



Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#433
October 7, 2015



I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on October 7, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., at the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom, 2.201. It was presided over by Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink. Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink welcomed new Senators (Eaves, Hicks, Jones, Whitehead) who were elected to replace vacancies that occurred within the Senate over the summer citing, *“Whenever a vacancy exists in the Faculty Senate for any reason whatsoever, it shall, until the next regular election, be filled by vote of the Faculty Senate from the respective group in which the vacancy existed”* (Constitution of the Faculty Senate, Article I, Section 8).

Attendance

Voting members in attendance: Kenneth Austin, Joey Bray, Lauren Brewer, Erica Chapman, Karen Embry-Jenlink, Dennis Gravatt, Tammy Harris, Stacy Hendricks, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Kyle Jones, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, Linda Levitt (proxy for Louise Stoehr), David McKemy, Bradley Meyer, Perry Moon (proxy for Carlos Cuadra), Kefa Onchoke, J. D. Salas, Paul Sandul, Le’Ann Solmonson, Steve Taaffe, Jay Thornton, Kimberly Welsh, Malcolm Todd Whitehead,

Guests in attendance: Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Dr. Randy McDonald, Herbert Midgley, Ken Morton, Dr. Adam Peck, Phil Reynolds, Dillon Wackerman

Members not in attendance: Carlos Cuadra, Sharon Eaves, Janice Hensarling (excused), Karen Price, Louise Stoehr

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost: Updated faculty on the new advising platform as part of the University’s student success initiative. This tool should assist faculty with being able to schedule time more effectively. The purpose is to help retain students that are admitted into the institution.

B. Dr. Randy McDonald, Director of CTL: The Office of Instructional Technology (OIT), Teaching Excellence Center (TEC), and the Office of High-Impact Practices, merged together to provide a comprehensive and improved approach to faculty development. The *Bulletin*, an informational newsletter regarding ongoing and upcoming events/programs within the CTL, will be updated once a month and posted online www.sfactl.info. Updates will continue to be made in Digital Measures to better identify these programs in order for faculty to receive proper credit for their involvement.

C. Dillon Wackerman, Head of Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) & Phil Reynolds, Scholarly Communications Librarian: Presented about Open Access (OA) – research that is online, free of most copyright and licensing restrictions, and free of charge. Phil extended the offer to continue this discussion with departments if they are interested in learning more about this service.



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III. Officer Reports

A. Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink:

1. **Live Streaming:** Announced that this meeting was conducting an alpha test to live stream the senate meeting. Following successful alpha testing regarding volume and quality, it is the intent of the Faculty Senate to provide faculty with an opportunity to view meetings online.
2. **Welcome:** Chair Elect J. D. Salas, and Secretary Kimberly Welsh, were formally welcomed.
3. **Title IX:** Chair met with the new Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Michael Walker, regarding changes in the role of the Title IX Coordinator and policies enforced by the Title IX Coordinator, including sexual misconduct.
4. **Texas Council of Faculty Senates:** Chair and Chair Elect are preparing to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting and will bring back information.
5. **Faculty Senate Committees:** The Chair is working with chairs of committees, new committees, and thanked the Faculty Senate for their high level of service and energy.

B. Chair-Elect J. D. Salas: Chair-Elect deferred report to follow the agenda. The Chair-Elect serves as Chair of the Professional Welfare committee and has been very active in compiling faculty input on the academic policies under review for Promotion, Tenure, Post Tenure Review, and Administrative Evaluation for Consideration of Merit Pay.

C. Secretary Kimberly Welsh: Welcomed visitors and reminded Senators to please sign in.

D. Treasurer Joey Bray: Faculty Senate had a previous balance from September of \$5,218.36. Total expenditures for September was \$300, which were for dues for the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Account balance as of October 7, 2015 is \$4918.36.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink requested approval of the minutes from Meeting #432. Dennis Gravatt moved that the minutes from meeting #432 be approved as written, Bradley Meyer seconded. No discussion; 1 abstention; motion carried to accept Minutes #432 as written.

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** Karen Embry-Jenlink will send meeting update of the meeting to Senators, which include updates on new federal guidelines on university records retention and university exploration of articulation and partnerships with Lone Star College in Houston and Tyler Junior College. Karen Embry-Jenlink was named to SFA Envisioned committee, Attracting and Supporting a High Quality Faculty/Staff, directed by Mr. Danny Gallant, V.P. for Finance and Administration.
- b. **Core Curriculum Assessment:** Ken Austin provided an update regarding the report on assessment that was done in 2014. A question regarding results about a



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SHSU survey that was sent to SFA faculty results was raised. The committee stated that they would find out the answer and report back to the Faculty Senate.

