

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #476
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Zoom Meeting
2:30pm

I. Call to order 2:30 PM by Senate Chair Uriegas:

- **Attending Senators:** James Adams, Kristen Bailey-Wallace, Jeremy Becnel, Sara Bishop (**proxy:** Angela Jones), Rebecca Davis (**proxy:** Steve Kosovish; returned 3:50), George Day, Sara Drake, Xiaozhen Han, Margaret Leysath, Christina Guenther, Larry King, Franta Majs, Rob McDermand, Chris McKenna, Rajat Mishra (**proxy:** Brian Nagy; returned), Jonathan Mitchell, Amanda Moore, Heather Olson-Beal, Tina Oswald, Pamela Rogers, Gretchen Patterson, Diane Sizemore, Sarah Straub, Louise Stoehr, Bailey Thompson, Chris Turner, Victoria Wagner-Drake, Michelle Klein, Yanli Zhang, Daniel McCleary (arrived 2:53)
- **Not Present:** Darrel McDonald; Herbert Midgley (attended until 5:30 PM); Steve Cooper (arrived 2:50; left without notice),

II. Presentations

- A. Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost & VPAA- 4SP
 - a. Discussed the large number of advisees for each advisor
 - b. Outside audit to review financial situation (wrapped up soon, but no specific timetable)
 - c. As soon as priorities are approved, this will help Dr. Smith move forward with greater confidence.
 - d. Requesting communication about what is needed (budget-wise); budget process will take a few years to even out
 - e. Reviewing low producing programs with Dr. Guidry
- B. Jason Reese-4SP
 - a. Reviewed steps (step 1: Dean, step 2: Chairs, step 3: Faculty Senate, step 4: townhall, step 5: Provost, step 6: pres/board)
 - b. Goal: Identify priorities (lens for which we will look at any idea that comes through AA)
 - i. Academic integrity
 - ii. Matriculation and retention of students
 - iii. Job placement rates
 - c. Proposed Problem Statement is on hold
- C. Mickey Diez, Registrar- Introduction
 - a. Shared background (he started a few weeks ago)
 - b. Discussion on regalia and how it is cost prohibitive; discussion on renting
- D. Jason Reese-Athletics
 - a. IAC Purpose: provide oversight for intercollegiate athletes (academic progress, student-athlete welfare, facility planning/fiscal integrity)
 - b. Shared out specific improvements

- c. Questions regarding graduation rates, academic support services for advisors (athlete specific), athletic department hiring of tutors (qty 20)
- E. Megan Weatherly, Staff Council Chair-Staff Council/Faculty Senate Liaison
 - a. Intro to staff council
 - b. Elected officers (Alison Reed, Chair Elect; Rebecca Galatas Parliamentarian, Meredith Bailey Secretary, Grace Romero Treasurer)
 - c. Building by-laws
 - d. Some staff councils and faculty senates have formalized relationship; request for liaison from faculty senate (chair-elect?) Request for reciprocal position from staff
- F. Andrew Dies, Dean of Students- SFA BIT/CARE Team
 - a. Behavioral Intervention Team (EAB alert goes to case management team)
 - b. Request for faculty and reps from academic affairs (request to nominate a faculty member) Meeting Tuesday 9:00-10:30, beginning November (training); Primary with Designated Backup. Face-to-face appointment. Role will be to formulate response

III. Break (if needed) 3:35, Returned 3:40

IV. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #475

- a. Removing motions during executive session
- b. Senator Stoehr (motion), Oswald (second), passed
- c. Motion to keep points 1, 2 Turner (motion), Day (second), passed

V. Officer Reports

- A. Chair – Dr. Brian Uriegas
 - a. Monthly meetings with Gordon, Smith, McKenna (Budget)
 - b. Monthly meeting with Smith and Darville (Budget); now have signed contract with external audit firm
- B. Chair-Elect – Dr. Chris Mckenna
 - a. Decision to stick with faculty, Jason Reese not permitted to enter (assistant chair)
 - b. UBC meeting: taking more formal shape with sub-committees to focus on things like communication, budget processes, etc.
 - i. Issues: Advisory Board only
 - ii. Lack of clarity on deficits, budgets, etc. so movement is unclear prior to audit completion
 - iii. University Financial Council (4 goals: reporting, communication, improvement, etc. with 1-year term)
- C. Secretary – Dr. Sarah Straub
- D. Treasurer – Gretchen Patterson
 - a. Leftover funds from last budget year (almost \$3,000); expense was New Faculty Orientation event
 - b. Infusion of \$2,000 from Provost (1/2 of typical allocation)
 - c. We only have \$2,000 because leftover funds were transferred to Provost's account. This could be accessed with a request of funds.
 - d. \$25, TFFSC

