

## **Faculty Senate Minutes for April 4, 2014**

Chair Julie Isaacson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Delta Center for Economic Development, Room 201.

### **Approval of March 7, 2014 Minutes**

Senator Bill Humphrey made the motion to approve the minutes of 7 March 2014. Senator Joanna Grymes seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Guests:**

#### **Steve Rockwell – *Aspire***

Guy Patterson and Steve Rockwell are both members of the Board for the Craighead County Community Foundation (CCCF). Patterson explained that our foundation is one of 28 affiliates in the state and is also one of the most active. Their reason for visiting today is simply to put a publication in our hands. *Aspire* is a fine tool for community leaders. Patterson also mentioned that being a member of the board is a 3-year appointment, which is not time-consuming in case anyone is interested in community service.

Steve Rockwell, who is also a member of the Development Committee for CCCF, gave a brief overview of *Aspire* magazine. Rockwell mentioned that he is an adjunct teacher for U. S. Government and he has found many statistics in *Aspire* to be eye opening. For instance, Arkansas ranks eighth in the country regarding overweight obese adults; fourth for adults living in poverty; fifth for children living in poverty; third for senior citizens hunger; and forty-ninth for income. Senator Kat Carrick suggested that household debt might be included.

#### **Henry Torres – Faculty Productivity Software**

Henry Torres (Chief Information Officer, Information and Technology Services) shared information regarding the upcoming plan to facilitate the making and distribution of Faculty Productivity Reports. Torres mentioned a question, which came up during the visitation of the Higher Learning Commission: Can we get a common software package that will work across the colleges? ITS is looking at tools that are currently being used on campus, as well as those of other universities, in order to find what is most suitable for ASU. Pricing is quite varied. The best decision perhaps is to continue with programs already in use here at A-State, with some modification to fit our needs. The program will be kept simple. This process can be quite fast or lengthier. There is a tentative plan to invite some vendors for demonstrations. Each college will be asked to participate. Now is the time for faculty input.

Senator Fabricio Medina-Bolivar (Science and Mathematics) mentioned that their department has used various tools for productivity reports. Torres requested that they come share their experiences. Senator Warren Johnson inquired as to why this is necessary. Torres responded that our campus needs something that serves the faculty better. Outgoing information is not

always accurate or up to date. Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Lynita Cooksey added that ASU is obligated to provide information to the state. A central repository for this information does not exist. The information cannot be accessed quickly enough.

Chair Julie Isaacson asked who exactly would be using this program. Would it mean more work time for faculty members? Torres responded that it should be easy enough for anyone to use. Dr. Cooksey added that once the information was there, all would use the same standardized report. Faculty would keep it updated. Dr. John Pratte (Dean of Sciences and Mathematics) added that no faculty would have to put in information about teaching. Data could be imported from Banner and from other databases as well. This actually becomes a timesaver for faculty.

Senator Judy Pfriemer commented that considering scheduling issues, we would need to get started right away in order to include faculty for input. She also inquired about the source of funding. Vice Chancellor Cooksey responded with uncertainty. Torres closed by mentioning that there would be a place for faculty to download their own data as well including CVs. Personal templates could be created to fit various accrediting bodies.

### **Ruth Owens – IDEA Center Pilot (PowerPoint Presentation)**

Senator John Hall introduced Dr. Ruth Owens who was asked by the Executive Committee to speak today about a potential tool that ASU will pilot this spring for Student Ratings of Instruction. Dr. Owens explained that the Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA) Student Ratings System would make evaluations more uniform, while still remaining flexible. This system is based on a Student Learning Model and fits all learning environments (e.g. face-to-face, online, etc.). Faculty can enter information about their courses and add questions so that the evaluation is reflective of a particular course. The system adjusts for extraneous influences (e.g. a general education course, a large or small class, a subject that is very exciting for the student, etc.).

This spring, the pilot will include a long form and a short form from which to choose. The pilot that was completed last fall involved a paper and pencil system. All fall participants wanted to try the electronic pilot. The task force for this project was very impressed with the nature of the questions. Campus Labs is the Data Driven Innovation that allows faculty to collect the information via mobile device, which do not have to be Apple products. Students may do the same. Senator Warren Johnson asked if the students would be able to comment, which was answered in the affirmative. In addition, if absent from class on evaluation day, students may complete the process within the given 10-day period.

All faculty members are strongly encouraged to participate in the pilot, which would not be used officially in any way. Volunteers are needed this week. A link to an informative 3-minute video (intended for the Senate meeting, but was malfunctioning) will be sent for faculty to view.

