

Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting #396

September 14, 2011

Subject to approval at the 397th meeting.

Senators present: Norjuan Austin (1), Treasurer, Brian Beavers (2), Christine Bergan (3), Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo (4), David Campo (5), Theresa Coble (6), David Cook (7), Secretary, Dana Cooper (8), David Cox (9), Dianne Dentice (10), Ann Ellis (11), Jason Fritzier (12), Tracey Hasbun (13), Chair, David Howard (14), Lora Jacobi (15), Mikhail Kouliavtsev (16), Matthew Lindsey (17), Michael Maurer (18), Karen Migl (19), Jannah Nerren (20), Rose Powell (22), Cindy Pressley (23), Deb Scott (24), Parliamentarian, Sandra Stewart (25), Janet Tareilo (26), Juan Carlos Ureña (27)

Excused/Sent Representative:

Emmerentie Oliphant (20), excused due to departmental duties

Not present:

I. Call to order:

- A. Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

II. Presentations:

- A. Dr. Baker Patillo was unavailable due to university business.
- B. Dr. Ric Berry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
 1. Warned of the danger of “let up” following SACS visit
 2. Encouraged faculty to remain vigilant regarding accreditation
 3. Stressed the need for growth in enrollment and increased in credit hours, specifically online, as there is no more room to grow in traditional face-to-face classes
 4. Perkins+Will, (also written as Perkins and Will, Perkins & Will), an integrated design firm, is in the process of viewing the campus to present a master plan for the university
 5. Aramark is reviewing current food services and considering new options based, in part, on focus groups
 6. New admissions standards are being implemented and will be effective for the fall 2012 entering class, which will likely result in a decrease in enrollment
 7. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will be phasing out some low producing programs
 8. Quality Enhancement Plan conclusions now being implemented, specifically high impact practices, with a new focus on student learning. The bottom line for faculty is to recruit, retain, and graduate students.
- C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School
 1. Provided an update on SACS reaffirmation. The university will receive final notification regarding affirmation approximately December 5, 2011.

2. Stressed the fact that assessment is not going anywhere; accreditation is a continuous process as faculty will always be under pressure to “close the loop,” and produce students who are prepared.
- D. Mr. Danny Gallant, Vice President of Finance & Administration
1. Discussed the current budget crisis and \$16 million reduction, which amounts to 17% of the total university budget. Although the reduction was shared across campus, academics was hit particularly hard due.
 2. Highlighted that no employees were laid-off, which is unique to SFA. Most universities across the state had tremendous layoffs.
 3. Although the lack of merit raises is frustrating, the university is fortunate to have arrived at this point is that we are here without major cuts.
 4. Encouraged faculty to retain students. For every one student SFA retains, do not have to increase by two to balance out.
 5. Noted that the university has competing initiatives at the state level due to various services, prisons, Medicaid, etc. Higher education is at the end of the line because we have the ability to raise tuition, fees.
- E. Dean Adam Peck, Dean of Student Affairs
1. Identified the various initiatives for students available at SFA such as
 - a. The Week of Reflection
 - b. Lumberjack Leadership Academy
 - c. Service Learning Advisory Board
 - d. The SFA Way
 - e. Peer Involvement Advising

III. Officers' Reports:

- A. Chair, David Howard
1. Urged senators to become and/or remain Visible, Active, and Current
- B. Treasurer, Brian Beavers
1. Balance is approximately \$3,200
 2. Recent expenditures for polo shirts for new faculty members and nameplates for new senators totaled approximately \$3,200.
- C. Secretary, Dana Cooper
1. Verified that the May minutes has been received by senators
 2. Invited comments for corrections/edits

IV. Approval of minutes from Meetings #394 & #395

- A. Senator Cook moved to approve, Senator Powell seconded
- B. Minutes unanimously passed

V. Committee Assignments:

- A. Chair Howard reviewed all committees, duties, responsibilities, thoughts and ideas about current practices and possibilities for the future
1. Academic Affairs Committee
 - a. Chaired by Tracey Hasbun
 - b. Committee members include Christine Bergan, Theresa Coble, Jason Fritzler, and Jannah Nerren
 2. Administration and Finance Committee

- a. Chaired by Janet Tareilo
 - b. Committee members include Matthew Lindsey, Michael Maurer, Karen Migl, and Cindy Pressley
- 3. Communication Committee
 - a. Chaired by Brian Beavers
 - b. Committee members include Norjuan Austin, Neal Cox, and Emmerentie Oliphant
- 4. Elections/Constitution Committee
 - a. Chaired by Mikhail Kouliavstev
 - b. Committee members include Lora Jacobi, Jannah Nerren, and Rose Powell
- 5. Ethics Committee
 - a. Chaired by Dianne Dentice
 - b. Committee members include Linda Bobo and Dana Cooper
- 6. Faculty Government and Involvement
 - a. Chaired by Sandra Stewart
 - b. Committee members include David Cook, Dana Cooper, Ann Ellis, Deb Scott
- 7. Professional Welfare Committee
 - a. Chaired by Juan Carlos-Ureña
 - b. Committee members include David Campo, Lora Jacobi, and Rose Powell
- 8. Strategic Planning
 - a. Chaired by David Howard
 - b. Committee members include Ken Collier (Past Chair), Linda Bobo (Chair-Elect), and Brian Beavers (Treasurer)

VI. Old Business:

- A. Discussion of polo shirts to new senators
 - 1. Secretary Cooper moved to present polo shirts to outgoing and new senators
 - 2. Seconded by Senator Dentice, unanimously passed

VII. New Business:

- A. Report from Powell, member of Distance Education Committee
 - 1. As Blackboard will be de-supported in 2013, OIT reviewed six LMS (learning management systems), and decided that Design 2 Learn (D2L) is the best option as it is very user-friendly, intuitive, and affordable. Content in current courses will not be lost., will not lose what you have in your courses currently. For more information, call Janet Kamps for more information at x.1818.
 - 2. No recertification necessary for certified instructions. Faculty training will begin in Feb 2012 with D2L to “go live” summer I, 2012.
- B. Discussion of Adjunct Representatives
 - 1. Dr. Dottie Gottshall, Elementary Education, expressed interested in serving. Chair-Elect Bobo moved to elect Gottshall to the Senate, and Parliamentarian Stewart seconded the motion.
 - 2. Gottshall elected as an adjunct member with no opposition.

3. Senator Kouliavtsev questioned categories of adjuncts, lecturers, and instructors. Parliamentarian Stewart will review policies regarding definitions for serving on Faculty Senate. Election of second adjunct senator will be tabled until next meeting. Email nominees, with their consent, to Chair Howard within one week. Online election will follow and issue settled before the next meeting.

C. Senator Dentice asked, on behalf of Jerry Williams, if the Senate could visit the Banner issue. Chair Howard directed Senator Tareilo to review the issue as part of the Administration and Finance committee.

IX. Adjournment:

A. Chair Howard moved to adjourn, so moved by Senator Cook, which was seconded by Senator Kouliavtsev.

B. Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Cooper
Secretary