

Stephen F. Austin State University

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
2005 Meeting #336
February 9, 2005**

Subject to approval at the March meeting.

Senators present were: Julia Ballenger(1), Parker Ballinger(2), Chris Barker(3), John Boyd(5), Mary Nelle Brunson(6), Leisha Bridwell(7), Debbie Bush(8), Troy Davis(10), Greta Euginia Haidinyak(11), Kayce Halstead(12), Roy Joe Harris(13), Jere Jackson(14), Tommy Matthys (15), Gary Mayer(16), Lisa Mize(17), Chair-elect, Brian Oswald(18), Sue Ormsby(19), Jeana Paul-Ureña(20), Parliamentarian, Kelly Salisbury(21), Elton Scifres, (22), Treasurer, Sarah Stovall(23), Michael Walker(25), Elizabeth Witherspoon(26), Rick Jones (substituting for Wurtz, Utley, and Dalton)

Unexcused absences:

Excused absences: Chair, Gary Wurtz(27), Linda Bobo(4), Brian Utley(24), Deborah Dalton(9),

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:30p.m. by Chair-elect Brian Oswald at the Tracy Pearman Alumni Center.

II. PRESENTATIONS

PRESIDENT DR. TITO GUERRERO

Dr. Guerrero began his discussion by mentioning several budgetary items. Danny Gallant and Roland Smith are staying in Austin attending to these concerns.

He also mentioned that the new chancellor from the Texas State University System had recently been featured in a lengthy article in Austin American Statesman. Among the chancellor's last comments in the interview was that the independence of SFA will be considered during the next legislative session. The stance that SFA has taken is to not ask questions until you are ready to hear the answers. Dr. Guerrero told the Senate that Jesse Rogers (who is this?), in his entire tenure in the state of Texas, can not think of a single time that a university was dragged kicking and screaming into a university system.

A question addressed the content of a letter in the Pine Log concerning the move-out date (shortly after finals in early May) for Starr Apartments and the fact that some of the students living in university housing have children in public school, which does not release until the end of May. Dr. Guerrero said that we will be able to accommodate all of those residents of Starr apartments who have a need to stay there.

Senator Ballenger asked what affect the new commissioner in the Higher Education Coordinating Board, will have on our programs in education, and cooperative agreements with Houston area schools. It is possible that we would be less likely to get into trouble with SHSU and UH by having a presence in other districts like Alief, Humble, Cy-Fair. (I missed some of this issue.)

Senator Oswald asked about funding for the baseball complex. The intentions are for us to raise all money from private sources. Unfortunately, that is difficult. We do have sources who have asked to be able to give donations over a period of time. First, we need to know if the ball

fields can be placed in the area where we are looking which is at University and Starr. FEMA is involved because flooding may be an issue. We need to move ahead, and the Coordinating Board will not authorize a project until at least 25% of the funding has been secured from private sources. We hope to arrange through borrowing and/or bonding to have the entire cost covered by private sources. There was a discussion in the meeting of the Budget Committee two days ago concerning how we could develop a budget-building process that is more inclusive and how we could assure that our Board of Regents are in synch with our goals in our Strategic Plan. The Board of Regents Chair has agreed to meet with the Finance Committee Chair and the Budget Committee to have a tutorial to learn about planning for certain budgetary concerns. Dr. Guerrero mentioned that he would like to arrange other learning meetings to discuss raising enough revenue to make what improvements the university would like without pricing our students out.

PROVOST MARY CULLINAN

The Provost reported on a national academic officer's meeting that she just returned from. She returned from the meeting thinking that we are in a wonderful position compared to many states and universities.

She hopes to make an announcement about the Library Director position soon. The committee to select the new Dean of COSM has narrowed the search down to four candidates.

The Provost expressed concern over continued communication problems and mentioned a plan for an email newsletter for updates on the Strategic Plan; she also mentioned that she would like to implement other measures to improve communication in general, for example Open Forums or Town Hall style meetings.

Another item that the Provost addressed was the interest from some departments in the College of Fine Arts to adopt the software program "Turn it in" to help identify student plagiarism. Dr. Cullinan suggested gathering folks who have been using the software to investigate purchasing a site license or, if there is not enough interest, to continue purchasing it for individual faculty.

Dr. Cullinan expressed concern over mandates from SACS. Our next site visit is several years off, but we need to be addressing things now. Many new changes from last fall were the result of mandates imposed by SACS. Dr. Cullinan would like to propose a number of Town Hall meetings to address mandates from SACS so that we can take care of issues ahead of time.

