

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
#440
Wednesday, October 12, 2016

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stephen F. Austin State University Faculty Senate was held on October 12, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., at the Baker Patillo Student Center, Tiered Classroom 2.201. It was presided over by Chair J.D. Salas.

Chair Salas asked for flexibility in the agenda. Committee reports and old business will be moved to after new business. Senator Stoehr motioned to approve this change of agenda and Senator Minich seconded the motion. Motion carried to change the senate meeting agenda.

Attendance

Voting Senators in attendance: Adam Akerson (proxy for Paula Griffin), Scott Bailey (proxy for Kerry Roberts), Mary Catherine Breen, Lauren Brewer, Erica Chapman, Carolyn Conn, Carlos Cuadra, Sharon Eaves, Dennis Gravatt, Candace Hicks, I-Kuai Hung, Kyle Jones, Ginger Kelso, Stephen Kosovich, John Mehaffey, Bradley Meyer, Herbert Midgley, Olga Minich, Mark Montgomery, James Morris, Kefa Onchoke, Jason Reese, Chris Ryan, J.D. Salas, Paul Sandul, Le'Ann Solmonson, Louise Stoehr, Steve Taaffe, Todd Whitehead

Senators not in attendance: Janice Hensarling; Kerry Roberts (with proxy); Paula Griffin (with proxy)

II. Presentations

A. Dr. Steve Bullard, Provost & VPAA

1. A university assessment steering council was established to focus on rethinking the assessment processes within the university. The council is working toward establishing work on assessment processes as service for faculty members.
2. The faculty are encouraged to consider how the teaching effectiveness recommendations should be used.
3. The Associate Deans' Council has been working on recommendations to change required residency hours for SFA.
4. In order to increase budget transparency, inquiries have been made concerning professional development funding decreases, HEF distributions, and O&M distributions.
5. Faculty senators are encouraged to consider working toward changing how Faculty Activity Reports (FAR) are completed with Digital Measures.

B. Dr. Mary Nelle Brunson, Associate Provost

1. The use of the Early Alert system was reviewed. Alerts go to the advisors in the college, who should begin action (email, text, or call) within 24 to 48 hours. Students

also receive notification of the alert unless the alert concerns behavior or medical concerns. If the student does not respond to the advisor, the case is assigned to Resident Life or AARC. When the case is closed the person issuing the alert gets a message. Alert records are on the SEC campus system. Time was provided for questions.

C. Dr. Janet Tareilo, Associate Provost

1. The Student Success Center is working with GenJacks. They are also working on establishing and hiring a transfer coordinator position. Faculty members are invited to see what the AARC and Student Success Center are doing on the first floor of the library. Time was provided for questions.

D. Dr. Marc Guidry, Associate Dean – College of Liberal & Applied Arts

1. The Associate Dean's Council has recommended changes to the transfer hour requirements for SFA. SFA currently allows 66 academic and 4 kinesiology credits from community college(s). This is comparable to other Texas universities. SFA's residency requirement is currently 42 hours, which is high in comparison to other Texas universities. SFA also requires 36 advanced hours with all completed in residence. The Associate Dean's Council has proposed to reduce residency hours from 42. SACS requires that at least 30 hours must be completed in residence. Time was provided for questions.

III. Approval of minutes from Meeting #439

Chair Salas requested approval of the minutes from meeting #439.

Senator Minich moved that the minutes from meeting #439 be approved as written, Senator Brewer seconded. Motion carried to accept Minutes #439 as written.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair – Dr. J.D. Salas

- a. Chair Salas is working with the Provost to get faculty senate representation on all Strategic Plan teams.
- b. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates will meet October 28-29, 2016. Texas Association of College Teachers will be discussed along with Texas Lt. Governor, Dan Patrick's promise to cut tenure. Chair Salas will be in attendance.
- c. The SFA Budget has been distributed to the officers. Plans to send to the senators and post the budget online will be carried out pending the recommendation of Dr. Gallant. Plans have been made to create a forum to discuss the budget and its implications. Provost Bullard and Dr. Gallant have agreed to be a part of this forum. It has been tentatively scheduled for December 7th at 2:30.

B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson

The SFA budget is being reviewed focusing on salaries. Statistical summaries of this information will be made available to the faculty senate.

C. Secretary – Dr. Ginger Kelso

Secretary Kelso reminded senators to please sign in. Visitors should sign the visitor log. Proxies should sign the visitor log and write the name of the senator they are representing. Proxies should also use the name plaque of the person they are representing to indicate that they are acting as a voting member.

D. Treasurer - Dr. Dennis Gravatt

Faculty senate had a previous balance from September 15, 2016 of \$588.41. Total expenditures from September 2016 to October 2016 are \$0. Account balance as of October 12, 2016 is \$588.41, which when rolled over with budgeted funds for FY 16-17 of \$4,353.00, results in a balance of \$4,941.41.

V. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs:** Chair Salas shared that Promotion and Tenure policy went forward without senate approval. Those who were already in the process of promotion or tenure were assumed to be grandfathered under the old policy. Post-tenure review policy went forward without senate approval. It is not clear when that policy will affect those who were previously tenured. The senate will ask for a three-year delay before tenured faculty must be reviewed. The classroom security project policy is under development.
- b. Core Curriculum Assessment:** Senator Minich shared that a complete overhaul of the core assessment plan is being considered. However, the old plan will be implemented until a new plan can be established. Senator Kosovich attended a presentation of other university core assessment procedures. He reported that the other universities are experiencing many of the same problems as SFA. However, some are using different types of assessments not embedded into courses. Authentic assessments are also popular.
- c. Distance Education:** Senator Onchoke reported they have not met
- d. Graduate Council:** Chair-Elect Solmonson reported that the Graduate Dean was critical of the website and the book study of the Undergraduate Experience. The goals of the graduate council are to increase graduate enrollment, increase stipends to graduate assistants, and increase visibility of graduate programs on campus.
- e. Policy:** Senator Sandul shared that more than 30 policies have been reviewed at this point. Feedback is welcome on policies that were sent out to senators by email.

C. Internal (FS) Committees

- a. Academic Affairs:** Senator Stoehr stated that they are going to put together a forum to make information available about the teaching effectiveness recommendations document. Senator Minich explained that SACS requires published criteria to show how teaching effectiveness is measured.

- b. **Administration and Finance:** Senator Gravatt reported that they have not met. One of the topics to be addressed will be professional development funds.
- c. **Communications:** Senator Chapman reported that there were eight online viewers for the current senate meeting. They will work on making the process easier.
- d. **Elections:** Senator Onchoke reported that have not met. They plan to review the constitution.
- e. **Ethics:** Senator Kosovich reported that they talked about the current status of the ombudsman position. The sexual misconduct policy was reviewed and discussed. Senator Brewer proposed consideration of modified instructional duties as an option in place of taking a medical and family leave.
- f. **Faculty Government and Involvement:** Senator Meyer stated that they have nothing to report.
- g. **Professional Welfare:** Senator Eaves reported that they are working on the Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award. Suggested that the award be named the Joe and Mary Devine Teaching Excellence Award. Senator Eaves motioned that this name be accepted. Motion carries to name the award the Joe and Mary Devine Teaching Excellence Award.
- h. **Strategic Planning:** Chair-Elect Solmonson reported that senate committees have been aligned with the strategic plan committees. Chairs of the senate committees are asked to come up with goals to support the aligned strategic plan committee. The first faculty senate coffee will be on October 27th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This semester we will also host a faculty senate happy hour on Tuesday November 15th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM at Maklemores. Faculty senate will provide appetizers.

VI. Old Business –

A. Faculty Senate Chamber Membership:

- a. Faculty senate will be under the non-profit section

VII. New Business –

A. Community College Transfer Hours Amendment:

- a. Chair Salas asked for a motion to accept and endorse the recommendations from the Associate Dean's Council concerning transfer hours from two-year institutions. Senator Stoehr moved that the recommendation should be accepted. Senator Gravatt seconded the motion. The motion carries.
- b. Senator Brewer motioned to change the recommendation of 42 hours in residency to 36 hours in residency. Senator Stoehr seconded the motion. Discussion ensued concerning changing to 30 instead of 36 in residence, all advanced. Motion failed.
- c. Senator Eaves motioned to change the recommendation of 42 hours in residency to 30 hours. Senator Stoehr seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Motion carries. The recommended number of advanced hours will remain unchanged at 36 required hours.

B. 2016-17 Policy Revision Process:

- a. Chair Salas asked for a motion to upload policies to the faculty senate website for a 21-day review period. Senator Meyers motioned to upload policies. Senator Eaves seconded the motion. The motion carries.
- b. The current Academic Appeals policy seems contradictory in that an appeals procedure is provided for students, but faculty are also given sole responsibility of assigning grades. Discussion ensued.

C. Professional Development & Instructional Capital Funding Changes:

- a. Budget cuts due to other financial needs such as compliance with overtime rules and reduced credit hour generation based on last year.
- b. A letter was submitted from the Council of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts. Read by Chair-Elect Solmonson.
 - i. The authors of the letter requested a resolution from faculty senate concerning the reduction in professional development funds. Chair Salas asked for motion to accept letter in total and add the following. It should be recognized that the reduced funding should be taken into consideration as faculty apply for tenure and promotion. The senate also requests a moratorium on post-tenure review until professional development funds are restored. Senator Meyer motioned to accept the letter and additions as a resolution. Senator Brewer seconded the motion. The motion carries.
 - ii. Capital funding will be addressed in the planned budget forum in December.

D. New Faculty Training Concerns:

- a. Dr. Olson-Beal will present at the next senate meeting (November) concerning the new faculty training requirements.
- b. New faculty training has been required for all new hires since 2011.
- c. Chair Salas asked for a motion to create an anonymous survey to assess the perceived value of the new faculty training. Senator Gravatt motioned to create a survey. Senator Brewer seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Motion failed.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Stoehr moved to adjourn the meeting, Senator Morris seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

J. D. Salas, Chair

Ginger Kelso, Secretary