

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of December 1, 2006

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PROXY

Bill Humphrey—Chair	P
Richard Freer—Vice-Chair of the Senate	P
Louella Moore-Faculty Association President Elect	P
Lillie Fears —Secretary Faculty Association	A
Judith Pfriemer—Secretary of the Senate	A

AGRICULTURE(1) Bert Greenwalt P

BUSINESS(3) Mark Foster A
Richard Segall P
Ahmad Syamil P

COMMUNICATIONS(2) Lillie Fears A
Pradeep Mishra P

EDUCATION (5) Cindy Albright A
Daniel Cline P
David Holman P
Marci Malinsky ?
Amany Saleh P

ENGINEERING (1) Shivan Haran P

FINE ARTS (3) Stacy Alley P
Tim Crist ?
Alyson Gill P

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)
Robert Baum ?
Win Bridges P
Mary Donaghy P
Eric Gilbert P
Joe Sartorelli A
Richard Wang P

LIBRARY (1) Myron Flugstad ?

MILITARY SCIENCE(1)
LTC Larry P. Aikman P

NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (4)
Donna Caldwell P
Richard Freer P
Cathy P. Hall P
Judith Pfriemer A

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)
Bob Bennett A
William Burns A
Jeff Jenness ? Aldemaro Romero ?
Jie Miao ?

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)
Gloria Bridges ?

Chairman Humphrey called the meeting to order announcing that the primary purpose of the meeting was to hear comments from our new Chancellor, Robert Potts, and for the Senators and other guests to express their concerns.

I. MINUTES: No minutes presented for approval.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

Areas addressed by Chancellor Potts:

- 1) Resolving the Faculty Handbook Issues. He noted he has met with AGOC and has been working with Julie Isaacson on handbook concerns.
- 2) The need to set fundraising priorities for the anticipated capital campaign associated with Centennial celebration.
- 3) Pay and merit raises.
- 4) Optimism for future funding given passage of Bond program and with long time supporter Mike Beebe having been elected as Governor of the state.
- 5) Working through the separation of duties between the President and Chancellor functions.
- 6) Working on better communications between the Faculty Senate and the Board.
- 7) Little or no financial reserves are a concern. Bonds still have good ratings but the balances are beginning to creep up and will increase if Student Recreation Center is built with student self-assessments.
- 8) Noted the lack of a designated area for faculty to gather for lunch in the dining center.

In conclusion Chancellor Potts notes that while Arkansas State University faces many challenges there are also many elements in place for the university to rise to the next level of achievement. Potts noted that he anticipates there may be times when faculty may not always agree with his decisions, but he is committed to communicating honestly and openly.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. Faculty expressed concerns about the following issues:

- 1) Jack Zibluk (Comm) expressed concern about having teaching loads consistent with research output at the next level.
- 2) Richard Wang (Pol Sci) noted that the AAUP would be meeting in Little Rock the next day at 10am and will include 3 legislators as speakers. Dr. Wang expressed concern about commitment to General Education in the university mission.
- 3) Osa Amineyi (RTV) expressed concerns that the Presidents of the Faculty Senate have not been able to directly address the Board of Trustees since 1998.
- 4) Dennis White (Chair of Comm Studies) expressed concern about pay and general treatment of staff level personnel. He noted a need for a statewide effort to change the classification and pay scale.
- 5) Shivan Haran (Eng) notes concerns about ASUs low level of representation on SURF proposal evaluation panels and inadequate assistance from Research Office in the production of proposals. Allyson Gill (Art Hist) noted similar problems with SURF/SILO grants.
- 6) Win Bridges (Hum& SocSci) and others discussed the need for more paid advisors for general ed and other areas. Jack Zibluk (Comm) note the lack of an adequate support system to help at risk students succeed.

There was mutual discussion from the Chancellor and Faculty on the academic vs. the corporate model of governance and the need for open, robust conversation about issues that will not be seen as a lack of loyalty. The Chancellor noted that he sees the Faculty Senate as the elected representatives of the faculty and will give respect to the body.

III. Old Business None presented.

IV. Announcements

Dr. Segall (Bus) noted that tickets will be available for faculty to eat in the student dining center at a cost of \$50 for 15 meals which is a significant savings over the single meal price. Faculty can pay at the Cashier's window and put it on their ID.

V. Adjournment

Informal adjournment at approx. 4pm for reception, refreshments, and continued discussion with Chancellor Potts 4-5pm.