## **Nonie Wiggins – Athletics Update**

Nonie Wiggins is not only associated with the College of Nursing and Health Professions, but is the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) on our campus and chairs the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee. In the Sun Belt Conference, she serves as representative on the NCAA Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Cabinet and previously on the Academic Cabinet. Wiggins gave a thorough report on the athletic academic accolades here at A-State. Along with their academic success, all teams had an excellent year. Our football team received the Sun Belt award and won the Go-Daddy Bowl for the second year, which helped them attain second place in the Bubas Cup standings. The volleyball and soccer teams advanced to the semifinals in the Sun Belt Conference tournaments. More Sun Belt Conference triumphs include women's cross-country, which won the meet with Kristina Auburt in the lead. Men's cross-country attained their best finish ever in their tournament. Men's basketball made it to the tourney semi-finals and women's basketball won the championship. The baseball team is currently second place in the conference. Bowling ranked first going into the NCAA tournament. For indoor track, Sherika Nelvis is the National Champion in 60 Meter Hurdles.

To highlight the academic success of our athletes, there were 197 athletes (57%) on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or higher) last fall, which is a record number. Forty-five of these athletes maintained a 4.0 GPA. Thus, with a total of 348 student-athletes, nearly 15% have perfect academic records. Twelve of 16 sports had team GPAs of 3.0 or greater. The women's tennis squad leads with a 3.6 average. In the spring, all teams in the conference are compared for GPA. ASU also has more student-athletes completing degrees. The NCAA has a formula on eligibility and retention in terms of meeting academic progress (APR: Academic Progress Report). This involves a point for eligibility and a point for retention per student. The benchmark for APR was increased to 930 for each team. All of our teams are meeting this new standard. Eligibility is affected by progress in a degree program. At the end of the sophomore year, athletes have to have completed 40% of their degree, followed by 60% for the next year, and then 80%. Changing majors is a problem. Careful advising is of great assistance, so that eligibility is not jeopardized. Tutoring is available and the Student Outreach System (SOS; formerly Early Alert) has been helpful. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has various activities coming up including Lunch Buddy, Toys for Tots toy drive, and the Senior Citizen Prom (Mardi Gras event). The prom involves bingo, dancing, and more. It will be held this coming Monday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Student-athletes interact with the seniors in this activity.

Aside from the success of our student-athletes, there have been many other accomplishments in athletics this year. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) conducted a study on what to do in the case of concussions. ASU participated in this study. The policy on campus regarding concussions will be revised, but not necessarily due to the result of the study. Director of Athletics, Terry Mohajir, wants 100% success with students after graduation. He achieved that goal last year with either post-baccalaureate jobs or graduate study for the all graduating athletes. Other accomplishments include the new facility for tennis, which has endured problems with water in the current courts. Soccer will be moved to the track area, and the new football operations and multipurpose indoor facility is underway.

Wiggins also mentioned that the NCAA is undergoing a restructuring of governance, which will be revealed later this month. In short, the five big conferences want to separate themselves somewhat from the others.

Finally, Wiggins reported that female and male post-graduate scholarships would be given. This year's nominees for ASU are Kim Luddick-Raath (who will be attending medical school) and Julian Jones. Student-Athlete of the Year nominees are Sherika Nelvis (Women's Track) and Brian Davis (Football). Nominations are yet to be made for the Leadership Team.

### **Steve Leslie – Blackboard Learn Summer Upgrade Cohort**

Steve Leslie, Interim Director of the Interactive Teaching and Technology Center (ITTC), reported on the plan for Blackboard. Faculty feedback and support is needed in order to determine how Blackboard will be updated. A month or so ago there was a webinar with a schedule that is different than what we have now. ASU currently uses Blackboard 11, but the highest level the corporation currently offers is 14. Blackboard Inc. suggests two updates per year, which would occur after their annual upgrades in April and September. If ASU chooses not to update, service will be reduced from full support to operational support.

ITTC is asking for a cohort to test the new version before updating in the spring of 2015. An update scheduled following spring commencement would be ideal (after the April Blackboard upgrade). Following the fall update, there would be plenty of time to check for bugs before updating again in May of 2015. The changes are quite minor, but very attractive and make use much more convenient. For the fall cohort, a few people per department will suffice (including the tech representative). A smaller cohort is needed for the summer (at least 2 people per department plus the tech rep). A list for the summer is needed by next Friday. Volunteers don't have to be very familiar with Blackboard. A mixed level of users is best.

Currently, the use of Blackboard by faculty on campus is about 45%. This is disappointing for such a helpful tool. Fact Finding Sessions for Blackboard use are still available. An ITTC representative could come to your department or provide an individual session.

### **Old Business:**

Chair Julie Isaacson stated that Old Business would be deferred to the next meeting. Senator Bill Rowe made a brief comment regarding the Non-discrimination Policy in that it should match the ASU System Policy. Vice Chancellor Cooksey offered that the Faculty Handbook could be broader regarding non-discrimination. It is more a philosophy or statement than a policy.

### **New Business:**

**Academic Calendar Formula (14SP-05)—(attached)**

**Academic Calendar Formula (14SP-06)—(attached)**

Chair Julie Isaacson stated that these academic calendars need review. Spend some time looking at them and share with colleagues. Report back at the next meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Shared Governance Oversight Committees**

#### **Faculty Recognition**

Senator Joanna Grymes mentioned that we are looking at 15-25-30 years for recognition. About 50 faculty members are currently at 30 years of service. The plaque cost is an issue at \$40 each. The frames are not a problem. A roster should be started. Vice Chancellor Cooksey shared that the information needed is on the database, and she would be glad to assist. In addition, Academic Affairs would cover the cost for frames and certificates. Senator John Hall moved to approve. Senator Bill Humphrey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## **Chair's Report:**

### **Inside A-State**

Chair Julie Isaacson reported that Tom Moore (Director of University Communications) is coming along with bringing back this prototype for newsworthy items about campus. The Executive Committee had met in October 2013 regarding the idea of reinstating a venue highlighting ASU activities. Inside A-State will be out very shortly.

### **Bookstore**

Senator Jollean Sinclair reported that the Executive Committee has decided on the new vendor: NEBO (Nebraska Book Co.). Vice Chancellor Cooksey added that the soft grand opening would be around 23 May 2014 (i.e. the website will be open at that time). The store itself is scheduled to open for business on 1 July 2014. For price comparisons, NEBO will meet cheaper prices and give 10% back to students.

As for faculty members who have completed textbook orders through Follett, these do not need to be redone. Names of faculty members who have not ordered as of yet, will go to the state auditor very shortly. Currently, 80% of faculty members have ordered textbooks. Please encourage all colleagues to complete their orders.

### **Retirements/Faculty Association**

Chair Julie Isaacson reported that plaques are being made for those choosing early retirement. An electronic meeting will be proposed for the Faculty Association.

## **Committee Vacancies/Appointments**

Chair Julie Isaacson reminded Senate members that the committee vacancies were sent via email. Senator Wendy Crist put the same information on the Senate webpage, along with the current committee terms. Those who have served two 3-year terms need to rotate off. Committee members do not have to be Senators. Please share this with your colleagues and send in the information on the form. The deadline is in two weeks. The final list comes from the Office of the Chancellor.

## **Advising update (attached)**

Chair Isaacson reported that there is an online degree audit update available through the Office of the Registrar. All chairs and deans have this information.

Senator Bill Humphrey moved to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. Senator John Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marika Kyriakos

**Senators in Attendance:**

**Absentees:**

**Proxies:**

**Executive Committee:**

Chair Julie Isaacson

**Agriculture & Technology:**

Bill Humphrey

**Business:**

Hyung Kim

Richard Segall

Jollean Sinclair

**Media & Communications:**

Pradeep Mishra

**Education:**

Minghui Gao

Joanna Grymes

John Hall

Larz Roberts

Andy Mooneyhan

Joe Nichols

Amany Saleh

Julie Grady

**Engineering:**

Shivan Haran

**Fine Arts:**

Claire (Garrard) Abernathy

Marika Kyriakos

Bill Rowe

**Humanities & Social Sciences:**

Warren Johnson

Hans Hacker

Alex Sydorenko

Win Bridges

Cherisse Jones-Branch

Thomas Ratliff

**Nursing & Health Professions:**

Brenda Anderson

Kat Carrick

Larry Morton

Bill Payne

Judy Pfriemer

Debbie Shelton

Brinda McKinney

**Sciences & Mathematics:**

Bruce Johnson

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar

Suzanne Melescue

Hai Jiang

Hung-Chi Su

**University:**

Nikesha Nesbitt

**Military Science:**

Cecil Clark

**Library & Information Resources:**

Wendy Crist