

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 7, 2003

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bob Bennett, Chair and President of Faculty Association

Jim Bednarz (absent)

William Burns

Dick Freer

Ernesto Lombeida

Bill Maynard

Jie Miao

Joe Sartorelli (proxy – Dave Truncellito)

Norman Stafford (absent)

Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chris Brown (absent)

Dan Marburger

Terry Roach

Jim Washam

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Lillie M. Fears

Jo Anna Grant (absent)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright

Kris Biondolillo

Dan Cline (absent)

John D. Hall – Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Association

John Ponder

Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons (absent)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe, President-Elect of the Faculty Association

Alyson Gill

Ken Hatch

John O'Connell

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Troy Thomas, Secretary

Terry Baggs (absent)

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green (proxy – Margaret McClain)

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis (absent)

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar (proxy – Brady Banta)

VISITORS

Sherry Pruitt - Jonesboro Sun

Greg Chance – KASU Radio

Phillip Stuly – ASU Herald

Sue Mills – reporting student

Stacy Hudson – reporting student

Pam Cummings – reporting student

Marla Brandon – reporting student

Paige Nicholson – reporting student

Marlin Shipman – Journalism

Jennifer Thompson - visitor

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 17th meeting were approved (motion – Humphrey, Marburger – 2nd) with comment from Senator Wang. Senator Wang commented that he felt that the minutes of the Jan. 17th meeting lacked sufficient detail to adequately reflect the business conducted at the meeting. Secretary Thomas indicated that he would attempt to do a better job but was having difficulty with the minutes due to the poor audio quality of the tapes used to record the minutes. Chair Bennett authorized Secretary Thomas to look into a different recording system.

REMARKS

- **Report from President's Council – Chair Bennett**
 - Bennett forwarded resolution to Administration urging timely completion of the Faculty Handbook:
 - **The Faculty Senate strongly requests that President Wyatt and relevant administrators read the revised Faculty Handbook and report to the Senate by March 28, 2003, the points with which the administration agrees or disagrees. The Faculty Senate wishes for President Wyatt to understand that the Senate and the faculty it represents deem the handbook extremely relevant and important, a contract between the administration and the faculty.**
 - Dr. Wyatt commented that there were recent occurrences that were not in the HB. Mr. Burton said there were things in the HB that were not related to the contract. Bennett agreed but said that we need a place to start. Wyatt noted that Performance-Based Funding (PFB) was not in the Handbook. Bennett noted that PFB had not been firmed up yet. Wyatt said he would have a response by March 28th to the resolution. He did not say he would have the HB by March 28th.
 - Senator Maynard stated that he did not understand why PFB should be addressed by the HB.
 - Dave Truncellito asked if we are in danger of the resolution being meaningless because the reason we wanted a response to the HB was so we would have time to respond and get the HB approved before the end of the school year.
 - John Hall said the HB is a fluid document that will always change, but, at some point, we have to accept it. Bennett noted that he had mentioned this point at the President's Council.
 - Senator Maynard said Hall made a good point. Said it is irrelevant if recent things are not in the HB because they can be added later.
 - Dr. Freer commented that regardless of when the HB comes back, the Faculty Senate expects to review it before the HB goes to the Board of Trustees.
 - Dr. Bennett apologized that the HB had not been completed yet since this has been his #1 priority since being elected.
 - Humphrey said Administration seemed bound and determined not to work on the HB until the HLC accreditation is over. Humphrey talked about the uncertainty in procedure due to the lack of a HB and commented that even many administrators don't know what policies to follow.
 - Hall remembered that when Humphrey had started working on the HB that Humphrey had to go to Administration and dig through file cabinets to find policies.
 - Maynard cited this as another example of the misplaced priorities of administration.
 - **Bennett forwarded resolution to Administration regarding the implementation of a +/- grading system.**

- Dr. Susan Allen said that she had never been to a campus that did not have such a system.
- Bennett met with Sach Oliver and the Registrar. Registrar has looked at the issue and says it will not be a problem.
- There will be a meeting Tuesday, February 11th at 10:00 am with 3 members of SGA and the Registrar to discuss this change. The meeting will be held in the faculty room next to the CLT. Senator Walden said she would not be available that day; asked if Bennett would like to appoint a replacement. Senator Gill volunteered to take her place.
- Wang asked, “Why are we doing this?” Wang asked if we are moving inexorably toward such a system. Bennett said that the Senate had decided previously to mock up a process and bring it to the Senate. Bennett clarified that the he had initiated the topic because he believed that it would be useful to students and faculty members.
- Humphrey said that he thought that there were students that did want such a system.
- Bennett said some faculty members would like greater latitude in assigning grades.
- Wang reiterated that he hoped that the Faculty Senate would have a chance to talk about this prior to any official action.
- Hall asked, “What do our faculty think about this?” Hall said senators need to go back and talk to their faculty members.
- Bennett says Administration realizes that this is a faculty initiative.
- **Bennett forwarded resolution to Administration regarding funding for student theses.**
 - Resolution received a positive response from Administration. Administration indicated that funds could probably be found for such an endeavor.
- **Sach Oliver proposed revisions to Student HB:**
 - **Page 17 – Insert 5th paragraph after the 2nd sentence – “This includes ensuring each student is able to learn and function freely and effectively in a campus environment free of any form of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and prejudice.”**
 - **Page 18 – Insert point 2 and renumber – “The student has a right to learn in an inclusive environment, free from any form of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and prejudice.**
 - **Page 23 – Insert point 8 and renumber – “Engaging in physical or verbal acts that demean or degrade others on the basis of their color, origin, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.”**
 - Wyatt said changes could probably happen by Dec. 2003.
 - Dr. Susan Allen and Bennett both brought questions forward related to freedom of speech regarding these resolutions.
 - Humphrey asked if these changes would affect teaching methods that are used to evoke certain feelings, emotions, situations, etc.
 - Maynard asked why the resolutions differed in terminology.

