

**Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes of December 2, 2005**

**FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

Bill Humphrey—Chair	
Richard Freer—Vice-Chair of the Senate	P
Bill Rowe—Past President	Absent
William B. Maynard—Secretary of the Faculty Association	P
Margaret McClain—Secretary of the Senate	P
Win Bridges—(Acting) Parliamentarian	P

**PROXY**

Richard Freer

**AGRICULTURE (1)**

Bert Greenwalt	Absent
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**BUSINESS (3)**

Mark Foster	Absent
Louella Moore	P
Jim Washam	P

**COMMUNICATIONS (2)**

Jack Zibluk	Absent
Pradeep Mishra	P

**EDUCATION (5)**

Cindy Albright	Absent
Daniel Cline	Absent
Amany Saleh	P
Marci Malinsky	
Vacant Seat	---

Joe Donaghy

**ENGINEERING (1)**

Shivan Haran	P
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**FINE ARTS (3)**

Alyson Gill	Absent
Tim Crist	P
Kelly Shaefer	P

**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)**

Win Bridges	P
Mary Donaghy	P
Robert Baum	Absent
Joe Sartorelli	P
Richard Wang	P
Erik Gilbert	Absent

**LIBRARY (1)**

Myron Flugstad	P
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**MILITARY SCIENCE (1)**

LTC Larry P. Aikman	P
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**NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (3)**

Richard Freer	P
Donna Caldwell	Absent
Cathy P. Hall	P

**SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)**

William Burns	Absent
Bob Bennett	P
Jeff Jenness	Absent

Jie Miao

Absent

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)**

Margaret McClain

P

**I. MINUTES:** Vice-Chair and Acting Chair Freer called the meeting to order. The minutes of the November 18, 2005, meeting were approved.

**II. NEW BUSINESS:** In deference to our visitors, Lynita Cooksey, Jill Simons, and Mark Hoeting, new business was moved to the head of the agenda.

**A. Changes in Recruitment, Retention, Advising (Lynita Cooksey and Jill Simons)**

Dr. Cooksey distributed the “**Retention Savings Worksheet**” that had been prepared for ASU by consultants from Noel-Levitz. The information on the sheet, according to Cooksey, is based on current enrollment and tuition. The document shows that each student taken from freshman year through graduation represents net revenue of \$22,000 to the institution. Cooksey pointed out that beginning during the biennium, state funding will depend on retention and graduation rates.

Cooksey went on to explain the statistics shown in the document entitled “**ACT Scores, Remediation, & Persistence.**” She pointed out that in 1998, the entering year of the most recent graduating class, the six-year graduation rate was 36.5%, a drop from the previous year. She also pointed out the stats on remediation rates. For example, 50% of students take remedial math, while 30% of last year’s class was required to enroll in the Right Start Program.

Lynita Cooksey continued by turning to the “**2005-2006 Retention Initiatives**” document. She summarized the changes that have been made to enhance student success. She explained that improvements and new staff have been added in the Wilson Advising Center. She noted that since the university has upward of 2000 undeclared students, the Advising Center is extremely busy serving these students. She requested faculty members not to send students with declared majors to the Advising Center because it is not set up to assist them to any great degree. The center can only answer routine questions. She asked that faculty members advise their majors in their departments.

Cooksey stated that the new, peer-selected Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award underscores the renewed emphasis on advising. This new award supplements the You Make a Difference Award given by the Advising Center for some time.

Cooksey went on to say that the Early Alert Program, which was initiated three years ago, has helped many students receive help early in the semester, before their academic problems escalated. She told the Senate that faculty could refer first-year students for advising and/or tutoring to the Advising Center by sending an email. She stressed that for maximum efficacy, the at-risk student needed to be identified and referred during the first 3 to 4 weeks of any semester.

Jill Simons then discussed the present confusion about various forms of early alert programs, such as the Right Start, Honors Program, and athletic early alerts, among others. Simons announced that to reduce confusion and avoid duplication, the goal is to devise one electronic form for all students to replace the existing multiple paper forms. In addition, said Simons, early alerts would be expanded to include clients of the Non-Traditional Student Services office and the Brother 2 Brother mentoring program.

Dr. Cooksey summarized other coming changes, such as the Degree Audit System or CAPP, which will be built into the Banner System. The On Course system, which was perfected by Mark Hoeting, will not migrate to Banner. A Degree Audit Coordinator position will be filled in compliance with AR Act 1014-2005. Using the system, an advisor can enter lengthy commentary on the student’s progress; view the student’s graduation check sheet; and alert the student of courses not yet completed. The system even allows students to enter what-if scenarios in case they want to transfer to ASU or change majors. Banner will provide 68 pages of electronic files per student, including graduation check sheets, transfers, and substitutions. Cooksey assured the faculty members that they would have first access to the system.

