

**Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #392 March 9, 2011**

Subject to approval at the 393<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Senators present: Norjuan Austin (1); Brian Beavers(2); Kathleen Belanger(3); Parliamentarian, Linda Bobo(4); Chair, Ken Collier(6); Dana Cooper (8); Dianne Dentice(10); Ann Ellis (11); Nancy Fox (12); Tracey Hasbun(13); Chair-Elect, David Howard(15); Treasurer, Keith Hubbard(16); Kim Kato (17); Cynthia McCarley (19); Emmerentie Oliphant(21); Carl Pfaffenberg(22); Rose Powell(23); Sandra Stewart(25); Janet Tareilo(26).

Excused/Sent Representative:

David Campo(5), Secretary, Carolyn Conn(7) Mitch Crocker(9); Christine Hennessey(14); Mikhail Kouliavtsev(18); Michael Maurer(20); Daniel Scognamillo(24); Juan Carlos Urena(27).

Not present:

I. Call to order. Chair Collier called the meeting to order at 2:39pm.

II. Presentations:

- A. Dr. Berry, Vice President of Academic Affairs—not present due to family emergency
  
- B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson- Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Successful onsite SACS review, team pleased, impressed with students, good snacks and food  
Three areas to work on including:
  - (1) QEP, first time to be reviewed, not part of compliance review, more details to be fleshed out by design,
  - (2) evaluation of adjunct faculty one of those areas, department basis not university basis, needs to be university wide, want policy implemented, will be implemented this spring,
  - (3) institutional assessment program including continuing education programs, knew going in that this was an area to be addressed, three years to close the loop, very interested in seeing consistent assessment of summer camps and other community engagement activities, outreach programs

No written response until 30 days after visit

Then have until August 1 (probably) to respond to areas of recommended changes

Ultimately, December will be the reaffirmation date; will work closely with Dr. Larry King to assess the university on a consistent basis

Senator McCarley asked questions regarding some of her specific programs in nursing concerning assessment, continuing medical education, where did the numbers go once they left her office

Senator Belanger asked a question regarding adjunct evaluation

Dr. Brunson answered that A-21.A was the new policy under Academic Affairs for evaluating adjuncts across the university, goes into the personnel file

Dr. Brunson discussed budgeting, still don't know anything definitively, assumed that \$10 million a year for the next two years, what we can do in terms of tuition and fees, cuts that can be made including technology replacement, O&M, reducing summer sections, other new ways to accommodate, still nothing firm, looking at lots of options, some bills introduced to freeze tuition being countered by voices of reason saying that just can't do that

Rumor, faculty salaries will be cut, not in the plan, savings and cuts by college already in place without touching faculty summer formula THIS year, perhaps an option in the future

Holding open positions instead of filling them

Beyond March 1, tenure-track and tenured faculty cannot be cut unless you are cutting programs or in a financial emergency, not legally a financial emergency, adjuncts can be cut after March 1

Low producing programs may be combined as a cost cutting measure, phase out, combine, or continue under extreme circumstances

Furloughs another issue discussed previously, new contracts state that faculty members can now be furloughed, no specific dates at this point

Senator Belanger asked about furloughs concerning 365 days versus other number of days based on your salary, hourly wage, which obviously impacts different people differently—9 versus 11 versus 12 month contracts

Dr. Brunson answered that it deals with federal laws regarding comp time or vacation time, brings into questions the fact that it takes away salary from faculty versus taking comp/vacation time from others

Senator McCarley and Senator Bobo raised concerns about the effect of furloughs on faculty, perhaps forecasting a potential number of furloughed days

Dr. Brunson answered that the question cannot be answered because the budget will not go to the Board of Regents until July

Senator Kato asked about word from the state, when will we know something

Dr. Brunson again answered that the question cannot be answered as session ends May 31 but emergency session may follow

Senator Stewart asked about scholarships and how that might effect enrollment if certain scholarships are cut, how it will affect SFA

Dr. Brunson answered that it could have a tremendous effect on our students as the large majority of our students are on financial aid

Senator Hubbard asked about the reconvening of the Cost Effectiveness Committee

Dr. Brunson said that yes it would meet again

Senator Bobo asked about furloughs again pressing the issue of taking comp/vacation time from some and salary from others

