

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
DRAFT
December 11, 2002 Meeting #316
(Subject to approval at February meeting)

Member's absence: Scamman (excused).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Senator King.

Guests

Dr. Guerrero reviewed several items related to administrative activities on campus. He and Dr. Young addressed distance education initiatives in Cleveland and other areas. Dr. Young commented that wherever we offer classes, we have to work with the institutions that are either geographically closer or who already have programs in the area.

Dr. Guerrero stated that he wanted to make an effort at getting Title III funding, but he wants to get input on the proposal. Research and Sponsored Programs has agreed to put information pertaining to Title III funding on the web at <http://www.sfasu.edu/orsp>. Comments can be made there, and any input from the faculty is welcomed.

Dr. Young noted that a number of meetings have been set up to attempt to work more closely with community colleges to increase recruitment. He also stated that the university has been providing sessions for high school counselors to help them understand the new entrance requirements.

Dr. Peggy Scott presented information pertaining to the Student Code of Conduct. Senator King explained that he had received an e-mail about disruptive students and thought it would be good to have Dr. Scott discuss this topic with the senate. Dr. Scott distributed copies of Student Code of Conduct, which is located on the university web page under Policies and Procedures in the student section. Students agree to the Code of Conduct when they enroll in our university. Dr. Scott stated that students should not be allowed to interfere with academic activities. Professors can ask disruptive students to leave their classroom. If the instructor intends to remove a student permanently, then there must to be a due process proceeding. If the student is so disruptive that the instructor cannot handle them, the instructor can call the UPD to remove them from class.

Senator Jerry Williams asked Dr. Scott "How much of this is actually official university policy?"

Dr. Scott responded that it has always been understood that the instructor has a right to teach. She said, "If there is a daily problem with a student, you need to use the Policies and Procedures to have the student removed from class." If UPD is involved, then Dr. Scott will get a report. She admitted that there is no written policy for asking a student to leave the class on a one-time basis, but that she understood it as part of academic freedom. She noted that the university does have a specific policy relating to students with severe mental illness.

Senator Jere Jackson said, "The norms of conduct are changing and varied. We may need to have a code that relates to what is appropriate classroom behavior."

Dr. Jasper Adams presented information about developmental classes and discussed problems with a study done by Institutional Research on the success rates of developmental classes. Dr. Adams provided an address for a website that provides information on TASP requirements, <http://www.tasp.nesinc.com/>.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of Meeting 315 were approved.

Chairs Report

Senator King reported on the activities of the Academic Affairs Council.

- Intellectual Property Policy is on the web and should be circulated to all the faculty members.
- Proposed changes in Advanced Placement courses were discussed.
- Proposed changes in the Add/Drop Policy were discussed.
- Proposed changes in the Grade Report Policy were discussed.
- Proposed changes in the Grade Repeat Policy were discussed. At the present time, the university has a policy that allows a student to repeat a course one time and have the higher of the two grades used to calculate the GPA. If a course is repeated more than twice, all of the grades are used to calculate the GPA. The senate supported this policy. The change in this policy, which has been presented to the AAC, would allow students to repeat courses as many times as they wished and count the highest grade in the GPA. Senator King noted that several Deans admitted that they are advising students to go to Angelina because of our present policy. Dr. Patsy Hallman, Dean of Education, stated that "We are helping Angelina fill their classes because we can't honestly advise some students to repeat a class when it's going to hurt their GPA. The rule also automatically kept some people from graduating." Senator King stated "We are being asked to move to a policy that is being used mainly by community colleges and not major universities." Senator Darrell McDonald asked, "How many students are we actually talking about? How could we quantify that?" Senator King said, "The College of Business has done a study and found that this policy has helped improve their students' performance. This is a question of values. Are we really more about trying to get people out of SFA with degrees, or are we about producing people who have actually earned a high quality degree." Senator King asked the members of the senate for some action on this issue to give him guidance in responding to the AAC. Senator Jere Jackson offered the following resolution.

Resolution on Proposed Changes to Policy A-54: "Semester Grades"

WHEREAS, Proposed changes in Policy A-54 have been presented to the Academic Affairs Council; and

WHEREAS, These changes would return Stephen F. Austin to a policy similar to one that was abandoned in 2002; and

WHEREAS, No clear or compelling evidence of a need for a change in policy has been presented to the Academic Affairs Council or the university community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate requests that the Academic Affairs Council postpone approving any changes to Policy A-54 until they have taken time to carefully study the changes and the Faculty Senate has had time to carefully study and respond to the proposed changes.

Alexis Francin seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

- The AAC wants to remove developmental classes from the GPA calculation. Senator King noted that the Faculty Senate had passed a resolution that recommended not including developmental courses in the GPA and that the AAC had ignored the resolution.
- New computers are being taken to ITS before delivery to departments for the instillation of a backdoor password that will allow ITS staff to access the computers from a remote location. One problem is that the backdoor passwords are being installed by student assistants—allowing them access to faculty computers. Another problem is that these backdoors prevent faculty from install software on their computers.

Dr. King introduced Roger Bilow, Director of Recruiting, and discussed a proposed faculty mentorship program that would involve faculty mentoring students that have been accepted to SFA but not yet enrolled. Mr. Bilow explained that faculty would be able to designate what type of student they would like to mentor. Senator King said that he would like to see the Faculty Senate sponsor this program. Senator McDonald moved:

That the Faculty Senate become the sponsors of the student mentoring program and that the program be recognized for merit and tenure.

The motion was seconded by Senator Jere Jackson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Elect Report

Senator McDonald reported on the meeting of the Graduate Council.

- Dr. Jeffery is circulating a document which considers increasing graduate fees to raise more money for graduate programs. The new money would improve GA salaries, purchase new equipment, etc. Some colleges are vehemently opposed to the proposal. The proposal is not available on the web as of yet.
- There is a Graduate Student Questionnaire on the web that seeks information on the experiences of these students.
- The Graduate School is in the process of finalizing a policy which says that a thesis director MUST be an SFA faculty person. Any off campus person who was significantly involved could be listed as a Research Director.
- College of Business is in the process of moving toward a full Master's degree in Accounting. Any input that faculty might have should be directed to that department.

Treasurer

No report.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Dr. Mike Pickard presented the following resolution from the committee and moved its adoption.

Resolution on Departmental and College Governance

WHEREAS, Some University administrators regularly consult faculty on administrative policy and decisions; and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate acknowledges the responsibility of faculty to participate in governance of academic units when possible; and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate recognizes the desirability of communicating to administrators the faculty perspective regarding academic and administrative matters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate ardently commends those department chairs, college deans, and other administrators at the University who currently seek to obtain the faculty point of view, whether formally or informally; further, be it

RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate strongly urges that all other University administrators consistently and explicitly seek the advice and consensus of faculty affected by their decisions.

After discussion the resolution was unanimously approved.

- The committee presented recommended changes to Policy A91. Acceptance of the changes were moved and seconded by the committee. After discussion the policy was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

All other action on the agenda was deferred until the next meeting because of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.