

Stephen F. Austin State University
Faculty Senate Agenda – Meeting #504
Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 2:30 p.m. CST

Begin Recording

- I. Call to Order (Chakravartty)
 - A. Present
 - B. Absent (no proxy):

Senator	Present	Absent	Proxy
Kidd, Rebecca (ATCOFA)	X		
Payne, Emily (ATCOFA)	X		
Thompson, Leland (ATCOFA)		X	
Chakravartty, Arye (CLAA) *Chair	X		
Bentley, Lisa (CLAA)		X	
Conlon, Kyle (CLAA)	X		
Hampton, Hunter (CLAA)	X		
Hoagland, Ericka (CLAA)	X		
Khan, Mohammad (CLAA)	X		
Stoehr, Louise (CLAA)	X		
Welsh, Tyler (CLAA)	X		
Barngrover, Brian (CSM)	X		
Klein, Michelle (CSM) *Treasurer	X		
Bloxson, Julie (CSM)	X		
Bruck, Jason (CSM) *Chair-Elect	X		
Martynova-Van Kley, Alexandra (CSM)	X		
Sengupta, Bidisha (CSM)	X		
Barrios, Todd (PCOE)	X		
Cantu, Jennifer (PCOE)	X		
Chelette, Amber (PCOE)	X		

Faragó, Flóra (PCOE)	X		
Straub, Sarah (PCOE) *Secretary	X		
Kennon, Lindsey (PCOE)	X		Chrissy Cross
Midgley, Herbert (CFA) *Parliamentarian	X		
Ajero, Mario (CFA)	X		
Hoss-Jameson, Haley (CFA)	X		
Walburn, Jacob (CFA)	X		
Kaiser, David (NRCB)	X		
McKenna, Chris (NRCB)	X		
Mishra, Rajat (NRCB)	X		
Li, Wenjing (NRCB)	X		
Kownslar, Edward (Library Representative)	X		

II. Presentations

A. Neal Weaver, President

1. Not present

B. Judy Abbott, Interim Provost

1. Posting is live for Provost position, managed by search firm with on-campus search committee, chaired by Dean Knepp
2. Timeline: Review applicants in February, Zoom interviews to follow, finalists attend on-campus interviews after spring break, President to work through finalist list to announce Provost hopefully before Commencement
3. Question from Faculty Senate regarding priorities of Interim Provost: To fill the gap and coordinate with Deans/Chairs/Staff Councils, Faculty Senate to move the Academic Affairs agenda in the same direction it has been moving
4. Request from Faculty Senate to expand Academic Affairs budget
5. New VP Enrollment Management, Student Affairs

C. [Megan Weatherly](#) & Mark Guidry

1. Auto Registration into three courses: SFAS 1101, ENGL 1301 and appropriate MATH course at Axe'cepted Days
2. SFAS 1101 becomes opt-out rather than opt-in, still optional
3. Using historical data to determine this pathway to 15 credit hours per semester
4. Still in the process of figuring out the logistics for this pathway, this is a very challenging programming ask with the biggest hurdle of scheduling around the major courses
5. TSI liable means a student has not met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements and cannot register for classes until they take the TSI Assessment or submit an exemption; currently going to be manually registered by Student Success Center

6. Faculty Senate Discussion:
 - a) Math logistics presents a concern, suite of reports are in development to run in the background to catch updates to student needs (e.g., AP score release dates)
 - b) Issues with course availability for students who are registering later in the registration period; acknowledges the equity issue for when students register for orientation
 - c) Question on skewing of data based on the type of students that register for SFAS 1101 courses, SAIR cannot extrapolate this data but similar programming has been recognized at national level
 - d) Acknowledge the need to hire more English lecturers to meet this anticipated demand
 - e) Reinforced that students can begin the registration process as soon as they begin to receive the advising emails and pay their deposit
 - f) Questions about the potential for the cohort-model of SFAS 1101; may not be feasible for all programs, but it is an existing model (e.g., nursing, pre-service teacher, etc.)
 - g) Discussed the stipend available for teaching SFAS 1101 (\$1,200.00) two contact hours, 1 hour course; opened up a discussion on the equity issue of adjunct pay
 - h) Unrelated - AARC salary increased from \$10 to \$15/hour recently (noteworthy)

III. Transition to Senate business session (faculty only)




End Recording

IV. Approval of minutes from meetings [#503](#)

- A. Motion to accept by [McKenna]; 2nd [Sengupta]
- B. Motion passes

V. Officer Reports

- A. Chair (Chakravartty)
 1. No report
- B. Chair Elect (Bruck)
 1. Search Committee for the Provost - Emergency meetings held with Dean Knepp, assured that committee would have a Senate representative (it does), that it would be all Academic Affairs (and it basically is)
- C. Secretary (Straub)
 1. No report
- D. Treasurer (Klein)
 1. No report
- E. Committee Reports
 1. Internal Committees
 - a) **Academic Affairs:** Bidisha Sengupta*, Flóra Faragó, Tyler Welsh, Amber Chelette, Brian Barngrover, Todd Barrios, Muhammad Khan
 - (1) No report
 - (2) Request: Collect data regarding FMLA policies at peer institutions and UTS
 - b) **Administration and Finance:** David Kaiser*, Michelle Klein, Lisa Bentley, Leland C. Thompson, Kyle Conlon, Jacob Walburn
 - (1) No report