Dr. Wang asked about how much training would be required to use the system. Dr. Cooksey was not sure about the level of training required to use Banner, but she said training sessions would be set up for both students and faculty.

Cooksey went on to explain the redesign of first-year studies at ASU. First of all, there will be increased enforcement of policies requiring some students to live in residence halls. She cited the availability of many new residence choices for students, including housing for honors program students. Another element of the first-year redesign is a new emphasis on academics in the residence halls; she called on the faculty to assist in instituting academic programs in the dorms and encouraged more social interaction between faculty and students.

Dr. Cooksey outlined the Foundations of Excellence (FOE) program, which consists of a comprehensive self-study under the First College Year Project. Cooksey was gratified by the 91% response rate to her survey. To improve the freshman experience at ASU, two new advisors have been hired to train faculty to teach FYE courses. She says the training will begin in the Spring 2006 semester. Cooksey said that the FYE courses would not comprise an overload for faculty, but adjuncts would be hired and trained to teach these classes.

Cooksey described another new program that will be required of all first-semester students who find themselves on probation at the end of this term, an estimated 500 students. The program consists of an eight-week probationary course and the requirement that students repeat failed classes immediately. Cooksey pointed out that the Restart Program has had a 60% success rate.

Dr. Cooksey then outlined changes in math, English, and reading instruction. In partnership with the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), ASU's math department will be instituting an electronic homework lab that requires students to complete 90% of homework assignments with 90% correctness before they may proceed to take unit tests. Eventually, English 0002 (Writing Tutorial) will be taught as a stand-alone writing course to be taken before Composition I. Next term, Developmental Reading will be split into two levels based on lower and higher reading entrance scores.

This semester, over 500 students took the COMPASS test as part of a pilot study, the results of which will be used to determine the placement testing needs of the fall 2006 entering class. Transfer students may be given a proficiency test to determine their needs in English, reading, writing, and math.

This term ASU has begun to provide various forms of out-of-class instruction, including the Supplemental Instruction program in 5 sections of core subjects; part-time math tutoring; the 24-hour-a-day SmarThinking Online Tutoring Service; and graduate assistants to act as learning liaisons. These services will be expanded in the spring 2006 term.

Cooksey envisioned an easily accessible, centralized Tutoring/Learning Center with a full-time and part-time staff to serve students both day and night.

In addition, to enhance first-year students' success, ASU will pilot a mandatory FYE course in the fall of 2006. The planned interface among the FYE course and general education classes will be effected through study groups and academic instruction in residence halls. Cooksey encouraged faculty to meet with students in informal settings to provide even more meaningful first-year experiences for our entering students. She stressed that students who make connections during their first year were more likely to remain at ASU.

Jill Simons, Director of the Wilson Advising Center, explained the center's goal of increasing collaboration between itself and academic colleges. Simons explained that while the Advising Center is focused on assisting undeclared students, the center's aim is also to provide guidance so that students can choose the most suitable major, thus enhancing retention. She outlined how, under the Early Alert Program, the center's advisors will act as liaison between the students and academic colleges.

Dr. Wang was interested in knowing of any plans to attract better students to ASU, instead of those with plummeting ACT scores and low high school GPAs. He cited the research done by Dr. Carr in linking these variables to low 6-year graduation rates. Dr. Cooksey stated that while this trend was true for several years, ASU seems to have turned the corner with the 2005 freshman class, which has exhibited slightly better stats than those of the previous several years. One of the obstacles to attracting more qualified students has been the lack of scholarships. She predicted that the new honors dorm would be a selling point for ASU in 2006.

Dr. Susan Allen added that in 2004 the Honors College offered 60 scholarships to potential students, but ASU received only 27 responses. She said that 2004 was an anomalous year in that a change in the application deadline date caused many students to miss the deadline. In 2005, there was a dramatic shift in that ASU received 56 responses to 59 offers of honors scholarships. She attributed the new trend to a change in the administration of scholarships and better dissemination of scholarship information to high school counselors. Allen continued that a proposal regarding scholarships was on Dr. Wyatt's desk and was ready to be sent to Greg Thornburgh for approval. Allen expressed concern about the lack of scholarships for non-traditional students. She further explained that even though Memphis students have traditionally received a tuition discount, the availability of Tennessee Lottery funds has become an attractive source of scholarships for students who stay in Tennessee to attend college.

