

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2001 Meeting #305**

I. Call to Order

Chair Joe Devine called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Absent: Senators Abel, Copeland, Mercer

Excused: Senators Aileen Smith and Tom Caffery

Announcements Chair Devine announced Senator Jim Howard's resignation from the Senate and introduced Terry Jones from Biology representing the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Chair Devine noted that Senator Aileen Smith is a representative for the College of Business. Chair Devine announced the teaching effectiveness workshops to be held on October 15. Chair Devine noted that the Secretary of War had called for increased sensitivity towards all people in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting #304 were approved as written.

The minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting #305 were approved with changes.

III. Guests

A. Marc Cossich, Chief of campus police, answered questions raised by Senators. These issues ranged from how to provide safe parking in the evening on campus, how to deal with students parking in faculty spaces, hang tag distribution, and issuing parking passes for visitors.

Senator McDonald asked for explanation of Nacogdoches' Level 3 alert and how this affected faculty and students. Chief Cossich noted that all members of the community were to "Be alert."

Senator King asked Chief Cossich how the campus police department would respond to requests from city or state law enforcement for assistance in arresting individuals on campus. Chief Cossich indicated that his department would respect the privacy of the student and strive to maintain a safe environment for all students, faculty, and staff at the university.

B. Tito Guerrero, President, Stephen F. Austin State University, returned to the issue of whether or not the university would submit a request for a Title III grant. Dr. Guerrero explained he would submit such a request but not in its present form.

Dr. Guerrero noted the continued development of International Programs at SFA. Carlos Maldonado, Director for the Center for International Programs at the University of Southern Colorado, would be visiting SFA November 8 and 9 to discuss ways to facilitate such programs.

Dr. Guerrero addressed allegations surrounding the recently departed Dean of Students, noting that financial restitution in the range of \$10,000-\$12,000 had been made. A further investigation was being conducted by state auditors.

Finally, Dr. Guerrero announced that a Salary Equity Review Steering Committee had been formed.

IV. Officer's Reports

A. Chair:

Recently, faculty members who had served the university for 10, 20, and 30 years had been recognized by the university at a reception.

An SFA faculty list-serve is being constructed. The list-serve will allow for the dispersal of information that would be relevant to the faculty. Senator McDonald made a motion that "The first priority of the Faculty list-serve is for critical issues." The Executive Council of the Senate would determine what constituted "critical" information. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Chair-Elect:

The Graduate Council discussed the Faculty Senate's resolution for an establishment of a range of GRE scores for admission to the graduate programs at SFA. Chair-Elect King noted that the Texas legislature recently passed a law stating that scores from standardized tests could not be the only standard for admission to a graduate program.

C. Treasurer: No report as the position is now vacant.

D. Secretary: No report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs I

Senator Dougal announced the committee's strong rejection of the Developmental Program presented at the September meeting. Senator M. Smith made a motion that "Control of remedial courses should remain in Academic Departments that currently have remedial courses." Senator Starr concurred with the motion. Senator Alexander noted that with the growing number of students taking the 098 Reading courses there was a need for qualified instructors for the course, adding that adjuncts teaching high school English were qualified to teach the course. Senator Alston asked who would have the final decision about the program, and Dr. Guerrero responded that the program would not be established the way it had been proposed in the document presented to the Senate. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Academic Affairs II

Senator Pickard presented Resolution 2001-02.01: Information Literacy Program to the Senate. A friendly amendment from Senator King to change the last line of the resolution to read "That the Faculty Senate recommends that the Library invited department heads after consultation with appropriate faculty to suggest courses that might benefit from the integration of information literacy objectives and that might effectively serve to promote information literacy." The resolution was accepted by unanimous vote.

C. Administration & Finance: No report.

D. Elections: Terry Jones was elected by electronic ballot to the Senate.

E. Faculty Governance: No report.

F. Professional Welfare

The committee has been examining the issues surrounding Web based courses, including intellectual property and distance learning. Senator Williams noted that Phil Turner, the Distance Education Coordinator for the University of North Texas, in a public meeting advised against faculty signing a contract to teach such courses without clear guidelines being in place. Dr. Ashley noted that the legal council for the university still had to examine the document presented by the Senate last year. Dr. Guerrero commented that the university's technological expertise would affect SFA's viability as an attractive institution. Senator McDonald noted that the university should continue to develop technological resources for students.

G. Conservation: The committee is broadening the scope of what issues need to be addressed.

H. Strategic Affairs: No report.

VI. *Old Business*

No old business.

VII. *New Business*

Senator King presented Resolution 2001-02.02: Criminal Background Histories/Checks on Applicants for Employment. Senator King noted that Human Resources should notify applicants for positions at SFA that a background check was being conducted on them. After some discussion, it was determined that the Senate needed more information about this issue before it could vote on the resolution. A motion to postpone the resolution was accepted.

Senator Zagrodnik made a motion "To ask the administration to establish an advance for new faculty in their first month for half the first month's net salary." After some discussion, it was determined that the Senate needed more information about this issue before it could vote on the motion. The Senate unanimously voted to invite Dr. Roland Smith to address the Senate and provide more information about the proposed plan.

Senator King nominated Senator Pickard for the position of Treasurer of the Senate. The Senate accepted Senator Pickard by unanimous acclamation.

VIII. *Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.*