

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
19 March 2021
Minutes

Present: Scott Anderson, Robert Bradley, Win Bridges, Andrea Brown, William Burns, Donna Caldwell, Jessica Camp, Rodney Carmack, Wendy Crist, Mary Donaghy, Addie Fleming, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Katie Hill, Donghoon Kim, Loretta McGregor, Jeff McLaughlin, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Adrienne Pait, Amany Saleh, Ed Salo, Robert Segall, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson,

Proxies: Wendy Crist for Rob Robinette; Tim Oliver for William Rowe

Visitors: Kelly Damphousse, Will McLean, Jill Simons, Thilla Sivakumaran

Call to Order

Chair Donna Caldwell called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and established a quorum had been met.

Order of the Day

Marcus moved and Andrea seconded approval of the Order of the Day; motion to approve the Order of the Day passed.

Approval of the minutes from March 5, 2021

Donna called for corrections or additions to the distributed minutes; none were offered. A motion to approve as distributed was made and seconded (Marcus, Andrea) and the minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

SGOC proposal on the Admissions Committee – the timeline for the SGOC process has stopped on this proposal. Dr. Utter is reviewing the constituent comments to the proposal.

Dr. Damphousse was present to address questions about the proposal. The proposal came from a faculty Task Force created as a result of the Strategic Plan.

- He shared data indicating the low level of bachelor's degree attainment in the surrounding counties and the movement to rely less on tests which are biased and poor predictors of achievement. This is not meant to increase enrollment for budget purposes, but to increase the attainment of bachelor's degrees in the region. Neither is this a funding formula issue, as that is now about graduation rates and not basic enrollment.
- R2 status is not impacted by this change either.
- This would be a more holistic approach to admission which is a national trend.
- Another concern is enrolling additional student who may struggle to be successful. There are schools who use a more holistic approach to admission, but they do things differently. Athletics department students are retained and graduate at a higher level than the student body as a

whole. Georgia State has a nationally acclaimed model of student support that could serve as a model. One of the five pillars of the strategic plan is to If we believe we are changing people's lives, then we need to look at how to support our students. Dr. Simons and Damphousse are looking at ways to support advising and supporting students and seeing increasing success. Look at pockets that are being very successful within the university to see how to provide that across the university.

Dr. Damphousse invited Dr. Simons, Dr. Sivakumaran, and Dr. McClean to answer questions or provide information. Responses to questions and comments raised:

- If we extended support to all students that athletes have available; how much would that be? Dr. Damphousse replied it isn't that level of support for all students on campus; but there are some pockets of students who may need additional support at that level. Professional advising model to provide supports.
- Student Support Services – these are the students struggling on our campus. Often first generational, low resource background. 4-year support model for high risk students and it has been effective; it is not as intrusive as athletics. Some parts of it is advocating for the students; Honors does this very well.
- Where does the money come from for this? The hiring freeze almost since Damphousse has been here; Simons rethinking structure of staff in her arena; Strategic Plan implementation should not be driven by budget; Damphousse job is to identify the resources for meeting the plan.
- Was there an increase of Transition Study students from F 19 to F 20. Yes, there was an increase to be back up to almost 300 students. Was there a concomitant increase in resources to address that increase in students?
- Was the feedback from the Shared Governance Committee shared with this group (Simons, McClean, Damphousse, Sivakumaran)? Damphousse read some of it but he is not in the process. Jill Simons said the committee had seen the comments sent forward to the Task Force.
- Was there consideration of the transition needed related to code-switching to assist students related to the freshman comp classes. There are efforts in place to support that Strong Start to Finish within the State. This state group is focusing on supporting investments in the faculty to bring to bear the best resources and practices for faculty.
- Admission vs Placement testing. There will still be benchmarks for placement in the English, Math and Reading coursework. Accuplacer, ACT and potentially a new Math placement test will still be used. Bringing the students in early to help them to navigate the assessments is in place and may be expanded.
- Some schools that have gone test-optional may also be using GPA as a way to monitor admission. Individual disciplines may consider some additional indicators.
- Faculty need to continue to try to implement effective methods for faculty engagement and pedagogy appropriate to the content. Damphousse replied that the efforts described here have focused on student support but faculty and curriculum are also important. A strength is the faculty's passion within and outside the classroom; faculty should continue to evolve and improve in their teaching.
- Does Enrollment Management (EM) have sufficient resources to recruit students within and outside the state. We now have dedicated recruiters in different part of the state. Working

with Cox Communication to do a social media and email campaign with Cox sending out information and sending out recruiters to follow up. Garnered about 300 applications. That may happen again.

- Scholarships for 2022 class tweaked to include housing. Scholarships are more consistent in what they offer/include. Set aside 1 million \$ for gaps that students may have in costs. We may need a national recruiter to look at larger metro areas. Have a bilingual staff working and supporting work with families who need materials/resources in Spanish.
- Damphousse said that he is asking for what do we need to do, not what can we afford to do; and then working to find resources to do it. Some aspects have been to review the internal resources and assure we are using them to the best use. Hiring recruiters for the variety of programs we have – A-State, off campus programs, AOS to maximize resources.
- Are there ways for individual programs can connect with EM so that there is a coordination of efforts? Sivakumaran would like to like up communication with programs to make certain it is timely and targeted. An effort on being more personal is another aspect; students are following up with calls to individual potential recruits.
- Damphousse stated that we have cracked the code in early contacts by spending money to get in front of students earlier and then making more direct, personal communications with them. He hopes young people within 1001mile radius will start rethinking the question, “Should I go to college and should I go to A-State”. The university will be contacting A-State employees about if their own children will want information from A-State.
- Are we working with High school counselors? Yes, making contact and working with providing ways to connect with them. Working with superintendents to make contact about on campus summer camps. Hoping to cultivate a sense that A-State is “home.”
- What is the timeline for the issuance of the revised governance proposal? Is there insight when that will be ready to come back? It depends on how quickly the responses are provided to the committee. As soon as requested information comes back to the committee, the task force will make changes as it determines, it will go back through the SGOC process for a final vote.
- What is the approach for recruiting nontraditional students and how it that process different? A-State does work with two year institutions to recruit to A-State for the degree centers, for AOS, for A-State. Adult learners working full time tend to opt for the online programs. Average age of AOS program students is about 33; about 2/3 are AR students but about 1/3 are out of state. Working some also in out of state schools to develop 2+2 programs.

Constitution and Bylaws

Amanda reported the committee is completing a line by line review of the Constitution and Bylaws trying to clarify the content. Committee is continuing to meet weekly after spring break.

New Business

Standing Committee Reports - No new reports

Nominations for President Elect

E-mail sent to Faculty

Nominations to me by April 6; Faculty Vote on April 13 and 14 online

If you wish to be on the nominations committee contact Donna. Nominations have been received.

Other Business

Guests for next meetings:

Donna still working to schedule Dr. Speights

Request for update on Federal Stimulus funding – Len Frey to review how those university funds have been spent

Two more meetings; in the fall we will be face to face. We will meet in the Hames Room in the fall.

Adjourn

John moved and Marcus seconded to adjourn; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:30 pm.

Submitted by Joanna Grymes