

**Report from Faculty Senate Finance Committee to Faculty Senate  
February 5, 2010**

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The Faculty Senate Finance Committee studies relevant revenue and expenditure trends for Arkansas State University with emphasis on the Jonesboro campus. This report represents a subset of the work being done by this committee in the 2009-10 academic year and serves as a follow-up to the formal study of financial trends prepared by the 2008-09 Faculty Senate Finance Committee. In particular this report emphasizes trends in faculty vs. staff lines and the percentage of university resources expended for instruction and research.

Illustration 1 below shows the increase in full and part time faculty from 2004 to 2009. These increases should be viewed in relation to a 10.7% increase in FTE (full time equivalent student enrollment) from 2004 to 2009. Illustration 1 shows that full time faculty are being added more slowly than the student base. Illustration 2 shows the increases in full and part time staff from 2004 to 2009. This shows that the number of full time staff increase by 17.3% compared to the 10.7% increase in FTE's from 2004 to 2009. Part time staff increased 145% over the time period from 2004 to 2009. According to the Common Data Set reported provided on the Institutional Research website, 302 of the full time faculty for 2009 held doctorates or other similar terminal degree ( 62.7%) while only 10 of the part time faculty (5.8%) held the doctorate or other terminal degree equivalent.

**Illustration 1  
Trend for Faculty Numbers**

From Quickstats @ ASUJ and 2009-10 Common Data Set						2004 to 09		2004 to 09	
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	5 yr Incr	% Incr	
Full Time Faculty	454	447	456	459	461	482	28	6.2%	
Part Time Faculty	<u>167</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>15</u>	9.0%	
Total	621	606	619	635	632	664	43		

**Illustration 2  
Trend for Staff Numbers**

<b>ASU JONESBORO STAFF FROM 2004 to 2009</b>								
<b>From Quickstats @ ASUJ and 2009-10 Factbook</b>							<b>04 to 09</b>	<b>04 to 09</b>
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Incr</b>	<b>% Incr</b>
Full Time Staff	875	895	914	965	965	1026	151	17.3%
Part Time Staff	<u>203</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>498</u>	295	145.3%
Total	1078	1095	1249	1326	1267	1524		

Illustration 3 shows changes in the percentage of students taught by the various ranks of full time faculty from 2004 to 2009. This illustration shows a gradual decrease in the percentage of students taught by faculty at the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor and an increase in the SCH production at the levels of instructor and by 'supplemental faculty' which includes adjuncts, teaching assistants, and high school teachers in concurrent enrollment programs.

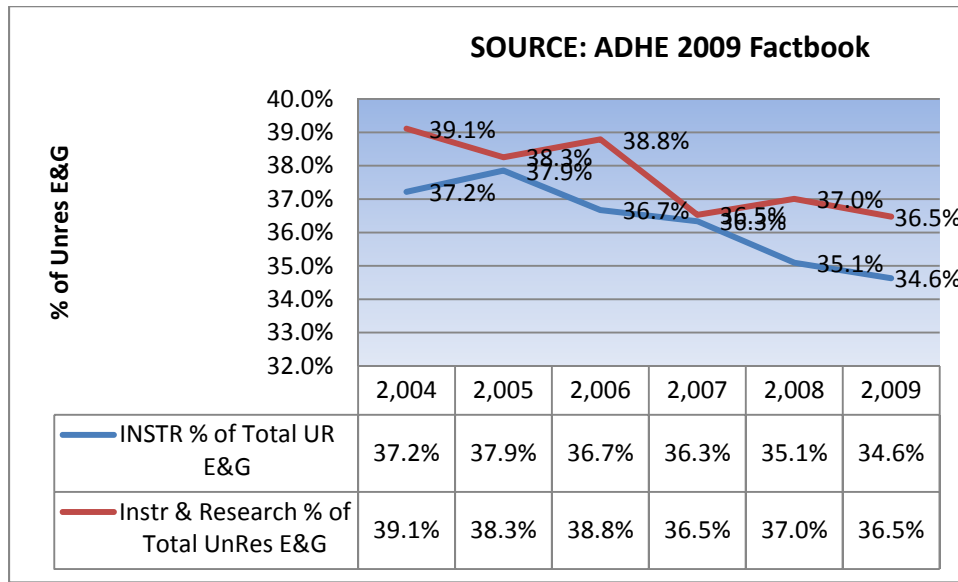
**Illustration 3  
Percentage of SCH Production by Various Faculty Ranks**

<b>SCH Production by Faculty Rank</b>						
<b>From 2008-09 and 09-10 Factbooks</b>						
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Professors	14.4%	13.5%	13.4%	13.6%	13.7%	12.1%
Associate	17.6%	18.7%	17.7%	16.6%	18.9%	19.3%
Assistant	<u>25.5%</u>	<u>25.8%</u>	<u>25.2%</u>	<u>25.8%</u>	<u>23.7%</u>	<u>22.0%</u>
TOTAL Asst to Prof	57.5%	58.0%	56.3%	56.0%	56.3%	53.4%
Instructor	24.1%	23.9%	23.2%	21.5%	22.9%	23.8%
Supplemental Faculty*	<u>18.4%</u>	<u>18.2%</u>	<u>20.4%</u>	<u>22.5%</u>	<u>20.9%</u>	<u>22.8%</u>
Total Instructor/Suppl.	42.5%	42.1%	43.6%	44.0%	43.8%	46.6%
* Supplemental Faculty include Adjuncts, GradTeaching Assistants, Admin Staff and High School Teachers						

