

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 7, 2001

FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Bob Bennett, President (AS)

Jeff Bailey, Past President (LIB) absent

Bill Rowe, Sec/Treasurer (FA)

FACULTY SENATE

Bob Bennett, Chair

Bill Humphrey, Vice-chair

Debra Walden, Secretary

Michael Morrell, Parliamentarian

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Roger Abernathy absent

Jim Bednarz

Joe Sartorelli proxy - Win Bridges

Dick Freer

David Jimerson

Ernesto Lombeida

Bill Maynard

Victoria Spaniol

Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dan Marburger

Clint Relyea

Jim Washam

Chris Brown

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Anna Grant

Lillie M. Fears

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright

Kris Biondolillo

Joe Justen

Veda McClain absent

Carl Vaupel absent

DEPT. OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE

Charles Coleman

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe

John O'Connell

Theron Waddle absent

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs

Steve Guffey proxy - Troy Thomas

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

Daniel Tiscareno absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

Michael E. Morrell

Warren Johnson (AS)

Greg Chance (KASU)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:00.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the last regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting were deferred.

REMARKS

Rick Stripling, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs reported to the senate:

Student enrollment this year is at 10,572, which is an increase of 143 students over 2000. An increase in the size of the freshman class was noted. May be due to several factors-

Improved WEB presence, WEB application process

Increase visits to regional schools

Adjustments in financial aid - award letters were sent out earlier

Conversion rate of applicants to students enrolled is at 63%.

Kathryn Jones, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, reported that the current FTE stands at 86.07 which is up from 84.32 noted in fall 2000. A handout citing fall 2001 Enrollment Highlights was provided senate members. Key points included:

1.4 % increase in enrollment despite changing fee structure

Flat enrollment on Jonesboro campus

Increased enrollment at regional centers, via compressed video and WEB based instruction

Evidence of improved retention in last year's freshman class

Jennus Burton, Vice President of Finance & Administration reported to the senate on construction projects, technology needs and health insurance costs. Burton outlined the 13 capital construction projects that are currently in progress or being planned on campus. A handout describing each project was provided each senator.

Mr. Morrell raised questions about methods to control noise from construction sites, which impacts those faculty teaching in Wilson Hall. Burton suggested use of other campus classrooms. A senator asked about the projected use of Chickasaw after the new student union is complete. Burton indicated that Chickasaw had been dedicated to future growth in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Another senator asked about proposed use of the Kay's Field Parking lot.

Burton also discussed the need for a technology use policy. A draft policy has been developed. Faculty input is requested by October 1st, 2001. A student use policy currently exists and can be found in the student handbook. Burton also described investment plans for the per credit hour technology fee now being collected. A *technology fee spending* committee exists to select the best means

to invest this money. The University is also seeking a 3 million-dollar loan to upgrade the "backbone" for the computer system campus wide. Finally, Burton noted that use of health care benefits has increased campus-wide. A handout was provided outlining the current deficit. Burton suggested that faculty could anticipate an increase in insurance cost. A consultant, former faculty member Dan Hoyt, has been hired to assist the *fringe benefits committee* to compare other health care providers in the state as well as identifying other means for cost savings.

REPORTS:

Chair Bennett recognized Senator Bill Humphrey who serves on the Faculty Handbook Committee. He announced that the handbook is being compiled on the WEB to be reviewed by faculty prior to being submitted to administration. He suggested that faculty review the document closely because it becomes the contract for the faculty with administration. Senator Maynard asked if time would be allotted for document review by AAUP attorneys. Chair Bennett stated that he had communicated to President Wyatt that the handbook was "nearing completion". The process for submission is still being decided. Discussion was help regarding the timetable for review of the handbook. Bennett stated that he hoped the process of handbook review would be completed by the end of the semester.

Senator Brown voiced concern about the role of the Deans in determining PRT committee structure in each college. It was suggested that wording is ambiguous and subject to interpretation by Deans. The concern was discussed. Chair Bennett suggested that the Senate was the ideal place to discuss these faculty issues. He suggested that the handbook be reviewed and that the PRT concerns be addressed in the form of a resolution to be considered at the next meeting of the Senate. Bennett requested volunteers to construct a resolution and make sure that this item was included on the agenda Wednesday morning before the next meeting.

Chair Bennett stated that his report on information for the President's Council had been addressed in the remarks presented by Stripling and Burton.

OLD BUSINESS:

Senator Green asked about the status of the accounting error noted at the first Faculty Association meeting. Chair Bennett stated that this had been determined to be a typographical error and had been resolved. A treasurer's report will be offered at the next Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Bennett requested nominations for positions on the executive committee.

A motion was made and seconded elect Debra Walden (CNHP) to the position of Secretary of the Senate. The motion carried.

Bill Humphrey was elected by acclamation to the position of Vice-Chair of the Senate.

Michael Morrell has agreed to continue his service to the Senate as Parliamentarian.

Bennett reminded senators selected to serve on shared governance committees that they should report to the Senate. Current committee members were asked to email Bennett regarding their committee appointments. The following Individuals agreed to serve on the committee indicated:

Academic Calendar Committee - Lillie Fears

Human Relations Committee - Myron Flugstad

Student Disciplinary Committee - Joe Juston

International Student's Committee - Clint Relyea

A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate of volunteers. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Freer offered a slate of faculty representatives to the Senate Learning and Teaching Center:

Carol Campbell - whose term expires 2003

Michael Morrell - whose term expires 2002

A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate. Motion passed unanimously.

Parliamentarian Morrell made a point of order regarding filling senate office vacancies.

Following bylaws interpretation, Bob Bennett was nominated for the office of President of the faculty senate. The nomination was seconded and Morrell agreed to serve as teller. Bennett was elected by ballot vote of 19-1. Chair Bennett was congratulated by the senate.

Discussion followed concerning the election of a new president-elect of the faculty association. A motion was made, seconded and carried to defer action until the next senate meeting.

A representative from the College of Business asked the senate about correct protocol for informing the faculty community about the outcome of a faculty grievance process that occurred during the summer. Senator Freer recommended that the report of the findings be presented to the senate and read into the minutes to be dispersed to faculty. It was also suggested that J.W. Mason be consulted to determine whether this information is privileged. Chair Bennett requested information be provided him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAUP will be holding a reception September 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Senator Freer encouraged faculty to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bennett adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Walden,

Asst. Prof. of Nursing