

Faculty Senate Minutes for January 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Beverly Boals Gilbert at 3:00 p.m.

Senators Andy Mooneyhan and Rich Grippo (M/S) the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

President Gilbert announced the proposed membership of the History Committee. The proposed members were: John D. Hall (chair), Bill Rowe, Loulla Moore, Bert Greenwalt, Debra Walden, Robert Engelken, Stan Trauth, Charles Hartwig, and Gil Fowler. The History Committee will continue the process of honoring distinguished faculty members that was begun during the university's centennial year.

Senators Jim Bednarz and Mooneyhan (M/S) approval of the membership of the History Committee.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Interim Chancellor Dan Howard gave a report on the status of the university.

He said that the nearly 14,000 students enrolled last fall put the university at its largest enrollment ever and made it the number two institution in total enrollment in the state only behind the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 2008 there were only 127 foreign students enrolled and now there are over 1,000 foreign students from 60 different countries enrolled. Increased undergraduate admission standards have also increased the academic quality of the student body. This translates into increased retention and graduation levels which improve funding from the state formula. The university has moved from a tier 3 U.S. News rating to a tier 1 rating in the Regional Universities (South) category. This is huge single year jump. The Military Times Edge magazine has rated the university as the number 10 friendliest to the military in the nation out of a total of about 4,000 institutions. Except for the Ph.D. the university also has the highest number of credit hours and degrees granted ever. The on campus residency has also increased to over 3,000 students living on campus which is the critical mass needed to move from a suitcase university to a true residential university. Added housing includes the ROTC program that now has a 50 bed separate facility. Fundraising is going well with over 10 million dollars being raised with the rate of giving by faculty and alumni at the highest rate ever. The Eugene Smith building is in the process of being improved as an English as a Second Language teaching facility. The College of Nursing and Health Professions building has been completed. Phase one of the overpass over the railroad tracks has been completed. Phase two will be completed in February. Campus security is being improved with a total budget of \$350,000 being spent for better lighting and landscaping changes. The Jonesboro police are going to put a substation in across Johnson Avenue. Salaries have also been increased. All promotions this past year have included the appropriate salary increases and a 2 per cent

general retrospective salary increase was given to faculty. The amount of money earmarked for equity adjustments was raised to \$150,000. It is hoped to increase faculty salaries to SREB averages over the next five years. The state legislature is expected, at best, to provide a one per cent increase in appropriations next year. Any tuition or fee increases are also likely to be very small. Work will continue on trying to finish the Humanities and Social Sciences building. It will take about \$30 million to complete the building. The money for this may come from three sources: named gift opportunities down to the room level, state appropriation for the building, and/or bonded indebtedness which is problematic as there is no rental or revenue stream for the building.

In response to a question, Chancellor Howard said that the rust on the framework of the Humanities and Social Sciences building will not affect its structural integrity. He also responded to a question about the overpass by saying that full access should be available by February 2012. In response to a question about the upper limits of enrollment, he said that it would depend on the number in distance learning and that the university is not maxed out yet. Asked about his highest priority for the coming year, Chancellor Howard said that it was to focus on generating revenue. Increased revenues and increased quality are his biggest concerns. He thanked the senate for giving him this opportunity to meet with it.

NEW BUSINESS

Robin Whitehead gave a report on health and wellness.

She is available to meet with individual departments/colleges about health and wellness issues. The HPSS building is still available for faculty for exercise. New equipment has been purchased for it and the free weight room is now open. She hopes to get a graduate assistant to be able to increase the number of hours per week that this room is open. The question was raised again about why the Red Wolf Center is not more available to faculty. The cost is \$120 for a membership for one semester and the money to purchase memberships is not available. Senator Jeffrey Helms said faculty members are welcome to use the ROTC armory that is open from six a.m. to five p.m. daily and has all the necessary equipment.

President Gilbert proposed that a task force be created to look again at the issue of using the Red Wolf Center. Senators Andy Mooneyhan and Marika Kyriakos volunteered to serve on this task force with Robin Whitehead. President Gilbert said that anyone else who was interested in serving could email her.

Proxy Lynn Howerton gave the following report:

Faculty Finance Committee's Recommendation on Budget Priorities

Pertaining to Faculty Compensation for Fiscal 2012

Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

President Beverly Gilbert asked the Senate Finance Committee recommend funding priorities pertaining to Faculty Salaries. Below there are three short-term and one long-term priority for the Senate to consider sending to the University Executive Committee:

Short-Term Priorities

Priority 1. Funding. Establish a process where faculty salary adjustments “come off the top” of the annual university budget.

Priority 2. Faculty Salary Equity. Complete the equity adjustment process by compensating approved salary increases initiated in Fiscal 2011. Continue the Salary Equity process as stated in the Faculty Handbook.

Priority 3. Faculty Salaries. For the upcoming year, provide faculty salary Increases to address Cost of Leaving (base raises) before merit increases.

Long-Term Priority

Priority 1. Establish a five-year plan to address average faculty salary to meet the SREB averages for the current university classification.

Louella Moore, chair

Lynn Howerton, member

Richard Segall, member

January 19, 2011

President-Elect Jack Zibluk and Senator Jackie McBride (M/S) the adoption of the report’s recommendations.

Senators Jim Bednarz and Rich Grippo (M/S) an amendment to replace the word “before” in priority 3 with the word “and”.

After discussion the amendment failed on a vote of seven in favor and 15 opposed.

The main motion then passed with one no vote and one abstention and the resolution was adopted.

President-Elect Zibluk and Senator Grippo (M/S) to table the agenda item on nepotism until the February 4, 2011 senate meeting.

Without objection the agenda item was tabled.

Senators Bill Humphrey and Mooneyhan (M/S) that incoming Arkansas State University System President Charles Welch should be invited to meet with the senate as soon as possible after he assumes his new position.

The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Senator Mooneyhan brought up the issue that President Gilbert has a new job as Dean of Continuing Education and Community Outreach and asked for input on whether or not it would be appropriate for her to continue as Faculty Association president during the final four months of her term.

After discussion, President Gilbert said she was grateful for the input and would make a decision on her status before the February 4, 2011 meeting.

Senator Alex Sydorenko moved to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Attendees:

Association officers:

Beverly Boals Gilbert
John B. Zibluk
Richard S. Grippo

Agriculture:

Bill Humphrey

Business:

Fay K. Cocchiara
Richard Segall
Jollean K. Sinclair

Communications:

Pradeep Mishra

Education:

Andy Mooneyhan
Lynn Howerton proxy for Amy Claxton
Jackie McBride
Amany Saleh

Fine Arts:

Marika Kyriakos
Claire D. Garrard

Humanities and Social Sciences:

Warren Johnson
Richard Burns
Larry Salinger
Alex Sydorenko
Richard Wang

Library:

Myron Flugstad

Military Science:

Jeffrey Helms

Nursing and Health Professions:

Annette Bednar proxy for Bill Payne

Loretta Brewer

Roy Aldridge

Stacy Troxel

Science and Mathematics:

Hung-chi Su

Jim Bednarz

Dean's Council Representative:

Andrew Novobilski

Visitors:

John Pratte

Glen Jones

Dan Howard

Samuel G. Smith