Faculty Senate Minutes October 29, 2010

The faculty Senate was called to order by President Beverly Gilbert at 3:01p.

President Gilbert requested a motion to approve the Senate minutes from the October 15 meeting.   Motion made and seconded. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Old Business:
1.   A Benefits Update was provided by Lori Winn, Randy Kesselring and Katrina Watson. Changes in the Health Care benefits are due to the new law, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The following changes will go into effect January 1, 2011:

• Dependent coverage extended until the age of 26 – including married and/or non-student dependents. Coverage is only offered up to the age of 26 if the dependent is not eligible for any other employer-sponsored health plan except through a parent.
• Prohibition on Lifetime Benefit Limitations (currently there is a $1 million lifetime cap)
• Prohibition of pre-existing conditions for dependents up to age 19 will be waived but will continue for adults 19 and above.
• The University's Third Party Administrator has projected increased costs associated with administrative fees and excess loss premiums. As a result, a minimal cost increase for healthcare premiums has been approved. A family plan is currently $200.00 per month and will increase to $202.66 per month.   Employee-only coverage is currently $42.00 per month and will increase to $43.17 per month. The continuing impact of the key provisions will be monitored throughout 2011 for future considerations.

The Dental Plan has been switched from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Dental because of increased rates by Delta Dental. Deductable rates and Coverage remain the same except that dependent coverage is extended to age 26. Also, BC/BS Dental starts February 1 so Delta Dental will continue until Jan. 31. Thus, for January of the new year, an ASU employee can receive $1,500 worth of dental work done for a $50 deductible, then will get another $1,500 worth of dental work performed for another $50 deductible starting Feb. 1. Thus, it would behoove one needing extensive dental work to begin this work in January, 2011.

A question was raised regarding out-of-state coverage. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of AR has a relationship with most other state BC/BS offices and thus the employee should be covered for emergency out-of-state dental work.

- An announcement was made by Ed Hammerhand, chairman of the Department of Computer Science, regarding the BEST Robotics competition, requesting attendance and judging of student robot projects.

2. A Parking and Overpass Update was provided by David McCarty.   Details were first provided on the realignment of University Loop West past the Armory and on to Melrose. Funds have been requested for this but there will be a minimum of five years before federal stimulus funds are released to complete this project. The first overpass to the intramural fields is proceeding and the asphalt is currently being applied. It is hoped that the overpass will be open to the intramural fields by January 2011 and the final realignment to Washington/Matthews road by February 2012. It was opined that the planned configuration was not very pedestrian friendly and did not sufficiently address the needs of the international students who are frequently without automobiles and must walk the bridge.

- President Gilbert provided a brief demonstration of the new Faculty Senate website.

3. FA10-23 – Proposal to Revise the Faculty Grievance Policy and Procedure (2nd committee revision/draft) http://www2.astate.edu/dotAsset/258216.doc This draft includes changes recommended by the Faculty Senate and made by Julie Isaacson and her committee.   Some discussion ensued.

A motion to approve was made and seconded.   A clarification/addition was requested regarding the replacement of a committee member in a college Grievance committee be based on a "case-by-case basis"; this phrase to be added after the word "college" on p. 86.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4.   Report on SGOC Proposals – Persona non Grata, Social Networking, and Appropriate use of Technology

Senator McDaniel (SGOC chair) reported that support of the above proposals was mixed. Dr. Howard indicated that the University needed all of these policies and wants them hammered out in a way that would be acceptable to all constituents.   Dr. Potts has requested committees be formed to do this. These committees are to be headed by (Persona non Grata) Win Bridges, (Social Networking and Appropriate use of Technology) Henry Torres.

New Business:
1. Admissions Standards - SGOC Proposal 10FA-25.   A Proposal to Increase Admission Standards
http://www2.astate.edu/dotAsset/258214.doc   This proposal addresses incoming freshman only.

Motion to approve was made and seconded.