- **Personnel Services Schedule (PSS) was passed out by Mr. Burton. Included budget for ABI Personnel and other personnel in response to request from ADHE.**
 - Rowe commented on PSS; asked if people on the list would have their salary increased since they are not making this amount currently. Bennett said he guessed so.
 - Maynard commented that the PSS: 1) seemed to initiate a 2-tier system of personnel, 2) writes in raises before it has been determined that raises will be given.
 - Senator O'Connell said he was confused by the personnel titles in the PSS.
 - Confusion ensued about whether 2 different people were indicated by positions on the schedule or whether 1 person was getting paid twice.
 - Bennett said there was no explanation or discussion at President's Council about the PSS.
 - Some one brought up that the salary numbers were probably line item maximums and not actual salaries.
 - Truncellito stated that it does appear that there will be a 2-tier system and it looks like something that we need to look into.
 - Thomas: "Can we ask Mr. Burton to come and explain the PSS?"
 - Bennett will ask Burton and Allen to come to the next Senate meeting.
 - Biondolillo: Can we ask for a revised leadership flow chart with actual names of people who hold these titles?
- **Mr. Burton said he would like to have a pet policy similar to the U of A. Wants to institute policy where faculty can not have pets on campus.**
 - Wang indicated that he did not see a need for such a policy. Cited this as an example of Burton's dictatorial nature.
 - Rowe said that laws already exist to cover pets in this city.
 - Mass discussion ensued
- **Report from last UPC Meeting – Chair Bennett**
 - Meeting dealt mainly with recent legislative activity focused primarily around the reorganization of school districts.
 - ADHE is developing policies on equity funding.
 - Wyatt expressed to legislature that he wanted:
 - Money for raises
 - Money for scholarships
 - Money to restore recent cut backs
 - It is uncertain at this time how much money the state will have.
 - Wyatt said that he was able to restore \$489,000 back to the technology fund to replace what was taken out last year.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- **Civilian Evening Parking**
 - Rowe said that ASU gives events that the public is invited to like the Lecture/ Concert Series, but the people get ticketed when they come on campus. Police Dept. suggested that a temporary permit be sent to anyone who is going to be on campus. Rowe said we must have a policy that will keep the public from getting ticketed.
 - Bennett commented that signage on campus to notify the public is nonexistent.
 - Wang said that the Senate had a discussion with Dr. Stripling in the past and Stripling said that ticketing would not be used as a revenue-generating source.
 - Wang said we must address this insult to our public guests.
 - Humphrey said this also impacts what you do during the day. Cited examples of having to leave campus to meet guests.
 - Maynard: We should have a resolution dealing with this matter.
 - Bennett: We need to make parking more accessible and friendly on the campus.
 - Hall: Does the Parking Committee have input into such policy?
 - Senator Flugstad, the rep on that committee, stated that the committee does meet every 2 weeks.
 - Hall: Can we keep the new lot that will built on Kay's field from becoming gated?
 - Humphrey: Can we find out who is ticketing these folks?
 - Bennett will raise this issue with Rick Stripling.
- **Potential speakers for this year**
 - Maynard suggested we bring another speaker to talk about collegiate athletics.
 - Senator Walden said potential speakers need to be voted on by the Senate.
 - Thomas suggested Governor Huckabee since a Board of Trustees spot is up for reappointment and since it would be a good opportunity to share our views, concerns and problems directly with the Governor.
 - Maynard stated that there is precedence nationally of Faculty Senates becoming involved with "watching dogging" athletics.
 - A committee was commissioned to solicit ideas for speakers from the faculty. Committee members – Marburger, Rowe, Maynard, Thomas, Hall.
- **Commencement Discussion**
 - Hall talked about a discussion concerning graduation that was held at the last Administrative Council meeting. Main point: Graduation has lost its dignity. One idea that came up: Can Administration, Faculty Senate, and SGA come up with something better?
 - Maynard said graduation is the most undignified circus he has ever seen. Cited selling concessions at graduation as an example.
 - John O' Connell noted that at the December graduation ASU quickly reverted back to giving diplomas out backstage immediately after graduation. Said graduation has becoming a sporting event.
 - Rowe said "they" have cheapened the event. Commented that speakers are usually only locally known.
 - Hall stated that there is an undercurrent of commercialism at graduation.

- Truncellito: Commencement could be made shorter by dividing it into 2 parts: general session followed by break up into colleges.
- Senator Albright commented that the policy of having graduation on Friday night came out of the Fisher era.
- Senator Fears said she thought that graduate degree candidates should be separated from undergraduate candidates especially since we are trying to get more doctoral programs at ASU. She advocated breaking into colleges even if it meant getting away from Friday graduation.
- Bennett stated he could bring this issue up to Administration.
- Maynard said that we should insist that faculty should determine how graduation goes because graduation is the end of an academic journey rather than an administrative or commercial journey.
- O'Connell commented that when he got his degree from the University of Alabama, graduation was on Saturday and was broken into colleges.
- Bennett asked for a resolution on this matter for next Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary