

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
April 4, 2003

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bob Bennett, Past-President of Faculty Association (absent)

Jim Bednarz

William Burns

Dick Freer (absent)

Ernesto Lombeida

Bill Maynard

Jie Miao

Joe Sartorelli

Norman Stafford (proxy – Dave Truncellito)

Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chris Brown

Dan Marburger

Terry Roach (absent)

Jim Washam (proxy – David Dearman)

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Lillie M. Fears (proxy – Jack Zibluk)

Jo Anna Grant

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright (absent)

Kris Biondolillo

Dan Cline

John D. Hall – Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Association

John Ponder

Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons (absent)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe, President of the Faculty Association

Alyson Gill

Ken Hatch (absent)

John O'Connell

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Troy Thomas, Secretary

Terry Baggs (absent)

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis (absent)

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar (absent)

VISITORS

Marlin Shipman - Journalism

Sherry Pruitt – Jonesboro Sun

Phillip Stuly – ASU Herald

Justin Cissell – reporting student

Amber Haggard – reporting student

Terry Austin– reporting student

Erin Traham – reporting student

Jerry Linnstaedter – Regional Programs

Curtis Steele – Fine Arts

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm by new President – Bill Rowe.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from 3/07/03 were approved without change.

REMARKS

Rowe thanked Dr. Bennett for his work during the last 2 years. Rowe also thanked the Executive Committee and Senators for their work.

Rowe said he wanted to focus on the HLC report as a basis for the Senate agenda for the next 2 years. Rowe alluded to upcoming amendments and changes to the constitution.

Rowe read from parts of prepared comments that he delivered earlier this week at the faculty retirement ceremonies:

The recent HLC visit leaves us much to be concerned about and to no surprise to the faculty the HLC, in their wisdom, commented on the very issues that have been historic concerns to the Faculty Senate for over 10 years. The HLC had in their exit statement concerns about administrative spending priorities, stated that we might rethink the process of going Division 1 football, the use of Native American imagery as the logo/mascot, library funding (a repeated concern), shared governance, lack of adequate enrollment management and lack of overall strategic planning.

The HLC did identify the strength of the University as the faculty.

At the same time the administration has refused to recognize the value of the faculty in the governing process. This and inexplicable financial priorities have led to the collapse of faculty morale and trust. Many believe that faculty morale may never recover and that faculty behavior is nothing short of "learned helplessness" a condition whereby individuals decrease or cease to respond because they believe their actions do not make a difference.

It is my hope that over the next two years the faculty senate will focus on the HLC report and their recommendations in the hope of improving ASU to more fit into the criteria that the word "university" conveys.

REPORTS

Bob Bennett was absent – no official UPC report.

Senator Thomas attended the UPC meeting but did not have his notes with him. The main topic was budget planning for next year.

Rowe asked whom we should contact to get details on the budget.

Humphrey said that 2 or so years ago they said parking revenues would go to pay for the parking garage but I think they have been moved to pay for athletics.

Marburger – parking revenues and expenses have been moved over so surpluses will go to Athletics after initial monies have gone to pay for the garage.

OLD BUSINESS

Handbook – March 28th deadline has passed with no word from Administration. Rowe will call this week to check on HB status.

Mascot Resolution - New copies were passed out by Senator Maynard with changes added from suggestions made at the last senate meeting.

Hall (1st) Humphrey (2nd)

Discussion – Marburger suggested a reordering to place HLC statement first so it would not look like a rogue element from Faculty Senate.

Senator Grant said that would require a friendly amendment.

Maynard – I have no problem with reordering However: 1) I think it okay that this comes from the faculty 2) this issue has been going on for a long time.

Wang – Are we calling for a change in the mascot or the name Indians?

Maynard – I think if we vote against this, I think we are voting against the package.

Discussion ensued over this topic.

Maynard clarified at one point that the language used in the resolution was that used in the NCAA's wording.

Gill offered the phrase: and all references direct or indirect to Native American imagery.

Friendly amendments made to resolution.

Question called. All in Favor – Unanimous.

ASU Faculty Senate Resolution (FSR 2003-02)
Resolution to Abolish the Use of a Native American Identity at Arkansas State University

Sponsored by the English Department, History Department, Political Science, Fine Arts, Speech Communication, and . . .

Whereas, in their leaving remarks, the 2003 Higher Learning Commission accreditation team questioned the appropriateness of the use of a Native American identity at this university, and

Whereas, at the national level the NCAA's Minority Opportunity and Interests Committee recommends that the use of Native American mascots ought to be retired, and

Whereas Arkansas State University's use of a Native American identity ("Indians") perpetuates negative stereotypes of a minority culture, and

Whereas, such an identity incorporates the inappropriate use of religious symbolism, and

Whereas, the continued use of a Native American identity is in stark contrast with the goal of diversity espoused by the current university administration, and

Whereas, the use of a Native American identity hinders recruitment of Native American faculty,

Now, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Arkansas State University calls upon the University Board of Trustees to begin immediately the search for an identity more representative of an academic institution of higher learning, and to abandon the use of all references, either direct or indirect, to a Native American identity as soon as is practicable.

Be it further resolved that the search for a new identity shall be open and transparent and that it shall include the entire academic community - faculty, students, administrators, staff and alumni.

Pet Policy

Hall – introduced suggestion for revised pet policy.

Hall – my understanding is that something needs to be done today.

Humphrey stated that his understanding was that if we didn't do something right away Burton's policy would become policy.

Wang – Which shared governance committee did this go through?

Curtis Steele said Burton stated that this is not a new policy; it is an existing one that they want to enforce.

Wang and Humphrey said they were not aware of such a policy.

Rowe read the university's formal justification points for the pet policy.

Discussion/Confusion ensued about what the current policy is and what is intended.