Senator Ballenger mentioned that the College of Education is in the process of aligning their plan with the university plan, but that there is continually one component missing; the resource component. We spend so much time planning, but if there is no resource budget, all plans are for naught. Dr. Cullinan responded by mentioning that all states are hurting for funds, and since we did not increase enrollment this year, we are looking at using the same allocation for the next two years. There just are not anymore revenue sources out there.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Oswald asked if there was anyone that needed to make announcements from committee work on committees across campus. Response was underwhelming. Senator Oswald did mention the retirement party for Al Cage. Senator Haidinyak mentioned that they have been donated a section of what used to be Pineland Hospital for use by Angelina and SFA. (donated what?)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a motion to accept the minutes from meeting #336, as written, by Senator Davis; the motion was seconded by Senator Boyd.

V. OFFICER'S REPORTS

a. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report was given by Senator Oswald in Chair Wurtz's absence. The Board is now soliciting data addressing faculty salaries. The Board has agreed to be educated on the budgetary process. Really positive things could happen here. Chair-elect urged faculty to be involved.

On the child/spouse educational system plan, there was a decision to limit the number of degrees on the program to one. Budget concerns are being investigated and there is movement in that regard.

b. CHAIR-ELECT'S REPORT

The Graduate Council approved some new graduate faculty appointments and is beginning to review new or modified Graduate Courses. Other news from the Graduate Council pertains to the Biotech program which is initiating an agreement for an overlap program with University of Houston-Downtown.

Chair-elect Oswald reported that after a request by the executive committee of Faculty Senate, the drug policy will be held to go before the Board until the April meeting so that the faculty will have a chance to review and comment.

Faculty can peruse a draft of the workload policy on the Provost's webpage and should consider this draft a first step or test run. What is approved can be adjusted when or if we find problems. The Provost has been addressing issues on this when they are raised, and will post the more common questions and issues either on the web or as an email for review. She might also choose to hold a public forum as well for last questions.

Faculty should review and send comments on the Faculty Discipline Policy to Sharon Brewer.

Chair-elect Oswald next reported on the news from the Budget Advisory Committee. So far committee members have been given information on how funds are categorized, how each of these monies can be spent and where each fund comes from. We are also looking at the current budgeting process, the planning steps that go into this process, where the process can be improved, and where it can be easily made "transparent." The Budget Advisory Committee plans to have some forums this spring on all these topics which will be open to the faculty and staff. This is going to take a couple of years to put together since the university is mid-way through the budget process for 2005-06 already. One thing that has become apparent to everyone is the need for better communication on the whole budget process.

Chair-elect Oswald ended his report by giving a plea from current senators to be willing to be on the ballot to be a Faculty Senate officer next year. He also reminded us that the Senate decided to continue giving the Senator of Year Award, so please be thinking of who that senator might be.

c. TREASURER'S REPORT

Senator Stovall reported that our balance has not changed since we have had no expenditures.

d. SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

e. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs – Senator Jackson

No report.

Professional Welfare – Senator Davis

On the maternity leave issue, Senator Troy Davis spoke with Dr. Johnson in Liberal Arts who has had a concern about our current leave policy. She mentioned that the policy should give leave to fathers and that the policy could be altered to allow for several creative ways of payment. Senator Paul-Urena mentioned that one of Dr. Johnson's concerns was that insurance premiums had to come out of Johnson's pocket while she was on leave. There is no definite answer on whether or not the policy can be changed. Senator Davis is in contact with Georgeanne Wimberly about this matter.

On the compensation in excess of base salary issue, the current policy states that if a faculty member is paid by a grant or is teaching an overload, he or she cannot be paid more than 20% of base salary. A new policy was written to increase the fall/spring cap to 25% and the summer cap to 100% of base salary. The new policy went before the Board, and they approved the revision. Glenda Herrington has no opposition to doing away with the cap altogether. She felt that Dr. Davis should talk to Dr. Roland Smith about an elimination of the cap. Dr. Davis emailed Dr. Smith, and has gotten no response. Senator Oswald asked for the will of the Senate. Senator Boyd made a motion to write a resolution to request the removal of the cap. Senator Ballenger seconded the motion. There was a vote for Senator Davis to write a draft of a resolution. All were in favor.

Ethics Committee – Senator Mayer

No report.

Administration and Finance – Senator Scifres

No report.

Faculty Governance and Involvement – Senator Salsbery

No report.

Elections – Lisa Mize

No report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

It was brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate that some would like a change in the office hour's policy. Many want to know the point of having so many office hours, especially given the

fact that we communicate with our students by email also. Senator Oswald sent the issue to Professional Welfare to investigate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, a motion for adjournment was made by Senator Davis and seconded by Senator Boyd. The Senate stood adjourned at 3:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sarah Triana Stovall
(Filling in for Dr. Linda Stark Bobo)