- c) **Elections:** Mario Ajero*, Alexandra Martynova-Van Kley, Wenjing Li
 - (1) If you would like to be up for [re-election](#), notify the committee
 - d) **[University Operating Policy Committee:](#)** Tori Wagner-Greene*, Jason Bruck, Chris McKenna, Emily Payne, Louise Stoehr, Haley Hoss-Jameson
 - (1) Workload HOP has been submitted for review
 - (2) Sent a policy for deletion from constituents (since there is no UT system equivalent) ([HOP 05-210](#))
 - (a) Motion for deletion of HOP 05-210 by [Bruck]; 2nd [Stoehr]
 - (b) Motion passes
 - (3) Review of FMLA policy was requested by constituents (spouse time is currently combined in SFA policy). This was directed to the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - (4) Request for review of spousal hire policy (Nepotism policy has been enacted recently). This was directed to the Professional Welfare Committee.
 - (5) Policy Review
 - (a) [Green Folder Policies](#) 
 - (b) [Yellow Folder Policies](#) 
 - (c) Red Folder Policies 
 - e) **Professional Welfare:** Julie Bloxson*, Rajat Mishra* (co-chair), Mario Ajero, Rajat Mishra, Kyle Conlon, Jennifer Cantu
 - (1) Request: Collect data regarding spousal hires at peer institutions and UTS
 - (2) NTT Awards call was distribute to Colleges last week (Research/Scholarly Activity, Service, Teaching) paid for by Provost's office; will get to CLAA within the week; due 2/9/25 and reviewed by 2/15/25
 - f) **Strategic Planning Committee:** Jason Bruck*, Arye Chakravartty, Chris McKenna, Herb Midgley*
 - (1) No report
 - g) **Communication Committee:** Hunter Hampton*, Sarah Straub, Ericka Hoagland, Lindsey Kennon, Rajat Mishra, Brian Barngrover, Rebecca Kidd, Haley Hoss-Jameson
 - (1) No report
 - h) **Ad Hoc Committee for Research and Graduate Studies:**
 - (1) No report
2. University Committees - Reports from Faculty Senate Representative
- a) **Distance Education:** (Herb Midgley*, Tyler Welsh, Sarah Straub, Lindsey Kennon)
 - (1) Meeting scheduled for 1/31/25
 - b) **Student Wellness Task Force:** [\(TBD*\)](#)
 - (1) N/A
 - c) **Staff Council Representative:** (Chair Ryan Dietrich)
 - (1) Dietrich will be attending Employee Advisory Council next month
 - (2) Going through HOP review
 - (3) Refining Translation Network

- d) **Grad Council:** (Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, ex officio)
 - (1) No report
- e) **Core Curriculum Assessment:** (Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, ex officio)
 - (1) ANSC 1311 (Drs. John Mehaffey and Douglass Smith) - To become part of SFA Core Curriculum in Life and Physical Science; committee approved this presentation
 - (2) Town Hall - March 19
- f) **Ad Hoc Collegiality Committee** (Tyler Welsh*, Alexandra Van Kley, Kyle Conlon)
 - (1) No report

VI. Old Business

- A. Ombuds position (UT Arlington, RGV, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, El Paso all have Ombudsman)
 - 1. Conversation on the financial benefit of Ombuds position with President Weaver. Weaver - We will not be able to do a full-time Ombudsman (potentially a recently retired part time position could be explored).
 - 2. Request: Solicit names of recently retired faculty to apply for this part-time position. This conversation will be explored before the next Faculty Senate Meeting.
- B. Second Century Committee
 - 1. Temple Foundation came and talked with Second Century Committee with what they thought the university should be doing
 - 2. Belief that a four-year institution faced with these issues would be a major contender for federal grants: Poor infrastructure, internet, road, water supply, etc. (This is not the case)

VII. New Business

- A. Ad Hoc Committee Provost Search
 - 1. Reported above
- B. Ad Hoc Committee Research
 - 1. Request from Dr. Lane to consolidate rather than add a new committee (doing the same thing) and engage in dialogue about the structure
 - 2. Bringing in Second Century goals, our “aspirational” institutions were almost exclusively R2 and R1, so supporting the growth that is desired needs to be realistic in scope
- C. Workload Policy Meeting will occur before the next Faculty Senate Meeting (financial impact, flexibility, etc.)
- D. The Research Advisory Council is hosting elections with two representatives per College. Please consider running for these positions. (Different from University Research Council - deals with internal grant funding).
 - 1. Question about reinstating Bright Ideas (or similar), originally sponsored by CTL but perhaps taken on by another committee

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Motion: 1st [Klein], 2nd [Chelette]
- B. Motion passes
- C. Meeting adjourned at [4:37 p.m.]