Rowe said he would seek clarification from Burton.

Wang – what we don't want to see is this process go on without us. This is a good change to get enlightenment on what the process is.

Sense of the Senate – We support no change in the way in which the policy is currently being handled. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

IT Policy

Rowe – some people have had problems with this.

Maynard – this appeared as a draft in 2001. Senate formed a committee to address concerns with the policy. Information on a good IT policy was obtained from the AAUP at the time. Examples of policies were collected. Recommendations were passed on to Mark Hoeting who said it was nothing to worry about because it was just a draft. Nothing more was heard about it.

A current faculty member's job is at risk for violating this policy. This policy happened to come to light on the day after the faculty member was publicly critical of the Administration. Other faculty members are known to be in violation but the policy has not been applied to them. Maynard suggested that a lawyer be contacted on this serious issue.

Hall – Is this policy in the current HB?

Maynard – Bill Humphrey found when he was doing the HB that many policies had been added but had not been added to the HB. It is troubling that policies can just appear.

Humphrey – Is the policy a Board-approved policy?

Maynard – That's a good question.

Gill – I talked to William Allen at CLT; the policy has been on the CLT website for a while; it was recently added to the ASU website.

Rowe – read responses from Rick McDaniel on the issue:

Were the faculty involved in developing the policy?

Dr. Bennett was scheduled three times to meet with Jennus regarding development of the policy. In his absence, the state's deadline for institutions to report their policy approached and ASU had to ask the Board to approve a policy statement.

Is the senate OK with the policy?

The Senate, in Dr. Bennett's absence, did not provide feedback as requested.

Is the policy appropriate for Higher Ed?

It is very similar to the policies at other institutions and seems to me to be appropriate.

**Is the policy too subjective, vague, and unclear?
I don't think so.**

Why isn't the policy in the Faculty Handbook? Any policy impacting faculty employment decisions should be in the Handbook.

The current Handbook was adopted in 1996 while the policy was adopted in 2001.

Why isn't there inservice education on the do's and don'ts of ASU computing resources?

I don't know the status of current in-service, but I know that focused in-service is being developed for next fall.

Have consequences been applied to all offenders?

To my knowledge this is true.

What other policies are "out there" that faculty do not know about and are not in the Handbook?

Policies "out there" that faculty might not remember include all Board approved policies, presidentially approved procedures, and State mandates via legislative process.

Can the administration see why there is a need for an approved Handbook that contains ALL the policies that pertain to faculty employment?

Certainly, but by the time it comes out, it also may be lacking the latest changes.

Maynard – Read from AAUP's response on this issue that stated that there should be substantial faculty involvement in the development of such a policy.

Hall concurred.

Maynard Questions:

1. Was this policy formed properly?
2. Should this faculty member's job be at risk for violation of this policy?

Maynard – I would like the Senate to empower the Executive Committee to speak to a lawyer and get an opinion on this issue (Selective use of a policy to remove a faculty member).

Humphrey – We need the Executive Committee to get copies of policies and get an opinion from the lawyer.

Thomas (1st) Humphrey (2nd). Unanimously approved.

Cline – This raises the fundamental principle that you cannot be held accountable for a policy that you cannot get your hands on. We should make this a major point.

Hall – Any major policy that is going to impact employment should be widely disseminated.

Hardcopy of ASU Budget – John Hall

Hall: I posted copy of a resolution on the web that would require Administration to provide the Senate with quarterly copies of the ASU budget. I received one suggestion for a change to the resolution.

Marburger – When the university was in trouble with the athletic deficit and attempted to re-label expenses, the ADHE said you cannot do that; these changes however appear on the budget as if they did happen. This was never updated.

Hall (1st) Maynard (2nd)

Discussion:

Flugstad – Is the resolution just for the campus or for the system because many things are kicked on to other budgets.

Resolution Revised

Call for vote – Passed unanimously

**ASU Faculty Senate Resolution (FSR 2003-03)
Resolution Requesting Updated Copies of the ASU-Jonesboro and ASU System Operating
Budget**

Whereas faculty, students, and other constituencies of Arkansas State University (ASU) have both the right and the need to access accurate information regarding the ASU-Jonesboro Campus and System-Wide Fiscal Year Operating Budget.

Whereas the June printing of the ASU-Jonesboro Campus and System-Wide Fiscal Year Operating Budget that is currently available to the above groups in the ASU Dean B. Ellis Library quickly becomes outdated and unreliable thus making accurate scrutiny of the University budget by appropriate parties difficult.

The Arkansas State University Faculty Senate resolves that the ASU Office of Finance and Administration update the copy of the ASU-Jonesboro and System-Wide Operating Budget on a quarterly basis to provide the most current budget information available as of July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1 of each fiscal year. Any budgetary item(s) that has/have changed since the July 1 issue will be noted by an asterisk(*) in subsequent issues. These updates will be forwarded to the ASU Dean B. Ellis Library no more than 10 business days following these dates. These quarterly updates will reside at the circulation desk and will be made available to all interested parties for examination and copying. The expense of copying will be born by the party making the copies.

Enrollment Management

Rowe read statement from Joanna Grymes. Grymes would like feed back from faculty on any Enrollment Management concerns.

Shared Governance Committees – lot of people have volunteered. Should have selections made by Monday.

Election of new senators should have been completed by now. New senators should be notified to attend last meeting.

Need to figure out new allocation since split of Arts and Sciences.

Secretary made request for Senators to bring names of new senators to next meeting.

Faculty Senate requirements/recommendations

Idea was raised of changing requirements to be a Senator to include tenure.

Hall – There has been discussion lately about enforcing the 3-year rule.

Rationale:

1. experience
2. protection

Senators were asked to take this topic back to their departments.

Rowe recommended that Dennis White be the new Parliamentarian. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary