

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
3:00 p.m., February 5, 2016  
Delta Center 201

**In Attendance:** Greg Phillips, Julie Isaacson, Shivan Haran, Sam Pae, Richard Segall, Philip Tew, John Beineke, Mitch Holifield, Ryan Kelly, John Hall (proxy for Loretta McGregor), Claire Abernathy, Kyle Chandler, Nikesha Nesbitt, Win Bridges, Mary Donaghy, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Warren Johnson, Robert Robinette (proxy for April Sheppard), Pradeep Mishra, Rejoice Addae, Brinda McKinney, Larry Morton, Debbie Shelton, Jeff Jenness, John Hershberger (proxy for Bruce Johnson), Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Suzanne Melescue, Joe Ford (proxy for Bill Rowe).

**Absent:** Claudia Benavides, Julie Grady, Hans Hacker, Lars Roberts, Michael Fellure, Donna Caldwell, Amber Wooten

Meeting called to order by President Phillips at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of minutes of December 4, 2015 with the following amendments:

- Shivan Haran was present
- “Yip Yap” should be changed to Yik Yak

Motion to approve as amended: Julie Isaacson; Seconded by: Shivan Haran.

25 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

**Old Business:**

SGOC Proposal 15 FA 08, Changes in New Section IV, Faculty Handbook – Tabled pending clarification.

President Philips informed the Senate that there is no new information regarding this proposal. The Dean’s Council has made some progress, but they are still getting feedback.

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar asked about what was happening with the schools and if there was an initiative to create more schools. President Philips explained that it is a matter of consistency; there is a need to define *schools* and *colleges* as we have both and the upper administration anticipates having more schools in the future. There is some reason for concern and discussion; for example, some feel the need to hold a Bachelor’s Degree in the discipline in which you teach is a misplaced value and that it should be the terminal degree that qualifies us, rather than the B.A.

Active Shooter Incident Response – Bill Smith and Randy Martin

As a result of the incident on December 10, 2015, we discovered there are still a lot of people who aren’t aware of the trainings provided or what the appropriate response should be in a situation like this. For example, there was some anxiety and confusion regarding doors that locked with Allen wrenches such as where the wrenches were, and whether someone should be out trying to lock those doors with an active shooter on campus. We need to understand our responsibilities and duties to students, other faculty, staff, and ourselves when an incident occurs.

Bill Smith and Randy Martin came to address these concerns, create continued awareness about trainings, and answer any questions from the Senate. Bill began by saying the majority of students acted exactly as they were trained to do and made one of three choices. This training is mandated for students as part of the Making Connections course, but is available on request for any person/department/college. A great amount of cooperation from campus led to a successful conclusion to the incident. He asked about the number of people who received emergency alert messages at the time of the incident and emphasized that anyone who did not receive a text does not have their personal cell phone number up to date with the campus. The emergency alert system is tested on the first Friday of each month and you should receive both an email and a text message.

Kyle Chandler asked about the timing of these messages; he received a text at 3:02 that indicated he had been sent a text at 3:00 and didn't know if this was a result of his carrier or other factors. Several other people indicated they had received the same text, or that they had received the text on time and Randy responded that about 10,000 messages were being sent out at once, so it is possible there was a delay of some sort, due to the amount of traffic, but they could check in to it.

President Philips reminded us we need to take these alerts as real and treat them accordingly, regardless of whether they are drills or not (fire, emergency, etc.)

Bill shared that the university is being scored based on their performance during fire drills, and they need to be taken seriously. We (the faculty) are the leadership. Randy added that this is not a time to ask questions about *why* we are doing something; that is a conversation for later. In the moment everyone needs to do what he/she is being asked to do because it is for the good of the campus. Bill suggested that if you do not permit students to have their cell phones in the classroom then you should have your cell phone available so you/your classroom will be aware of any emergency concerns.

Bill discussed the handbook policy regarding events and media stressed that if the media approaches someone during an incident, he or she should contact the appropriate office rather than becoming involved. He also stressed the importance of letting them know about events taking place on campus, saying "We have yet to close campus and get everything right..." It is important for them to be aware of who and what is taking place on campus so they can account for everyone.

John Hall referenced the faculty senate minutes from October 16, 2015 where a motion was made by the senate recommending that ASU-J administration initiate a plan to make sure all doors can be locked from the inside. This was amended to include "in all cases where it can be..." He asked where are we on this motion and what Bill and Randy thought about it.

President Philips responded that the following week this was communicated to Dr. Len Frey, who took note and said he would have his people look at what it would take to make that happen. One challenge is that there are different locking mechanisms in different buildings, and this is still in process. They are taking an inventory to determine what it would take to do this. According to Dr. Frey this would probably not be done all at once but would be phased in, due to costs.

John Hall followed up by saying that some staff were scrambling to lock outer doors to the colleges and didn't know which key to use, and this created a lot of stress for them.

Bill responded that we need practice and we need drills; this is the way to cut back on stress caused by these situations.