Dr. Sartorelli questioned Allen about the possibility of launching an advertising blitz, and Allen said that ASU was exploring several possibilities of receiving free advertising.

Dr. Cooksey stated that beginning in March 2006, ASU's new slogan, "Empowering Minds," would begin to appear on flags and other official university paraphernalia. She stated that the slogan was designed to help reinforce ASU's new

image as a university of academic excellence. The launching of the new identifier will coincide with the Convocation of Scholars, at which Colin Powell is slated to give the keynote address.

Dr. Win Bridges pointed out that high school counselors play a key role in advising students to go elsewhere, usually the colleges they attended.

Dr. Cooksey admitted that some of the counselors in the southern portion of the state had no idea that ASU even existed. To remedy the situation, ASU will continue to invite counselors to visit ASU as part of our marketing efforts.

Dr. Haran asked about the possibility of offering more engineering scholarships, but Dr. Cooksey replied that due to the generosity of the Walton Foundation, most engineering scholarships were going to Fayetteville.

### **B. Banner Migration (Mark Hoeting)**

Mark Hoeting talked about the deadlines for each part of the Banner Program migration and handed out the timetable of target dates. Below are the completion dates for each part of the Banner Program.

Financial System—1/31/2006

Student Records System—8/31/2006

Web Portal Luminis—9/30/2005

Financial Aid System—9/29/2006

Human Resource System—1/31/2007

Advancement System—6/29/2007

Hoeting informed the Senate that the Web for Faculty would be discontinued when the Student Records component of Banner was completed. He touted the advantages of Banner, most notably that all of ASU's information systems--such as advising, financial information, BB6, and so forth--could be accessed through one place. ASU's Registrar is the project manager. The system is already accepting new student applications online.

Hoeting continued that the five-year project, which is paid for by technology fees, has a \$2 million budget and is currently \$4000 in the black.

Dr. Bennett asked about the degree of IT resources that would be supplied to faculty. Hoeting explained that the \$10 million cost over five years would finance training across campus. The Registrar's office would be in charge of training the faculty, and the program's training team will have built-in perpetual funding. He noted that training for faculty and advisors would begin in February.

Dr. Cooksey projected that ASU would attempt to run the program in early April for the freshman class of fall 2006.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Report on the Ambulance Issue:**

Acting Chair Freer stated that Dr. Humphrey would report his findings at the next Senate meeting.

#### **B. Reception for Board of Trustees:**

Dr. Freer reported that details of the Dec.16 reception for the Board of Trustees would be sent by email.

#### **C. Committee Reports:**

##### **Handbook:**

Dr. Freer said that Attorney Mixon's highlighted version of the Handbook would be sent by email on Monday.

Freer asked that the faculty provide feedback within two weeks; then, at the next meeting the Senate would vote on the Handbook.

Dr. Bridges wanted to know if the Handbook would be voted on in sections or in its entirety. It was Dr. Freer's understanding that we would conduct an up or down vote. Dr. Maynard added that the Handbook would be voted on first in sections and then in its entirety.

There appeared to be some misunderstanding about whether the Handbook Committee had met an adequate number of times to finish its work. Dr. Bennett noted that the Committee had not yet met to discuss the AAUP's revisions of the Handbook. He stated that the version being sent by email on Monday would be the result of the Committee's meeting with Donn Mixon; however, it would not include the AAUP's input and thus should not be the version to be put to a vote.

Acting Chair Freer stressed the importance of the Handbook Committee's meeting to discuss the AAUP's recommendations.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

##### **A. Bond Issue Vote:**

Dr. Wang reminded the faculty of the December 13 vote on two new bond issues, one of which would affect higher education. He explained that the first vote would be a highway bond issue and the second would be a higher education bond issue. Wang urged approval of the second since it would generate new revenue for capital expenditures on campus, such as the new classroom building to replace Wilson Hall.

Dr. Allen added that some of the revenue would be used for high-speed connectivity on campus, in addition to the new classroom building.

Dr. Maynard asked if there were a chance the President could earmark some of the revenue to improve faculty morale by giving raises. He cited the precedent set by the President of UCA.

Dr. Allen replied that there would be no eligible projects at ASU. She explained that for the President to use bond money earmarked for a capital project for faculty raises, the bond money had to be repaid using tuition.

Dr. Bridges informed the Senate that the highway bond issue authorizes the Highway Commission to reissue the bonds, thereby taking revenue away from education and paying a large part to the financiers.

##### **B. Cancellation of December 16 Faculty Senate Meeting:**

Acting Chair Freer announced that in lieu of meeting at the regularly scheduled time on December 16, the Faculty Senate would be meeting with the Board of Trustees.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.