

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
September 20, 2002

FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Bob Bennett, President (AS)  
Bill Rowe, President-Elect (FA)  
John Hall, Secretary/Treasurer

FACULTY SENATE

Bob Bennett, Chair  
Bill Humphrey, Vice-chair  
Troy Thomas, Secretary

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Roger Abernathy      absent  
Jim Bednarz            Tom Risch (proxy)  
Joe Sartorelli         Jie Miao (proxy)  
Dick Freer  
David Jimerson        absent  
Ernesto Lombeida     Warren Johnson (proxy)  
Bill Maynard  
Richard Wang  
Norman Stafford

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dan Marburger        absent  
Terry Roach            absent  
Jim Washam            absent  
Chris Brown            absent

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Anna Grant         absent  
Lillie M. Fears

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright  
Kris Biondolillo  
Dan Cline  
John Ponder  
Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Alyson Gill  
John O'Connell        absent  
Ken Hatch              absent

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs  
Troy Thomas  
Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis    absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar                absent

VISITORS

None

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the September 6, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved with 1 correction – Jie Miao was present as proxy for Roger Abernathy of the College of Arts and Sciences at the September 6 meeting.

REMARKS

Chair Bennett read letter from Arkansas State Senator Jimmy Jeffress to Dr. Wyatt, the ASU Board of Trustees, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, the SGA President, and various members of the AR legislature. In the letter, Senator Jeffress expressed his unhappiness with the fiscal strategies used by Dr. Wyatt and Jennus Burton to manage the recent/current ASU budget situation. Bennett felt that it was appropriate to read the letter since a member of the legislature that oversees the operation of ASU is obviously concerned about the same issues as the students and faculty of ASU.

REPORTS

VP of Research and Academic Affairs

Chair Bennett reported on the search for the VP of Research and Academic Affairs. Dr. Wyatt informed the search committee that Dr. Susan Allen of Florida State University will be offered the position. Dr. Wyatt would like to have Dr. Allen on campus by October 1. Dr. Allen will be bringing several grants with her and will want a research lab and tenure.

Dr. John Hall asked Chair Bennett for clarification of the role of the search committee in this selection. Bennett explained the history of the search including the past people who had been brought to campus. These individuals were not felt to be acceptable to Dr. Wyatt. Dr. Wyatt then went to an independent consultant to locate a suitable candidate. Dr. Allen has been two campus twice and met with several constituent groups. She had also been a consultant in the search. Bennett stated that the search committee did not recommend Dr. Allen to Dr. Wyatt.

Discussion followed about the appropriateness of the search procedure. A senator in the chemistry dept. asked if Dr. Allen would be wanting tenure in the chemistry dept. Bennett reported that Dr. Wyatt believed that Dr. Allen had the credentials to qualify for tenure. Dr. Hall asked if Dr. Allen's tenure application would go through the PRT committee. Bennett stated that he did not know, but offered that ultimately PRT decisions rest with the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Hall expressed concern that the search process was not consistent with the Faculty Handbook. Bennett and Senator Humphrey did not feel that process being used by Dr. Wyatt in this instance was in violation of the Faculty Handbook policies.

Senator Maynard asked if Dr. Wyatt spelled out the criteria that he was looking for in the VP. Bennett said yes and stated that he believed that Dr. Allen was qualified for the position.

Maynard suggested that the Budget Oversight Committee look at how much these "consultants" cost. Bennett said that this money did not come out of the academic budget.

Discussion followed on the implications, including budgetary implications, of the new administrative positions being created in the ASU System.

## Report on Academic Affairs Council Retreat

Bennett report on the Academic Affairs Council Retreat:

- a. Mark Hoeting of IT Services outlined IT goals. Discussed the creation of an IT steering committee that would exist outside of Shared Governance. Bennett requested but had not received a copy of the proposal.
- b. Dr. Cooksey suggested the creation of a General Education Director. Dr. McDaniel and several deans felt that this was not a big priority at this time.
- c. Dr. Wyatt discussed initiatives that he would like to see this year:
  - a. Extract ASU from the state Office of Personnel Management
  - b. Restoration of budget that we had at the beginning of the biennium
  - c. Seek money from the legislature for faculty raises
  - d. Seek money from the legislature for cost of living adjustments
  - e. Seek monies from the legislature for maintenance on our buildings and to extend our campus. Dr. Wyatt said he was going to try and get back the 3.5 million dollars that we lost.

- d. Dr. Wyatt reported a flat enrollment at 4-year universities nationwide and an increasing enrollment at 2-year institutions. Enrollment at ASU declined but FTEs increased. A detailed breakdown of the enrollment statistics was made available to the senators at the meeting.
- e. Caraway Road will be closed off in about 1 month. This will coincide with breaking ground on the new Biosciences Institute.

Dr. Hall discussed a report from AAUP that one of ASU's satellite institutions is referring students to a competing 4-year institution in Arkansas. Extensive discussion followed on 2-year vs. 4-year institutions and the overall impact of ASU's satellite centers.

Senator Wang asked if Bennett would ask Administration to address the decrease in enrollment on the Jonesboro Campus. Bennett remarked that one of the deans had asked Dr. Wyatt what his 5-year plan was for academics. Dr. Wyatt stated that he really hadn't thought about it, but offered some random thoughts.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### Faculty Handbook-

Bennett and Humphrey spoke with Irene Martz – Martz has appointment with Dr. McDaniel on Monday to point out specific changes to the Faculty Handbook.