President Philips asked if they were developing a crisis plan, more than just active shooter and reminded faculty again that they should have their dean or chair to schedule a training session with Randy. There was the sense that a crisis plan should be developed for each building; confusion is the result of people not knowing what is expected of them.

Bill said this is happening, but colleges are being prioritized by size and it will take some time to get to all of them. Humanities was the first building tackled by Emergency Management, Jon Carvell, and they are developing a template that can help each department design a plan for their building.

Usually the first Monday after Labor Day is Campus Safety week and active shooter classes take place throughout the week at different times. This is especially important for non-traditional students and transfer students who don't always take making connections and may not get the training from another source. Bill reiterated the importance of relying on the emergency alert system to tell you what to do; the media had misinformation.

Clarified information: Jon Carvell, Emergency Management can be found on the Environmental Health and Safety webpage; he reports to Dr. Frey.

John Hall asked: Do we know if he's met with academic deans to create a crisis management plan for each college? Would he come speak with the dean's office about this?

John Hershberger asked if there are any plans to make it more difficult for someone to drive on campus with a gun. Bill responded he was hesitant to speak for Dr. Frey but barring putting up a fence he wasn't sure what the options were.

Bill indicated that he would make sure more geographical awareness was added to faculty orientation and making connections courses so people could respond as they were being instructed. Johnson: North, Farm: East, Downtown: West.

Julie Isaacson thanked Bill and Randy for keeping us safe and not hurting someone they were able to save and commented that they did a good job.

John Hall asked if they were making any progress toward a permanent road and Bill replied that he believed so, it was a safety concern. He repeated a rumor that the city may help the university bring it out to Johnson.

President Philips concluded by saying there is no reason any of us should be without training, as there are three opportunities: online, Campus Safety Week, and a scheduled training.

## **New Business:**

SGOC Proposals – No new proposals

Prestige Scholarship Initiative – Jennifer Salo

Jennifer began in July 2015 as a special projects coordinator for Competitive Fellowship and Scholarships. While currently under the Honors Program, this initiative is for all students. These prestigious awards fund study abroad opportunities, student research, and provide scholarships, and our students compete with students from all over the country. Jennifer asked the Senate to help get the word out about these opportunities to faculty and students and to help identify potential candidates which may meet any of the following standards: high GPA, well defined goals, good communication, research experience, study another language, interested in study abroad, leadership skills and community service, passion and commitment.

Jennifer can be contacted at [jsalo@astate.edu](mailto:jsalo@astate.edu) and asks faculty to help in the following ways: spread the word, encourage students, be willing to review grant proposals and essays, be willing to give an excellent letter of recommendation (different from those given for a job application, generally 1½ - 2 pages and focusing on something specific). There are resources on the website for these letters of recommendations: [www.astate.edu/fellowships](http://www.astate.edu/fellowships), or call Jennifer at 879.972.2590.

Long-term academic benefits include: showcasing the success of our students, opening doors for after A-State, valuable experience from the application process, makes A-State programs more attractive to high-caliber students, raises level of A-State as a learning-centered university.

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar asked for clarification that this does not go through the research office and Jennifer indicated that was correct, it is a national merit award and that it funded research for students, which are different from RTT grants. She also indicated that most of these have a US citizenship requirement, but there are some that international students can apply for.

John Hall asked if this was available to graduate students as well and Jennifer said yes, there were several, including Fulbright, Hertz, GRFP, and Boren, that were open to graduate students. He followed up by asking if Honors Hall was being targeted and Jennifer indicated that initially they were targeting honors students, but are reaching out more now and working with everyone.

In response to a request from John Hall Jennifer said she would be willing to speak with departments about these opportunities and to make her presentation slides available. Also, if there are things the faculty find helpful to let Jennifer know what she can do to make it easier on the faculty to provide recommendations/etc.

John Hershberger asked how learning and research come together to create a learning-centered university. Jennifer explained these phrases were taken from the goals provided by Dr. Cooksey, but that it provides recognition to students for work done in the classroom.

Nikeshia Nesbitt asked that students be aware of the time frame and give faculty ample time to complete the request.

President Philips commented on the increase in student retention and performance as a result of raised entrance expectation on the part of the university. He shared his belief that the average A-State student was underprepared, but the best students at A-State are as competitive as the best students at other universities.

Faculty Research Awards Committee Member Replacement – Greg Philips

The deadline for application is February 22, 2016. Dr. Veena Kulkarni is in her third year and final term on this committee and is currently on sabbatical. A temporary committee member is needed to fill her vacancy until the term is up. Debbie Shelton volunteered.

Richard Segall pointed out that the person filling the spot should come from the same college because they would be representing the people in that department. Mary Donaghy from Humanities and Social Sciences, Criminology, volunteered to take the position. Debbie stepped down.

At 4:20 p.m. Julie Isaacson moved to adjourn and Shivan Haran seconded.

Minutes submitted by Claire Abernathy, Acting Secretary of the Faculty Senate.