

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of January 19, 2007

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	P	
Judith T. Pfriemer—Secretary of the Senate	P	
Win Bridges—Acting Parliamentarian	P	
AGRICULTURE (1)		
Bert Greenwalt	P	
BUSINESS (3)		
Mark Foster	P	
Richard Segall	P	
Ahmad Syamil	P	
COMMUNICATIONS (2)		
Lillie Fears	P	
Pradeep Mishra	P	
EDUCATION (5)		
Cindy Albright	A	
Daniel Cline	P	
David Holman	P	
Marci Malinsky	A	
Amany Saleh	P	
ENGINEERING (1)		
Shivan Haran	P	
FINE ARTS (3)		
Stacy Alley	A	
Tim Crist	A	
Alyson Gill	A	
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)		
Robert Baum	P	
Win Bridges	P	
Mary Donaghy	A	
Eric Gilbert	A	
Joe Sartorelli	A	
Richard Wang	A	
LIBRARY (1)		
Myron Flugstad	P	
MILITARY SCIENCE (1)		
LTC Larry P. Aikman	A	
NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (4)		
Donna Caldwell	P	
Richard Freer	P	
Cathy P. Hall	P	
Judith Pfriemer	P	
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)		
Bob Bennett	A	
John Pratte	P	
Jeff Jenness	A	
Jie Miao	P	
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)		
Gloria Bridges	A	

Chairman Humphrey called the meeting to order.

I. MINUTES: The minutes of the December 1, 2006 meeting were approved

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Potts asked that faculty be informed that a Faculty/Staff dining area in the Student Union has been established. Faculty should also be aware that they may purchase a meal plan of 15 meals in the Acansa Dining Hall for \$50.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i. Bill Humphrey reported that all Shared Governance Committees should submit a copy of their minutes to Marilyn Brewer to be posted to the Shared Governance Web Site. All faculty Senate Minutes will soon be posted to the Faculty Senate Web Site.
- ii. **Handbook:** Bill Humphrey reported that at the RACK meeting last Monday, Dr. Potts said that the handbook was his number one issue. He and Julie Isaacson have met face to face and via the phone a number of times in the fall and over winter break. Dr. Potts has already spoken with the Board of Trustees about the need to make positive changes to the handbook, specifically in the areas of the forward, contract issues, financial exigency and scope of grievance. A report should be forthcoming by the February 16th Faculty Senate meeting.
Bob Bennett asked about the status of the Faculty Handbook committee and Bill reported that under the current version of the handbook the handbook committee no longer exists which is why Dr. Potts is meeting with a member of the last handbook committee and that the Academic Governance Oversight Committee (AGOC) is writing a policy for the establishment of a handbook committee and procedures to change the handbook.
- iii. **Academic Governance Oversight Committee:** Bill Humphrey reported that Mike McDaniel reported that the AGOC should have a report on the procedures to make changes to the handbook soon. The AGOC does not believe this committee is the handbook committee and will be bringing a proposal to put the handbook committee back into shared governance to the Faculty Senate at the February 16th meeting.
Bob Bennett stated "It seems to me a little strange for a committee not made up of senators to tell the Senate what to do or not to do".
- iv. **Executive Committee:** Faculty Senate Executive committee will be meeting on the Fridays prior to Senate meetings at 10:00 a.m. Bill requested that items for the agenda be forwarded to members of the executive committee prior to this meeting. The Executive Committee will also be distributing minutes of their meetings to faculty.
- v. **Graduate Council:** Enrollment is up 45% which has placed a strain on grad assistantships (GA). There are almost 200 GAs; of these 120 are assigned to departments, approximately 35 are in specialized areas and 45 remain in a pool for projects. The GA money is tight as some GA appointments have had to be turned away, some money has been bled off to pay for Doctoral Assistantships and in one year GA will receive a 3 hour tuition waiver. These factors only lead to an even greater decrease in GA and the funds to support them.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- i. **University Wide Pre-employment National Background** Jennus Burton asked to address the Senate regarding a proposed policy on pre-employment background checks. (See attached). Mr. Burton reported that the checks will cost between \$39 and \$126 and would be paid for by the department of hire. A number of faculty asked questions related to the effectiveness of the companies that would be used for these checks; what exactly are we looking for; what would prevent some one from being hired; would a time period between the reported offense and date of hire be sufficient to still hire; would credit checks be included. The Senate decided that a committee would be needed to review this information. Louella Moore will chair the committee of herself, Donna Caldwell, Mark Foster and David Holman. This committee will request information from the faculty as a whole.
- ii. **Recreation Facility.** The SGA this past week presented to interested individuals a proposed new recreation facility. This will be a \$20 million facility paid for by students at a fee of \$5 per credit hour with the bond issue retiring in 30 years. After the facility is operational the fee will increase by \$2 a credit hour to pay for the employees of the facility. A number of faculty questioned the wisdom of yet another added fee and a fee that the busier student (greater than 12 credit hours) who will not have time for recreation is paying the larger burden. The SGA had sent the Executive Committee a copy of their power point presentation which will be distributed and a member of SGA will be invited to the next meeting to more fully explain the plan.

Bob Bennett and a number of senators expressed a need for a vote by students prior to any additional fees being added to the students' bills.

- iii. **Academic Calendar for Spring 2008:** Motion was made, seconded and passed to amend the Spring 2008 calendar to start the academic year one week later to allow time to process financial aid, new students, transcripts, etc after the University being closed for the winter break and would only have three days to complete all these tasks.
 - iv. **Bookstore:** Cathy Hall asked the senate if their department was having difficulties with the ASU Bookstore. Cathy had requested this information from the College of Nursing and Health Professions and every department within the college had responded with problems they were having. These problems ranged from not enough texts ordered and in at least one instance none being ordered because the expected enrollment was 5 students; Bookstore personnel telling students that nothing was received from the department/faculty when faculty had hand delivered the material to the appropriate bookstore employee to either order the texts or in the case of course packets to make the necessary copies; packets not copied at all or copied incorrectly. Senators from other departments expressed similar concerns and some even reported they now tell their students to buy online because of the problems. Some senators no longer bring packets to the bookstore instead they place the material online on Blackboard and students can then print the material at home or in the computer labs on campus.
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Arkansas State Senator Madison's bills SB 22 through SB 31 will be before the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00. If any one has concerns about the bills they are encouraged to contact Senator Madison and share these concerns with her.
- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** In the absence of further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.