

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 1, 2002

FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Bob Bennett, President (AS)
Jeff Bailey, Past President (LIB)
Bill Rowe, Sec/Treasurer (FA)

FACULTY SENATE

Bob Bennett, Chair
Bill Humphrey, Vice-chair
Debra Walden, Secretary
Michael Morrell, Parliamentarian

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Roger Abernathy
Jim Bednarz
Joe Sartorelli
Dick Freer
David Jimerson absent
Ernesto Lombeida proxy – Warren Johnson
Bill Maynard
Victoria Spaniol
Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dan Marburger absent
Clint Relyea
Jim Washam absent
Chris Brown absent

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Anna Grant
Lillie M. Fears

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright
Kris Biondolillo
Joe Justen
John Ponder
Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Charles Coleman

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe
John O'Connell
Ken Hatch

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs absent
Steve Guffey
Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green absent

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad absent

MILITARY SCIENCE

Daniel Tiscareno absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

Dr. John Hall – Psychology & Counseling
Cathy Hall – CNHP, Chair Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Distance Education
Marlin Shipman – faculty visitor
Lynita Cooksey – Academic Affairs
Kim Carpenter – news reporting student
Grover Welch – Herald Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the Jan. 18, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Albright; seconded by Senator Biondolillo. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Faculty Handbook

Chair Bennett recognized Senator Humphrey, chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee. He announced that copies of the handbook in draft form had been submitted to the vice-president for academic affairs, the vice-president for finance and to the President on January 16, 2002. He noted that the draft available on the WEB had been updated. Bennett stated that he had received confirmation from administration that the document had been received.

Reports of Committees

President's Council 1/28/2002

Chair Bennett provided handouts presented by Jenus Burton dealing with an analysis of the proposed voice mail system. Options #4 and #6 are being seriously considered. Option #4 makes voice mail available to faculty, staff and campus residents while Option #6 makes the service available to faculty, staff and all students. Bennett asked that we review the document and forward comments and suggestions to Jenus Burton or Mark Hoeting. Implementation would begin in the summer with full operation in place by the fall. The degree of sophistication required to implement the system will result in changes in the current phone system. Bennett informed the senate that funding for the project would come from the student technology fee. Senator Albright asked if there could potentially be a charge to the departments for the service. Bennett responded that the departments would incur some cost. A discussion followed regarding the feasibility of this project given the current budget situation. Bennett stated that this service has come as a response to faculty requests for voice mail and that the cost will be supported primarily by technology fees. Senator Bednarz inquired as to what body was responsible for setting priorities for utilization of technology funds. Senator Wang stated that a committee exists. Proxy Warren Johnson stated that he is a faculty representative on the technology committee and noted that the group had not been consulted regarding this project. He offered information about the committee's work in establishing priorities for meeting the technologic needs of the campus. Senator Grant voiced her support of a voice mail system noting that it would support the business of the university and help in maintaining contact with the university consumers. She noted that the major cost would be incurred during the first year with service being maintained at a decreased cost in the following years. Bennett noted that the student government representative spoke in favor of Option #4. Option # 6 extends the umbrella to a larger student population. Senator Wang offered the following resolution expressing the sense of the senate:

That the Faculty Senate reiterates its past support for voice mail, provided The costs are not apportioned to the departments and provided there is due consultation with faculty before a decision is made regarding which service option will be implemented.

Senator Freer seconded the motion. Following a voice vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

University Planning Council 1/25/2002

Two recommendations came forth, one from vice-president for finance, Jenus Burton and one from student affairs. Bennett informed the faculty that Mr. Burton is proposing a privatized mail service on campus. This service would handle bulk mail and offer a copying service. State budget officials in Little Rock have approved this proposal. It is estimated that privatizing mail service would produce a savings of \$10,000 dollars. Other proposals might result in decreased custodial and ground services and decreased recycling during the summer.

Parliamentarian Morrell asked for clarification about the place of the athletic department in the administrative schema. He stated that he was under the impression that this department was not being required to make any budget cuts. Past-president Jeff Bailey stated that athletics are entirely an auxiliary unit. The athletic director reports to the President. He noted that auxiliary enterprises are not participating in the budget cuts. Bennett noted that the athletic director is attending the President's Council and University Planning Committee meetings. This is a new development.

At this same UPC meeting, Rick Stripling from Student Affairs presented his operation. The 2% cuts in this area have come from restricting travel, office supplies, salary savings and decreasing printing costs. A proposed salary savings was to cut back personnel in admissions. Most agreed that this was not a good idea.

Academic Affairs will be reporting on how they will make budget cuts later in this month. Bennett noted that he was on the ad hoc committee working on how budget cuts will be made.

Higher Learning Commission

Bennett informed the faculty that Karen Kietzman from the Higher Learning Commission has been present on campus the past week and had meet with various constituent groups. A couple of highlights from comments made by Ms. Kietzman at committee meetings included the following:

- a. There is a national change in focus of the H.L.C. The focus is now on learning, not teaching.
- b. As a university we should clearly establish a vision and stick to it.

Bennett reported that he had asked about how the visiting team would typically interact with the faculty. She recommended that all meetings be held on campus and that faculty focus on the needs of the university first and individual agendas secondly. Kietzman also recommended that we look at the 75% rule for tenure pool closely, that this was not a common practice on campuses she visited. Freer noted that this has been changed in the draft of the new faculty handbook. Bennett stated that he would be developing some means for faculty interaction with members of the H.L.C. visiting team.