- c. **Distance Education:** Le'Ann Solmonson reported that the committee felt like there was more work that needed to be done regarding the survey of online teaching, and contracted with an individual to do a final review. The results should be completed soon
- d. **Graduate Council:** No report.
- e. **Policy:** Ginger Kelso shared that Dr. Abbott shared all University policies that are being reviewed (handout provided of list). The Policy Committee is seeking feedback from faculty. The committee meets on Thursday afternoons – feedback from faculty will be reported from the Senate by Tuesday, October 27th. The committee meets on October 29th.

B. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. **Academic Affairs:** Louise Stoehr has met with Dr. Bullard to discuss the charge for this committee. More information to come.
- b. **Administration and Finance:** Joey Bray stated that the committee has corresponded by email. They are seeking to create a task force regarding Space Utilization Scheduling that represents all colleges. They need a COE and a College of Fine Arts representative, and have already met with John Callahan to share plans. The committee would like to continue the discussion regarding faculty salaries and CUPA data.
- c. **Communications:** Erica Chapman reported that this Faculty Senate meeting was currently live with about a 30 second delay. The committee secured necessary equipment to have audio and visual live streaming availability.
- d. **Elections:** Stacy Hendricks reiterated that this election was for replacements for vacancies that occurred within the Faculty Senate. She thanked everyone for his/her patience. She introduced and welcomed new Senators by College (Whitehead, Jones, Hicks, and Eaves).
- e. **Ethics:** Stephen Kosovich spoke regarding the current non-discrimination policy. Currently, there is no protection regarding sexual identification – does the Faculty Senate want to work on that and craft a resolution? In 2008, the Faculty Senate did craft a resolution asking that sexual orientation be added, but it was not added to the current policy. Other concerns expressed included collegiality/culture and exaggerating, or over reporting on the FAR. It was stated that the Faculty Handbook is being redone, so this might be a place to address this concern.
- f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Bradley Meyer reported that the committee is in the process of rewriting and updating the Faculty Handbook.



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- g. **Professional Welfare:** J. D. Salas reported on the Joint Resolution to Establish SFA as a Tobacco Free Campus. He is also working on the concealed handgun issue. The committee will be sending out a resource list for faculty to review. Salas shared what some other campuses are doing regarding petitions and efforts being made. He asked Senators to provide any feedback and opinions regarding this issue to the committee. A possible open meeting in December to discuss the concealed handgun rule was suggested. A question was raised if legal council could discuss what this law will mean at a future meeting.
- h. **Strategic Planning:** Chair Elect J. D. Salas serves as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee will consist of the current Senate officers and the former Senate chair, Dana Cooper.

VI. New Business

- A. **Elections – Adjunct Faculty Position (1) - Action Item:** The committee had current senators vote on faculty adjunct representative. Voting was done by ballot with 23 recorded votes, 1 abstained; vote was a tie. The Committee will send out an online ballot asking for all Faculty Senate votes and should have results by the November meeting.
- B. **Joint Resolution on Establishing SFA as a Tobacco Free Campus – Action Item:** Chair Karen Embry-Jenlink introduced the joint resolution proposed by the Student Government Association. Le'Ann Solmonson moved to accept the joint resolution as written, Joey Bray seconded. A full discussion with testimony and comments from faculty and student affairs individuals ensued.
Voting: 19 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. The Joint Resolution on Establishing SFA as a Tobacco Free Campus was approved as written.
- C. **Academic Affairs Policies under Review - Discussion:**
Chair Embry-Jenlink facilitated the discussion of each policy under consideration. Chair Elect J. D. Salas provided an overview of faculty input received in writing. After discussion, Dennis Gravatt moved to *not approve* the proposed revisions to the policies as written and to return them to the Policy committee with recommendations for further revision based on faculty feedback, Paul Sandul seconded. No further discussion occurred. The motion to *not approve* the proposed revisions to the policies as written and to return them to the Policy committee with recommendations for further revision based on faculty feedback, was approved unanimously. Chair Elect J. D. Salas stated that all comments from faculty would be compiled and sent forward to the Policy committee before the deadline of October 27.

VII. Other None



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VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Karen Embry Jenlink
Karen Embry-Jenlink, Chair

Kimberly Welsh
Kimberly Welsh, Secretary