##### Survey-

Bennett has been looking at the data from the recent employee survey commissioned by the Faculty Senate and will have a report at the next meeting. Bennett said he would try to meet with Dr. Wyatt about the survey prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting. Dr. Bennett said that in his preliminary review of the data the big theme appeared to be lack of trust in the current Administration.

##### Committee for Institutional Responsibility –

Bennett will chair the committee. Current members – Bill Rowe, Louella Moore. Senator Wang who originally proposed the name for the committee asked that it be called something else. After discussion, it was decided that the committee would simply be a subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee.

Senator Freer expressed his frustration about the concerns of faculty and students being continually ignored by the current administration. Freer stated that at some point we have to ask ourselves what strategies are left to us and when would we consider using them. A lengthy discussion followed about possible strategies to address the faculty's issues with the current administration.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

In a conversation with Dr. Wyatt, Dr. Wyatt asked Bennett if the faculty wanted to have a Town Hall meeting with Dr. Wyatt to discuss our issues/concerns. The majority of the senators present felt that this Town Hall format that had been used in the past was not

the best way to address our issues/concerns. However, it was decided that each senator would go back and take an accurate count of his/her respective constituents to determine their desires. This count is to be presented to Bennett at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

A copy of draft proposal concerning Graduate Faculty Status was given to the senators present at the meeting.

Bennett discussed a recent event involving a Staff Senate grievance procedure. It appears that J.W. Mason ignored the grievance policy and procedure in this situation. Bennett cited this as another reason why it was important for the Faculty Senate to continue to gather information about violations of shared governance.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary

Addendum – per October 4, 2002 ASU Faculty Senate Meeting

September 9, 2002

Dr. Les Wyatt, President  
Arkansas State University  
P.O. Box 10  
State University, AR 72467

Dear Dr. Wyatt:

After reading this morning's newspaper account of the decision yesterday by the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees to redirect \$489,000 from student-funded technology fees to the general fund, I have struggled not to write this letter. As the day has worn on, though, the more obvious it has become that I must get some things off my chest before I have a stroke. I hope that my comments will be taken seriously and that they will not be brushed aside with little or no attention to what I have to say.

We seem to have a serious problem with ethics in Arkansas these days. I don't know if the Governor's ethical lapses are giving cause to rank-and-file individuals and entities of the state to believe that they, too, can get away with modifying the ethical norm, but it is still WRONG to bend the rules to fit your purposes and to suit your needs whenever it is convenient to do so.

What am I saying? In the case of Arkansas State University, it is WRONG to assess a \$9 per credit hour "technology" fee, then turn around and divert a portion of that money for other purposes. Why not simply raise your tuition and call it what it actually is, a tuition increase? You and I have had conversations already over my concern that the students of Arkansas State University are getting ripped off every time they turn around. ASU assesses a monstrous athletic fee per credit hour, parking fees above the norm (what about the special permit required to park in the new parking deck that is assessed over and above the "regular" parking fee?), multiple lab fees, etc. I could go on and on, ad infinitum, ad nauseam. These are hidden costs of which the average student and his/her parents are unaware until that fateful moment when the check has to be written.

And what do we see happening here now? ASU is raping the technology fund (into which students have paid in return for the hope of deriving something visible and tangible—technology advances) to shore up the general fund! This is outrageous! You and Jennus Burton are probably sitting back at this very moment with smug looks of satisfaction on your faces, patting yourselves on your respective backsides, while applauding your wit and resourcefulness at finding a ready source of available cash to plunder. Of course, all of this would not have been necessary had you been more realistic about your athletic program. But you know the story: students and faculty at ASU are always treated like second-class citizens in order to fund the wants and desires of a few well-heeled alumni and community leaders who yearn for a winning football team. Come hell or high water at ASU, that monster has to be fed and nurtured at the expense of everything else!

As I indicated up front in this letter, I hope that you will not shrug off the implications of what I am hinting at. I have not been pleased with the conduct of ASU in regards to the

athletic deficit and how it has been dealt with. I am certainly not pleased with this situation either! We will have ample opportunity to further discuss this when the Budget Hearings begin on October 8. As a matter of fact, I very much look forward to the day when we on the Joint Budget Committee have your budget before us for review.

I look forward to serving you in the Arkansas General Assembly. If I can ever be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Jeffress  
State Senator

Cc: Mr. Richard E. Bell, Chair, ASU Board of Trustees  
Mr. John Paul Hammerschmidt, Vice Chair, ASU Board of Trustees  
Mr. Mike Medlock, Secretary – ASU Board of Trustees  
Ms. Florine T. Bingham, Member, ASU Board of Trustees  
Col. Dallas Wood, Member, ASU Board of Trustees  
Sach Oliver, ASU SGA President  
Dr. Bob Bennett, Senate Faculty Chair Person, ASU  
Jennifer Leslie Knod, ASU Student  
The Honorable Jim Hill, Senate Pro-Tem Elect  
The Honorable David Malone, Chair, Senate Education Committee  
The Honorable Olin Cook, Chair, House Education Committee  
The Honorable Jodie Mahony, Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee  
The Honorable Calvin Johnson, Vice Chair, House Education Committee