OLD BUSINESS

Distance Learning

Chair Bennett noted that a resolution proposed by the ad hoc committee on distance learning had been attached to the faculty senate agenda. He then recognized the chair of the ad hoc committee, Cathy Hall. She recognized the committee who had been charged to look at distance education in the past. She noted that originally, this group proposed twelve recommendations, none of which were implemented by the university despite support from the Senate. The current ad hoc committee reviewed the past document and has proposed two critical recommendations as resolutions to be added to the faculty handbook. One resolution recommends a 1.5 credit hour formula for the calculation of faculty workload. A second resolution is the proposed establishment of a standing shared governance with specific composition to consider issues related to distance education. Ms. Hall also noted that the ad hoc committee had sent a letter to Chair Bennett and members of the executive committee dealing with four other key points worthy of attention. One point deals with the need for site facilitators, another deals with PRT issues, another with scheduling concerns and finally, with training faculty for CVN technology. She noted that distance education is a necessary service and that the committee believes that these suggestions will help strengthen the integrity of the process. Ms. Hall noted that the key issue related to faculty workload. Senator Relya supported the notion that disparity in workload is a critical concern for faculty using this method of course delivery.

Chair Bennett read a faxed statement from Dr. Linnstaedter into the minutes. The fax had been hand-carried to the senate by Dr. Lynita Cooksey.

Bob:

I received a report of the ad hoc committee on distance education yesterday shortly before I left to go to Paragould....I have not had time to discuss it with my staff but I do have some concerns. In Resolution # 1, what happens in the case of multiple sites? What about class size? Does the workload issue need to be included in a larger context with research and service? As you know

because of a state revenue flow we are working on a zero sum gain at best. Do the departments that do not teach on CVN give up positions to fund new positions in departments that do teach on CVN? In Resolution # 2, it would seem to me that the director of CVN should sit on the committee. Also, two students should be included – one from on-campus and one from a distance site. The four additional recommendations bring up important issues that need to be discussed and dealt with. I wish that I could attend the senate meeting this afternoon but I am unable to. I would be happy to meet with the committee or the senate in the near future if desirable.

**Jerry Linnstaedter, Professor of Mathematics
Associate Vice-Chancellor for Regional Programs**

The senate engaged in a long discussion related to the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee. Ms. Hall pointed out that literature documents that preparation time for CVN is double the prep time for a regular lecture course.

Senator Wang made a motion to accept the report of the committee, which was seconded by Senator Grant. Discussion followed regarding the need to include WEB based courses in the resolution. Humphrey stated that a resolution dealing with Web based courses needed to come from specialists in the area. John Hall noted that CVN has “been broken for a long time” and encouraged the senate to support the resolution and then identify a committee to work on the WEB issue. He implied that the committee would be very amenable to any recommendations that would improve the resolutions. Senator Maynard asked where the opposition to the CVN recommendations was coming from. Discussion followed. Bennett noted that the report encompasses the resolutions and a vote in favor would support the entire package.

Visitor Dennis White asked if both resolutions be placed immediately in the faculty handbook if passed. Bennett presented options for handling any motions. Morrell offered parliamentary suggestions for separating the actions. Wang and Grant agreed to withdraw their motions.

Bennett made a motion as chair of the faculty senate and at the direction of the ad hoc committee, to accept resolution #1. Discussion was led by Senator Wang regarding the issue of including WEB based courses in this package. Humphrey stated his opinion that asking for inclusion of both issues in one resolution might possibly jeopardize them both. Hall stated that the spirit of the resolution was not to ask for “too much”. Freer suggested that we ought not to limit our thinking by a “crisis mentality” and that we should not limit our requests for what should happen. Senator O’Connell noted that CVN and WEB based courses are at two different points of development and may need to be considered separately. Morrell offered his opinion concerning the amount of work required in WEB based courses. Visitor White asked about the impact of CVN course assignments on promotion and tenure. Ms Hall addressed these issues in terms of workload that severely limits time spent in scholarly pursuits. Senator Bednarz stated that he believed Resolution #1 was based on a large amount of data. He also recommended that the concern about WEB based education be referred to the committee for study.

After a voice vote, the senate agreed to approve Resolution #1 with two dissenting votes.

Bennett made a motion to consider Resolution #2, by recommendation of the ad hoc committee.

Senator Freer offered a friendly amendment to add a representative to the proposed committee from the University Teaching/Learning Center. Bailey seconded the motion. Senator Grant offered a second friendly amendment to add a second student to the

committee to represent those students who are recipients of distance education per Dr. Linnstaedter's recommendation.

After a voice vote, Resolution #2 was passed unanimously.

Senator Bednarz moved to direct the committee to develop a recommendation for WEB based courses. Freer seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Bennett stated that he would forward these resolutions to the appropriate administrators.

Faculty Handbook Committee

Senator Humphrey stated that the new handbook committee met last week at which time John Hall's comments were reviewed. Most recommendations were integrated into the draft document.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Bednarz offered a resolution to retain the current 16-week semester. The resolution will be shared with constituents via email for comments and suggestions.

Announcements

Senator Maynard recommended that the faculty senate sponsor a panel discussion during Convocation of Scholars week on the impact of athletics on academics. Senator Wang suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to report on panel composition, speakers and funding. Maynard, Wang and Grant agreed to serve on the committee.

Senator Fears announced that a film series on Black History and Culture would be offered

in the museum lecture hall during the month of February. The films, which are primarily documentaries, will be shown from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Mondays and from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. She asked that senators post flyers announcing the series in their departments.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Walden, Secretary