

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of October 5, 2007

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Louella Moore—Chair		P	
Shivan Haran—Vice-Chair of the Senate		A	
Bill Humphrey—Past President		P	
Lillie Fears —Secretary Faculty Association		P	
Judith Pfriemer—Secretary of the Senate		A	Renee Miller

PROXY

AGRICULTURE (1)

Bert Greenwalt	Spring 08	At	
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BUSINESS (3)

Mark Foster	Spring 09	A	
Richard Segall	Spring 08	P	
Ahmad Syamil	Spring 08	P	

COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Pradeep Mishra	Spring 08	P	
Mary J. Pitts	Spring 09	P	

EDUCATION (5)

Andy Mooneyham	Spring 09	P	
Daniel Cline	Spring 09	P	
Tom Fiala	Spring 08	A	John D. Hall
Stephanie Davidson	Spring 09	P	
Amy Claxton	Spring 09	P	

ENGINEERING (1)

Shivan Haran	Spring 09	P	
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FINE ARTS (3)

Stacy Alley	Spring 08	A	
Ron Horton	Spring 09	P	
Bill Rowe	Spring 09	P	

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)

Robert Baum	Spring 08	P	
Win Bridges	Spring 08?	A	
Richard Burns	Spring 09	P	
Peggy Robinson-Wright	Spring 09	A	Mary Donaghy
Alex Sydorenko	Spring 09	A	W.B. Maynard
Richard Wang	Spring 09	A	

LIBRARY (1)

Myron Flugstad	Spring 09	A	Linda Creibaum
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MILITARY SCIENCE (1)

Jeffrey Helms	Spring 09	P	
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NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (4)

Donna Caldwell	Spring 09	P	
Richard Freer	Spring 08	A	

Mike McDaniel	Spring 09	A	
Judith Pfriemer	Spring 08	A	Renee Miller

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)

Richard Grippo	Spring 09	P
John Pratte	Spring 08	A
Jeff Jenness	Spring 08	P
Jie Miao	Spring 08	P

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Gloria Bridges	Spring 08	P
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Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

I. MINUTES:

The minutes from September 21, 2007 were presented for approval and approved with one correction to Item 4.

II. INVITED GUESTS

Mark Hoeting, Chief Information Officer. Hoeting's presentation provided an update on New Computing Software (ARE-ON/NLR Initiative), Projects, and Online Student Evaluation of Online Courses.

New Computing Software (ARE-ON/NLR Initiative). Hoeting advised that Internet II is merging with a larger network. Once completed, it will be a network that ASU owns, manages and controls.

He also described the Arkansas Research & Education Optical Network (ARE-ON), which is the official non-profit organization to which ASU belongs. Its board consists of presidents and chancellors from 11 institutions (including ASU) in Arkansas as well as representatives from the ADHE.

ARE-ON is research driven, therefore, emphasis for the initial expansion will not involve ASU's two-year campuses. Instead, expanding fiber-optic capabilities and access to the ASU campus is the first priority.

Fiber installation has been contracted with Ritter Communications and will be conducted from March 2008-May 2008. Production will start in May/June 2008.

Although the new project will bring expanded video, Hi-Definition video capabilities, etc., to ASU's current system, funding is still going to be a continued concern.

Online Student Evaluation of Online Courses. Hoeting advised that the IT department is working on a new method for evaluating online courses. Several challenges to the new system exist. For example, currently there are challenges with the response rate. An advantage to the new procedure is that feedback to faculty would be almost instant.

Senators had a variety of questions for Hoeting. One senator wanted to know if ASU was moving to Blackboard 7, particularly since students Blackboard 6 does not have a feature that prohibits students from downloading and printing exams. Hoeting explained that there is a plan to develop a timeline to move to Blackboard 7.

Other questions came up. For example, a senator wanted to know if faculty email would be changed to gmail. Hoeting advised that switching faculty to gmail would create some legal issues associated with ASU losing its ability to host various services.

Mike Hall (MATH). Hall presented information on the Education Renewal Zones initiative. This initiative was created to improve educational outcomes in basic college courses such as mathematics courses (i.e., College Algebra). Funded by a small grant, it will pay expenses for high school math and English teachers to come to ASU and attend college Algebra and English courses during summer 2008. After sitting in on the courses, the expectation is that high school teachers will see the rigor required for students to matriculate in

college-level basic courses such as College Algebra and Freshman English. As such, it is hoped that the teachers will return to their schools and adopt new strategies that will help students become better prepared to succeed in college courses. As a result, ASU and other institutions of higher education will see a reduction in the number of remedial level courses they must offer for under prepared entering freshmen. Hall added that if something like this isn't done to correct the remediation problem (high remedial levels), high schools will eventually have to start paying colleges for developmental education, thus reducing funding for education at the secondary level.

