

Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting #399

December 14, 2011

Subject to approval at the 400th meeting.

Senators present:

Norjuan Austin (1), Treasurer, Brian Beavers (2), Christine Bergan (3), Chair-Elect, Linda Bobo (4), Secretary, Dana Cooper (8), David Cox (9), Dianne Dentice (10), Ann Ellis (11), Jason Fritzler (12), Tracey Hasbun (13), Chair, David Howard (14), Mikhail Kouliavtsev (16), Matthew Lindsey (17), Michael Maurer (18), Karen Migl (19), Susan Nelson (20), Emmerentie Oliphant (22), Rose Powell (23), Cindy Pressley (24), Deb Scott (25), Parliamentarian, Sandra Stewart (26), Janet Tareilo (27), Juan Carlos Ureña (28)

Excused/Sent Representative:

David Campo (5), Theresa Coble (6), David Cook (7), Lora Jacobi (15), Jannah Nerren (21)

Not present:

I. Call to order.

A. Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 2:39pm

II. Presentations:

A. Dr. Baker Patillo, President

1. President Patillo introduced Texas State Representative Chuck Hopson who spoke about serving in the Texas Capitol and answered questions from the faculty regarding the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, K-16 models, and the Seven Breakthrough Solutions

B. Dr. Richard Berry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

1. Announced that SACS reaffirmed SFA for the next ten years with NO monitoring reports, which is a huge achievement. But the job is not finished. Assessment/accreditation is a continuous process now. Report due in five years.
2. Chair Howard asked about the High School Early College program. A long and intense conversation followed regarding potential success, decreased credit hours for these students, access to student evaluations
3. Dr. Judy Abbott, Dean of the College of Education, explained that students who perform well can move forward. She described the program as an effort of “lifting up” of underrepresented groups and about helping them.
4. Chair Howard pointed out that the widespread culture among high school students is of automatic success and hated to see mindset transfer to the university level.
5. Chair Howard inquired about the repeated class grade policy. Dr. Berry explained that this proposal returned the university to return to a previous policy. In 2003, the university tried to find a way to prevent students from repeating courses ad nauseam. The 150-hour/W6 drop rule was not in

place at that time. Dr. Berry explained that Banner gave us an opportunity to review every piece of our operation. Banner will not calculate GPA as we do now and would require a modification; thus, the proposal is to go back to 1923-2003 policy of repeated grades and the highest grade counting. All grades will remain on the transcript but does not affect GPA.

- C. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, was in attendance but had no comments.
- D. Dr. Judy Abbott, Dean of the James I. Perkins College of Education, commented on dual credit as the issues came up.

III. Officers' reports:

- A. Chair, David Howard
 - 1. See "Leave Reporting Guidelines" as per the Academic Affairs Council
 - 2. Personal Information Release issue was addressed by Rep. Hopson as a mistake by Texas legislators and will be corrected next session.
 - 3. Tax Withholding issue will be corrected.
- B. Treasurer, Brian Beavers
 - 1. There is approximately \$6K in the Faculty Senate bank account.

IV. Approval of minutes from Meetings #398

- A. Verified that the #398 meeting minutes has been received by senators
- B. Invited comments for corrections/edits
- C. So moved by Senator Powell, seconded by Chair-Elect Bobo
- D. Minutes unanimously approved

V. Committee Assignments:

- A. Faculty Government and Involvement
 - Chaired by Sandra Stewart
 - 1. No report
- B. Professional Welfare Committee
 - Chaired by Juan Carlos Ureña
 - 1. No report
- C. Communication Committee
 - Chaired by Brian Beavers
 - 1. No report
- D. Academic Affairs Committee
 - Chaired by Tracey Hasbun
 - 1. No report
- E. Administration and Finance
 - Chaired by Janet Tareilo
 - 1. No report
- F. Elections/Constitution Committee
 - Chaired by Mikhail Kouliavstev
 - 1. No report
- G. Ethics Committee
 - Chaired by Dianne Dentice

1. No report

VI. Old Business

- A. Senator Lora Jacobi requested that information regarding student evaluations be announced at the first college/department meetings of the year so that professors can have input regarding questions.
- B. Jacobi explained that paper surveys will require more man-hours but will perhaps be balanced out by respondents. She will email the survey out to senators.
- C. A new award, the adjunct teaching award, will follow the same timeline and procedures for adjunct nominees.

VII. New Business

- A. Senator Cooper requested that, in light of the comfortable bank balance and dated Senate laptop, the senators consider investigate the potential purchase of a new laptop.
- B. Parliamentarian Stewart so moved, and Senator Dentice seconded
- C. Senators agreed that a new laptop would not exceed \$1,000
- D. Treasurer Beavers will talk with purchasing about a new laptop
- E. Motion passed unanimously

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Chair Howard moved that the meeting be adjourned
- B. Secretary Cooper so moved, Senator Tareilo seconded
- C. Meeting adjourned at 4:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Cooper
Secretary