- e. \$400, membership dues
- f. Axe-handles, plaques for EOY

VI. Committee Reports

A. External (University) Committees

1. Academic Affairs Council (Uriegas)
 - a. No longer exists
2. Core Curriculum Assessment Committee (Drake)
3. Distance Education (McDonald)
4. Graduate Council (McKenna)
 - a. Reminders from Guidry for necessary differentiation between undergrad, masters, and PhD with regard to rigor and requirements
 - b. Curriculog meeting
5. Policy (Drake)
 - a. Reviewing 2 policies (Workload and Small Class Size)
 - i. Concern for small class size policy – adjustments can severely affect/eliminate programs
 - ii. Request to revise committee composition to reflect faculty
 - iii. THECB doesn't have the minimums anymore
 - iv. Requested additional faculty, but this was outvoted
 - v. Discussion regarding if this should be debated via 4SP townhall
 - vi. Discussion regarding faculty senate request for a formal statement
 - b. Desire seems to be unit level policies at this time
 - c. Aligns with calendar committee charges (return to mostly the old term)

B. Internal (FS) Committees

1. Academic Affairs (Turner)
 - i. Reviewing Greek Honors changes
2. Administration and Finance (Sizemore)
 - i. UBC update was discussed
 - ii. Currently drafting plan for support w/o duplicating what all the other committees are doing
3. Communications (Day)
4. Elections (Rogers)
5. Ethics (Klein)
6. Faculty Government and Involvement (Adams)
 - i. Met with Jason Reese to review 4SP
7. Professional Welfare (King)
 - i. Discussed two policies (faculty workload)
 - ii. Developed survey to share with faculty to get feedback on current and potential revised policies
8. Strategic Planning (Mitchell)

VII. Old Business

1. Shared Governance Document

- ii. Staff council, SGA, and senate have all reviewed and edited the shared governance document.
- iii. The document is intended to be a foundational document, there will be further discussion of processes.
- iv. Key feature: SGD reviewed each March, consideration for Faculty Senate Committee to be created for this role
 - v. Request to change “Administration” to “Administrators”
 - vi. Next step to go to Board (See New Business D)
 - vii. Question: Will this be given a policy #?

VIII. New Business

- a. Attendance Rosters (Cooper)
 - a. Request for more professional communication regarding folks who are late with rosters/grades
 - b. Motion to table – Senator Mitchell
 - c. Seconded Senator Adams
 - d. Passed
- b. Possible action on 4SP recommendation
 - a. Concern about this (when compared with budget priorities)
 - b. Question on alignment with mission statement
 - c. Request for a priority specifically for faculty
 - d. Not sure that Job Placement is a part of AA
 - e. Request for something with regard to learning/education
 - f. Request for people-centered language
 - g. Options
 - i. Ad hoc committee
 - ii. Motion (Senator Day) No motion to approve/reject; Request to sit with Deans/Chairs as collaborative entity (combination of steps 1-3 for joint group); Seconded by Senator Oswald; Revised: The Senate did not move to approve the AA priorities as delivered in today's Senate session. In response, and in the interests of making timely progress, the Senate moves that a joint session of reps from the Chairs, Deans, and Senate combine (as a combining of the first several steps of the 4SP process) to develop an alternative acceptable to all.
 - 1. Discussion: This doesn't fit with 4SP process.
 - 2. Precedent to skip process because Reese said we'd skip the townhall
 - 3. Passed
- c. Possible action regarding request from Staff Council on Faculty Senate Liaison
 - a. Do we want the liaison? Yes
 - b. Consideration on liaison being led of the Communications Committee
 - c. Motion: Senator Wagner Greene; Seconded Senator Stoehr for reciprocal liaison with Staff Council
 - d. Passed

- d. Possible action on revised Shared Governance document
 - a. Motion Senator Turner to approve SGD
 - b. Seconded Senator Day
 - c. Passed
- e. Possible action on response to Board of Regents on issues provided by the Senate on 9/22
 - a. Recap of recent meetings with Regents and representative stakeholders
 - b. Identified issues: University Budget, Campus Culture
 - c. Recurrent monthly meeting with Regent, Pres, Provost, Leaders of each group (Deans, Chairs, etc.)
 - d. Senator Turner shared draft of Faculty Senate response to Board of Regents
 - i. Senator Stoehr offered to support with revisions
 - ii. Request to share with Senators
 - iii. Motion to adopt: Senator Turner; Seconded by Senator King
 - 1. Discussion: Replace “folks” with “parties”
 - 2. Passed
- f. Motion to Adjourn: 6:16 PM
 - a. Senator King, Seconded Senator Davis
 - b. Passed