Hall also gave an update on the HAWKES Learning system used in math classes. This is the third semester for the program. Several improvements have been made, and consequently, student grades have improved since the program began in Fall 2007.

Lynita Cooksey, AVCAA. Cooksey presented information on the Academic Calendar proposed by Calendar Committee (a handout was passed out). Traditionally, contracts for ASU faculty (9-month employees) have started on August 15 and end on May 15 the following year. However, August 15, 2008 will fall on a Friday. The new proposal would push the calendar for 9-month employees up to the period of August 11, 2008 – May 11, 2009.

Senators posed questions about the potential for conflicts that the suggested proposal would cause for faculty who have school-age children. Another senator posed the question as to whether faculty would be paid more if (faculty) are asked to start earlier. Cooksey explained that there would not be extra pay because the amount of days in the new start and stop dates would be equivalent to those in the old calendar.

Moore asked Cooksey if she wanted a response from the Senate on the details of the proposal or on the decision to move the calendar up to the start date of August 11, 2008. Cooksey replied that the calendar committee was open to feedback. So Moore encouraged that senators go back and solicit feedback from their constituents.

III. OLD BUSINESS - Senate Discussions from Prior Meeting

Shared Governance Items and Procedures. Moore reminded senators of the importance of following the shared governance process between faculty senate meetings. When communication and other steps are followed properly between meetings, the process should take about 15 days to run cycle. She reminded senators to send information to people in their departments to solicit feedback on issues.

Moore also urged senators to read the handbook constitution. Several items in it need to be cleaned up (edited) and updated. Many committees are mentioned that are now university rather than Senate committees. A Finance Committee and Committee on Committees still in the constitution have not been functioning.

Maynard reminded faculty that changes had been made to the constitution by the Board of Trustees. Moore noted the amount of change was small, but is still of importance to some faculty.

Continued discussion of Faculty workload – Burns Senator Burns expressed concerns about the current policy regarding faculty workload and teaching loads. He explained that if ASU wants to continue touting itself as a research institution, then the language in the handbook policy should reflect that the teaching load is nine (9) hours and NOT twelve (12) hours.

Moore explained that there was concern expressed to VCAAR candidates that ASU has not fully involved faculty in making the determination that we are going in a research direction and that the mission statement mentions both research reputation and providing ready access to citizens of Arkansas through distance learning – goals that may be somewhat at odds. Additional discussion ensued such as how ASU's policy on workloads would stack up with AAUP's position.

In all, it was concluded that a revised policy should be one that respects what a faculty member does best--- research, teaching and/or conducting creative activities. Again, the current policy appears to not reveal these freedoms.

Past Senate Chair Bill Humphrey advised that we need to be careful with this issue in that it might backfire in the legislature.

Senator Mary Jackson Pitts, a member of the handbook committee, pointed out that the language on this issue in the latest handbook version (spring 2006) had not changed from an earlier version. So, she suggested that a committee be appointed to proceed with changing language via the shared governance process. Moore noted that a campus task force has been targeted to look at this issue.

ESA/ESR discussion Lynn Howerton shared concerns that he and others have with what appears to be too much variability and interpretation with the ESA system. He posed the question of whether it was administrator-driven and created, particularly since it is not what the faculty generated and initiated 20 years ago.

Senator Rowe described additional concerns he and others have about the lack of attention and apparent unconcern Chancellor Potts showed this past summer toward the ESA/ESR. Potts reported to concerned faculty that he had discussed the matter with the faculty senate executive committee and they were not concerned about the state of current policies. Chairman Moore explained that she had clarified the Senate Ex Committee response in an email to AAUP leadership. At the time Moore met with AAUP in the Summer of 2007 faculty were still applying and had not yet heard whether they would be receiving equity money or not, thus there was insufficient evidence of whether equity adjustments were adequate or not.

Senator Jackson Pitts reminded the Senate that anyone can propose changes because the handbook committee is a shared governance committee. She added that (The Faculty Senate) needs to write its own proposal and submit it through the proper shared governance channels.

In all, it was suggested that a section of the faculty handbook also should be revised to reveal the various levels of salary adjustments (e.g., diversity, ESA, etc.).

V. NEW BUSINESS

AAUP Representation on Faculty Senate Handbook Committee. Rowe suggested that if this committee has deans and chairs on it, then it would not hurt to have another faculty member on the committee. He says it makes sense in that AAUP has greater resources, lawyers at their disposal who can read the handbook and help with language used in policies.

No committee reports were made.

No new issues/concerns from the floor were presented.

Senator Burns suggested to Chairman Moore that if guests are invited, then they should be given a time limit. Although several people had to leave early, Moore pointed out that one reason the guest speakers ran so long is because several senators wanted to ask questions. Other senators agreed that guests need to be given a time limit.

IV. Announcements

No announcements were made.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.