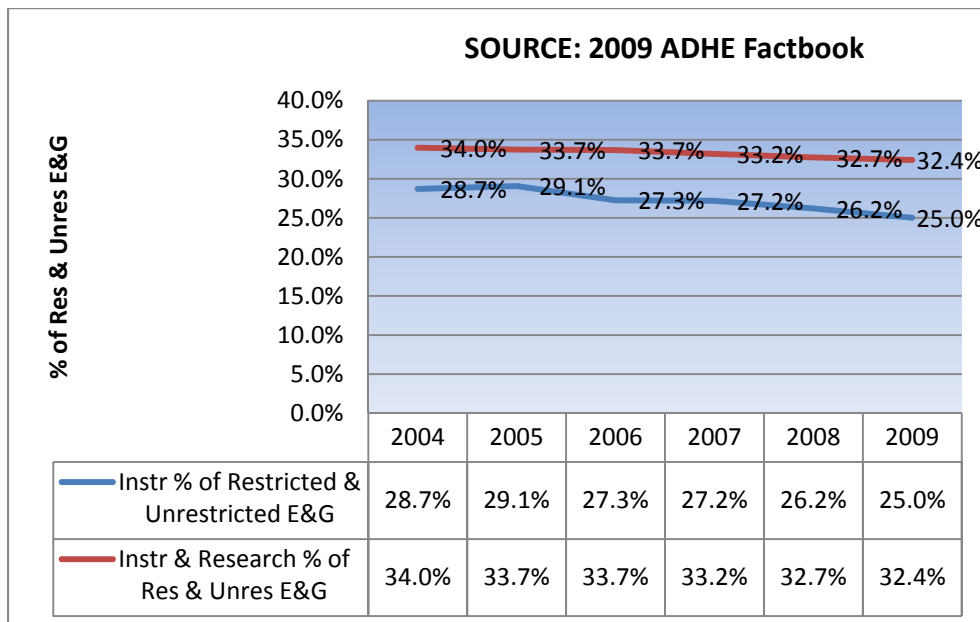
Illustration 4 on the next page shows the % of the unrestricted budget spent on Instruction and Research during the time frame 2004 to 2009 by the ASUJ campus. The source of this data was the 2009 Fact Book on Arkansas Public Higher Education as prepared from data submitted to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by the respective institutions and compiled by that office. While the ASJ research mission is supposed to be increasing per institutional goals, the percentage spent on teaching and research has fallen from 39.1% of the Unrestricted Educational and General spending in 2004 to 36.5% of the Unrestricted E&G spending in 2009. Similarly, the Instructional % has fallen from 37.2% to 34.6% of Unrestricted E&G. Because this trend could conceivably arise from greater availability of restricted grant moneys being used for research and buy-out of faculty teaching time, the committee also looked at

the % of Instruction and Research expenditures from the total of Unrestricted and Restricted resources. Illustration 5 shows that the trend in percentage of the total Restricted and Unrestricted resources spent on Instruction and Research is also declining over time.

**Illustration 4**  
**Percentage of Unrestricted E&G Spent on Instruction and Research**



**Illustration 5**  
**% of Total Restricted & Unrestricted E&G Spent on Instruction and Research**



## Summary

The data presented in this report demonstrates that the increases in staff positions over the preceding five years have clearly outpaced the level of increases in enrollment. The Faculty Senate Finance Committee does not see it as their role to pick out and determine which staff (or faculty) increases were essential and which were not. It is the understanding of the Faculty Senate Finance Committee that the University Planning Committee has stated that looking at mission driven adjustments in employee composition will be a last resort. Further, the Academic Budget Committee (a part of the shared governance structure) seems to have been largely inactive for the last two years. While the Faculty Senate Finance Committee recognizes that there is a time and place to increase administrative and professional staff in advance of enrollment increases in order to achieve new strategic initiatives, the Committee's primary concern is that to our knowledge neither the relative composition of the staff and nor the percentage spending for the various functional duties such as Instruction and Research seem to be on the active agenda of any broad based institutional committees.

In recessionary times, the public is very concerned that their students' tuition dollars be put to efficient and effective use. The data reported in this report suggests that the increases in university costs are NOT primarily related to increased costs for faculty salaries or the research mission of the institution. While it is not the Faculty Senate Finance Committee's job to stand in the stead of the Chancellor or University Planning Committee in making strategic decisions, we do express concerns about how the university can justify significant increases in professional and paraprofessional staff levels when this does not leave sufficient resources for adequate cost of living raises to retain current or new faculty and staff salaries.