

**Faculty Senate Meeting September 6, 2019
Delta Center 201**

Attendees: Manu Bhandari, Mary Jane Bradley, Robert Bradley, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Win Bridges, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Matthew Carey, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Kim Davis, Mary Donaghy, Lillie Fears, Kathryn Flannigan, Joe Ford, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, Shivan Haran, Sharon James, Ryan Kelly, Cheryl Knight, Joseph Loar, Bill Maynard, Loretta McGregor, Jeff McLaughlin, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mistra, Vicent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Joseph Richmond, Robert Robinette, Bill Rowe, Richard Segall, Paul Sikkell, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson, Christine Wright, Karen Yanowitz

Proxy Attendees: Deana Barymon (Annette Bednar), Kim Davis (Annette Hux),

Absentees: Than Boves, Paul Finnicum, Matthew Hill, Kellie Martin, Greg Phillips

Meeting Called to Order: Loretta McGregor established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1501 by Loretta McGregor.

Review of Senate Bylaws

Loretta McGregor reviewed Senate Bylaws: Constitution of the Faculty Association is still being updated. Faculty Senators are required to have provided 3 years of service to the university before serving and aside from a few exceptions, this is not flexible. The purpose of this requirement is to protect new faculty and to ensure that those serving have an awareness of issues in their colleges. Faculty Senators serve as the voice of their colleges and are the primary individuals to engage in proceedings. All faculty are invited to the meetings but must request permission to speak.

Review of Shared Governance Process

Loretta McGregor reviewed SGOC process. SGOC is responsible for reviewing all proposals and proposed changes that impact the constituency groups. SGOC is made of up chairs from different constituency groups and also Faculty Senators appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. They decide who should have input in proposals and they take the proposal back to their constituents for feedback. Feedback is sent to SGOC and then back to the originator(s) of the proposal. Any changes made to the proposal are sent back through an up down vote. Ultimately proposals go to the Chancellor, Systems President and then Board of Trustees. There will likely be several proposals coming in the next few weeks, they will come with guidelines and deadlines.

Nominations/Voting Secretary, and Parliamentarian

Joanna Grymes nominated Cheryl Knight for Faculty Senate Secretary – candidate was elected by acclamation.

Bill Maynard nominated Win Bridges for Faculty Senate Parliamentarian – candidate was elected by acclamation.

Guest Speaker – Dr Alan Utter, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research

Dr. Utter thanked Senators for willingness to serve on Senate and gave assurances to protect the Shared Governance. Dr. Utter wants feedback from faculty and has several “Breakfast with the Provost” scheduled throughout the year. He provided an update on Dean searches: Dean of Agriculture search is moving forward; Dean of Business search now has search committee established; and the search committee for the Dean of the Graduate School is being established. Updated projects from Academic Affairs- continued work in the task forces of Faculty Equity, Integrity and the Faculty Handbook. The Graduate School Task Force has possibly concluded. Dr. Utter will work with Dr. Jill Simmons to re-establish University College, a non-degree college that serves co-curricular programs and helps students with support and success. Dr Utter discussed ongoing process of looking at infrastructure on campus and the need to invest in updates in labs and classrooms. He encouraged faculty to share with their Deans concerns and needs. His office is also looking at new revenue streams, new curriculum and new academic programs. Dr. Utter has plans to meet with the Chair of Faculty Senate, Loretta McGregor at least once a month.

Old Business

Senate Finance Committee – role is to provide oversight, clarification, and illumination of the university’s finances. Last Senate Finance Committee Report was completed in 2014, at that time 3 committee members left and there has been no report since then. The committee will be re-established and prefers nominees with accounting and/or statistical experience. A list of requirements for the positions will be developed within the next 2 weeks. Once nominees are selected names will be sent to the Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Global Engagement Oversight Committee –Loretta McGregor met with Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran, Executive Director of the Global Engagement Oversight Committee regarding the vetting process for institutions interested in some form of partnership with Arkansas State University. The committee has worked on a document to set vetting standards and to examine if a partnership is a “good fit”. Dr. McGregor requested a list of members who serve on the committee. Members of the committee need to have involvement in international programs. Noted that currently there is no specific mechanism for feedback from committee when new programs are being considered.

New Business

No New Business

Open Discussion

Paul Sikel- Members of the Student Environment Club and some International Student Groups plan to participate in the National Student Walk-Out September 27, 2019. Wanted faculty to be aware that in no way is this a sign of disrespect but rather a show of solidarity.

Marcus Tribbett- Constituent Concern: Made aware of management change at the Student Health Center, NYIT is taking over management in Spring 2020. Constituent would like to know what this means for students in terms of health care and billing.

Introduction New Senators

New Faculty Senators introduced themselves

Approved Minutes

Minutes from April 19, 2019 require correction regarding student retention rates.

Adjournment

Motion made by Joanna Grymes to adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 16:17.