A question was raised whether similar increased admission standard could also be applied to students transferring into ASU to address transfer students with inflated GPAs and the like. Dr. Cooksey indicated that Admissions has discussed this and may propose an admissions procedure that specifically addresses transfer students.

The motion passed unanimously.

2.   Resolution to complete Humanities and Social Sciences Building - Jack Zibluk.   This resolution arose as a result of the Open Space Strategic Planning Workshop.

Motion to accept and seconded was made on the following resolution:

Humanities and Social Sciences Building Resolution

Whereas, the numerous investigations and reports have found that Wilson Hall and its facilities, office and classrooms have fallen into disrepair and the costs of repairing the problems of the building exceed the costs to replace it;

Whereas, ASU has committed to a plan to build a new Humanities and Social Sciences building to address the problems in Wilson Hall as well as position the institution to meet the needs of faculty, staff and students involved in humanities, social sciences and related areas;

Whereas, the university embarked on building the structure and it is committed to its completion;

Whereas, a shortfall of financial resources forced the cancellation of construction of the building in March of 2010;

Whereas, failure to continue work on the project has led to its deterioration, thus incurring even higher completion costs than anticipated when construction stopped;

Whereas, the unfinished building is both an eyesore and an embarrassment to the community and any visitors to Arkansas State University;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Arkansas State University call upon all constituent groups, including administrative offices, faculty, staff, students, community groups or other appropriate agencies, officials and individuals commit to the completion of the project as a top institutional priority.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate recommend and facilitate the creation of task forces or other appropriate entities aimed at completing the project in cooperation with or in addition to efforts already in place to address the issue.

A friendly amended was offered to strike the last sentence and not request creation of a task force or other entity.

A motion to accept this amendment to the resolution was made and accepted

Passed unanimously

Vote on the amended resolution was called and passed unanimously.

Other:

1. Senator McDaniel requested a "pulse of the faculty" on preparing a resolution regarding primacy of the faculty on method of delivery of curriculum on the ASU campus. This may require an amendment of the Faculty Handbook to provide a definition of primacy. Finding the pulse to be positive Senator McDaniel indicated he would look into preparing a proposal regarding primacy and the delivery of curriculum.

2. Technology update – Henry Torres
   - BlackBoard course shells will be loaded and made available to faculty six weeks before the next semester starts.
   - Existing version of BlackBoard (Ver 8) is to be updated with BlackBoard Ver 9 (BlackBoard Learn). Beta testing is underway and volunteers for testing this new version are requested.   Adoption to Ver. 9 will be complete by Spring of 2012. Alternatives to BlackBoard such as Moodle are being considered.
   - Lecture capture – currently performed mostly using Tegrity. Faculty have has success recording lectures for future viewing by students.   Tegrity Live can be used to capture and transmit a lecture live where students can see and hear the lecturer but the lecturer cannot hear/see the students.   Wimba can be used to replace compressed video with added interactivity with students.
   - Smarter Measures can be used to determine if a student has the on-line aptitude and skills to successfully complete an on-line course.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20p.

Respectfully submitted by R.S. Grippo

Attendees:

Association officers:
Beverly Boals Gilbert
John Zibluk
Richard S. Grippo

Agriculture:
Bill Humphrey
Business:
Fay K. Cocchiara
Richard Segall
Jollean K. Sinclaire
Communications:
Pradeep Mishra
Education:
Patty Murphy
Andy Mooneyham
Jackie McBride
Amany Saleh
Fine Arts:
Bill Rowe
Marika Kyriakos
Humanities and Social Sciences:
Warren Johnson
Richard Burns
Larry Salinger
Richard Wang
Library:
Myron Flugstad
Military Science:
Jeffrey Helms
Nursing and Health Professions:
Bill Payne
Gauri Bhattacharya (proxy for Loretta Brewer)
Roy Aldridge
Mike McDaniel
Stacy Troxel
Science and Mathematics:
Jim Bednarz
University College:
Rhonda Curbo

Visitors:
Samuel G. Smith — The Herald