Dr. Brunson answered that Dr. Pattillo is much attuned to fairness across the university

Senator Hubbard asked about dean's contracts; Dr. Brunson answered that deans do not have contracts but rather letters stating their monthly salary but that hiring packet includes verbiage guaranteeing tenured status if your services are no longer needed

Dr. Brunson, RE: travel policy, if meals are part of fee, can you have per diem, policy is no as a SFA rule

Dr. Brunson, RE: concealed handgun, looks like it will pass this time but with many amendments that will tone it down a little bit, no way to kill it

now, still have to meet the legal requirements to purchase a gun, over 21, process of license, training, meeting concealed carry law as it stands, private institutions can claim exception such as the Early Childhood Lab and Charter School

Senator Bobo: can we create a process where you have to register your gun at SFA

Dr. Brunson answered that such was being discussed via amendment Discussion of Adjunct Teaching Award, could be part of Teaching Excellence Award process, Dr. Berry willing to have that become a part of the same process

Senator Bobo asked about working with current criteria and appropriate process for the award, thanked Dr. Brunson for working with the Faculty Senate on the award

Dr. Brunson returned to report that the tenure policy is up for review, policy committee has begun work on the policy, as soon as it ready, will be posted on Academic Affairs website, will be transparent, review as usual, has nothing to do with current events, i.e. budget

Discussion followed as to real change of such policy, what this meant people coming up for tenure, is there any real change between this policy and department/college level tenure policies including Family Leave and how that impacts tenure and stopping the tenure clock

Senator Bobo noted that Dr. Himes is the chair of the committee, take any questions, comments, concerns to him if you have specific issues, other distinguished members include **Ken t**, Brian Oswald, Scott Lagraff, Susan Clarke, Steve Bullard are all members of the committee

### III. Officers' reports:

- A. Chair – more discussion of furlough in terms of fairness, grants and other issues that complicate furloughs, all major issues were covered by Dr. Brunson
- B. Chair-elect – We need a report from David as to his last absence due to performance at Carnegie Hall
- C. Treasurer - \$4,500 and holding . . .
- D. Secretary – Thank you to Dana Cooper for filling while I am at a conference!

IV. Approval of minutes from Meetings #391. Motion to accept by Belanger seconded by Pfaffenberg; unanimously passed.

### V. Committee Reports:

- A. Faculty Government and Reapportionment – Elections/Constitution Committee –  
Declaration of Candidacy will go out along with department eligibility, elections by college, all specified in document Mikhail will email out to everyone
  - 1. Officer elections handled by nominating committee, which is all outgoing faculty senators, due in April, elected thereafter.
  - 2. Chair Collier explained that some discrepancies exist between standing rules versus other Constitution rules, need to clarify, need to propose changes in April in order to be voted on in May
  - 3. Senator Bobo agreed to run/serve again as parliamentarian

4. Senator Howard suggested emailing outgoing senators for nominations in addition to everyone's opinions being welcome
- B. Professional Welfare Committee – no report, but we're excited (so says Senator Bobo) about the Adjunct Teaching Award; Senator Kato noted a new award, the Service Learning Award, one per college, plaque but probably no money, which will also be awarded at the Teaching Excellence Award next month on April 13th
- C. Communication Committee – no report, need to let things settle at this point
- D. Academic Affairs Committee – no report
- E. Administration and Finance Committee – no report

VI. Old Business: N/A

VII. New Business:

Senator Howard wants to discuss that the FS had discussed a resolution regarding a proposed handgun bill two years ago, but as the bill's passage was not imminent, and since the SFA administration was against such a measure, and since there was no agreement among the senators as to whether the senate should support or oppose such a bill, we did not draft a resolution. The current bill, which may or may not be the same as the last bill, is on its way. We did not take any action. I did indeed relay the resolution by the state association of faculty senates.

Senator McCarley noted that ability to acquire license is quite stringent  
Senator Kato asks: can UPD stop and ask anyone carrying a gun for their papers  
Senator Hasbun asked whether or not professors have access to list of students who have registered guns on campus  
Senate will revisit the issue once the bill and subsequent amendments pass  
Neither administration nor UPD support this potential law

VIII. Adjournment: Chair Collier adjourned the meeting at 3:47pm  
Motion made by Senator Hubbard, seconded by Senator Powell

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Conn  
Secretary