Reports

The nominating committee has discharged its obligation for the year.

A. Academic Affairs:

Academic Affairs submitted three resolutions.

(1) Resolution on Arrest of Students During Class Sessions passed unanimously with minor typographical corrections. The question was raised: should the Senate issue a guideline regarding the obligations of faculty with regard to law officers?

(2) Resolution on the Release of Information about Student Schedules was tabled to give Senator Sullivan the opportunity to investigate ramifications of the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act with respect to campus police and student schedules.

(3) Resolution on Graduate School Entrance Requirements passed 9 to 7. Debate centered around whether it is reasonable to impose a University-wide standard for GRE scores on all colleges and disciplines. It was observed that "reasonable" scores on the GRE are already required, and the resolution is simply requesting a clarification of the term "reasonable."

Senators also received a handout with data on under-enrolled courses.

B. Administration and Finance: No report.

C. Elections:

Senators received a handout listing nominations for new senators; the committee intends to distribute ballots by the week of 4/16.

D. Faculty Government and Involvement:

Senators received a handout with a proposed amendment to the Senate Standing Rules; the amendment calls for the vote for officers to take place before the new senators are seated. This proposed amendment requires a two-thirds vote in order to pass.

E. Professional Welfare:

Senator King offered an amendment to category for of the modified UNT intellectual property rights policy; the amendment passed unanimously. The "ownership and compensation" of Category IV section has been amended to read, "The University and the Individual shall negotiate ownership rights." Senator Pickard suggested an

amendment to change the word “assigns” to “contracts with” in the heading of Category IV and in the example; this amendment also passed unanimously. Part C (royalties) of the General Guidelines section was also amended to reflect this change. The resolution to adopt this policy was tabled (with two abstentions) for rewording so that the entire document will reflect these changes.

F. Strategic Planning: No report; the resolution on the Library Budget appears under the Chair-Elect’s report.

VII. Old Business

Dr. Ashley spoke to the Senate about the proposed salary study, saying that the Senate would not gain any new information from the consultant, Dr. Castle, as we already have external comparisons, and the study as proposed would not be sophisticated enough to accurately reflect internal equity problems. Many variables go into determining a faculty member’s salary, such as credentials for starting salary, merit, etc. Senator King asked Dr. Ashley whether she would be willing to gather that data; she said that she was involved in a class action lawsuit for which she did such research, and the University is not prepared to devote that kind of effort again so soon after the last study. She also said that she shares our concerns about salaries, but “What you’re seeking to do here won’t make any difference.”

A motion to cease negotiations with Dr. Castle was put forward. Discussion: the reason the senate elected to hire an outside investigator is that an external source would lend objectivity to the study.

The report from the class-action lawsuit is still available, although many variables have changed since then.

Senator Sullivan noted that SFA is within 2% of the weighted state average for funding, which indicates that the problem may be internal to SFA.

Dr. Ashley said that the Dean’s council is working on a proposal to raise faculty salaries.

The senate voted 10-6 in a secret ballot to cease negotiations with Dr. Castle.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.