

Faculty Senate Minutes for March 7, 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 February 21, 2014 minutes (attached)

Senator Win Bridges made the motion to approve the minutes of 21 February 2014. The motion was seconded by Senator Alex Sydorenko. The motion passed with one correction regarding attendance (William Maynard was the proxy for Alex Sydorenko).

Campus Update – Dr. Hudson

Two videos were presented regarding the development of the A-State campus in Querétaro, which were used for the recent visitation to the new campus site. The second video was developed in Querétaro (see the A-State website: astate.mx). There was great representation for this trip to Mexico. The conference center, the site of the ceremony was quite impressive. Attendees included developers who have completed projects all over Latin America. Chancellor Tim Hudson commented that Arkansas State is establishing a brand identity in Mexico, which is quite attractive to them, as supported by the video. They are very interested in our campus life here, which is attractive to their government. Residential campuses are not typical in Mexico. Mexico is the 14th largest economy in the world with a rising demographic. The development of this campus is stunning. Lots of resumes are coming in from people wanting to be involved with the project. It is likely that 1,000 students could be accommodated within 16 months. Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Lynita Cooksey spoke with some of the academic leaders there, which went very well. All is on schedule. A-State faculty involvement is the key, whether it is in the form of professional development rotations or other means of association.

Senator Fabricio Medina-Bolivar asked how many faculty members are expected to be hired during phase 1 in Mexico. The Chancellor guessed a ballpark figure of about 30. These details regarding faculty and staff are just now being calculated. The estimation for enrollment in Querétaro is 1,000 students per year with a goal of 5,000. A-State currently has 13,000 students and 500 faculty. The same student/faculty ratio is desirable for the campus in Mexico. Also, since students will enter in cohorts, a more select(less broad) offering of courses is needed.

Chancellor Hudson reminded the Senators that the Querétaro campus will be imbedded in a brand new planned community with housing, recreational space, film studio, and more. It is part of a huge new development, which will essentially be a new city. The university will begin with core courses and an MBA for the first year. Phase 2 will include a Master of Engineering Degree, as well as management. Degree programs will initially focus on business, engineering, and sciences.

Regarding budget, Chancellor Hudson mentioned that with the legislature passing the private option last week, the discussion has turned to how much is going to do be done instead of how much is cut. The student Academic Excellence Fee is going to continue for the third year in a row. It will now go to \$6 per credit hour. Beginning at \$2, each year the fee has been raised by

\$2. The escalation will stop after this year. In addition to this fee, the Board will be asked to approve a mild tuition increase of 2%. A-State will also get a bit of new revenue in the governor's budget. A 2% increase for faculty or more for equity pool and promotion (merit based) will also be requested. The increase for staff would be 1%. Funding available for new positions is uncertain, but could possibly be adequate for 1 or 2 across the university. The budget is based on flat enrollment.

The drive for the medical school on campus is alive and well. On 28 February, the Board approved the resolution with the New York Institute of Technology in Long Island. Inquiries from perspective students are coming in already. The Board meeting for NYIT for approval of this partnership is scheduled for 14 March 2014. The next step is to formally apply to the accrediting body. This is truly a benchmark moment for A-State. Many possibilities stem from this merger, including joint degrees. As with Mexico, revenue will also be generated from this growing relationship with NYIT.

Chancellor Hudson gave a brief update on the possibilities of a hotel/convention center on campus. Jonesboro is one of the largest cities with a university that doesn't have one. Previous discussion on this topic fell through for various reasons; however, A-State is working with a developer now. Hopefully a firm plan will be in place by mid April, which will determine whether A-State will remain with the current developer or go with someone else. A Request for Qualifications and a Request for Proposal are in process. The most likely location is the old track.

Regarding the Higher Learning Commission visitation, Chancellor Hudson recognized Vice Chancellor Lynita Cooksey, Senate Chair, Julie Isaacson and all involved in that process. A-State received high marks for campus involvement. Full accreditation was awarded and the next review will occur in another 10 years. The Chancellor also expressed his appreciation for all the senate does and the caring nature of the faculty. Our faculty and scholars are in the classroom, and constitute their own institution.

Old Business:

Gun Control 14 SP-01 (attached) – ready for vote

Senator Andy Mooneyhan moved to accept the proposal. Senator Alex Sydorenko seconded the motion. Opting out was approved, meaning no guns on campus. Two were opposed.

PRT Process Revision 14SP-02 (attached) – ready for vote

Senator Andy Mooneyhan moved to accept the proposal with a slight revision for simplification. Senator Bill Humphrey seconded the motion. There was some discussion as to why this is not given attention at the 3rd year review. Senator Judy Pfriemer called the question. The resulting vote included 4 abstentions; none were opposed.

New Business:

Selection of Dept. Chairs & Deans – (revised 13FA-03), now 14sp-03 (attached)

This proposal originated from Senator John Hall and other senators and faculty. It clarifies language particularly for internal searches. This is a consolidation of the original document. It will be up for a vote at the next meeting.

Advising

Chair Julie Isaacson clarified that when faculty members receive emails from Wilson Advising about training sessions, it is either related to frequent calls due to confusion on the part of the faculty, or changes in advising. Be sure to give these emails special attention! They are not simply for general studies advising matters or faculty new to advising.

There have been ongoing concerns regarding graduation checklists in particular. The advising center will continue to work with departments for corrections on the new forms. Before these new checklists were put in place, there was a call out for a pilot regarding paperless checklists; there was not a good response. Vice Chancellor Lynita Cooksey explained that some changes are not apparent yet because they need to be changed by contractors of Banner. There are many errors that the registrars are not able to fix themselves. It is a difficult process for which patience is required. Departments need to be very specific with checklist information. Some things, like substitution courses, are not clearly defined.

Vice Chancellor Cooksey also explained that ASU doesn't automate grade changes so as to avoid mistakes in the process. The chain of command must be clear. In the case of an audit, it is of utmost importance to show proof that indeed a faculty member did change a grade, etc.

Revised Spring Schedule

Chair Isaacson reiterated the announcement that should have been received today, that midterms have been extended to 14 March 2014. Grades due on 18 March. Session I will end on 10 March. Session II will begin the following day.

Parking

Chair Isaacson shared that adjunct faculty have requested faculty parking. This issue has been to the Shared Governance Parking Committee before, but was denied due to lack of space. Chair Isaacson will request information on the status of the adjunct faculty by college, by night classes and by online and readdress the matter promptly.

Other:

Shared Governance Oversight Committee Report:

Senator Andy Mooneyhan reported that there were 11 proposals in progress. Currently, 5 of the proposals are in the Chancellor's office and 6 are being reviewed by committees. The SGOC has completed their 1-year and 3-year surveys. Reports are forthcoming. The Interactive Teaching and Technology Center is currently addressing the workflow system.

Chair's Report:

Chair Isaacson state that she would like the faculty to thank the students for their support of the Academic Excellence Fee. She inquired with Vice Chancellor Cooksey as to how this might be done. Cooksey suggested to mention it in classes. Senator Andy Mooneyhan asked if the Senate could do something officially. Chair Isaacson suggested writing a note to the Student Government Association.

Chair Isaacson reiterated thanks to all in having a hand in the recent 10 year accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. She also commented that the visitors were impressed with campus engagement in the process.

Further appreciation was extended to Dr. Len Frey, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, for his assistance in reinstating the polling site on campus. Chair Isaacson also acknowledged Chancellor Hudson, Vice Chancellor Frey, Vice Chancellor Cooksey, and Lori Winn, for accomplishing the early retirement plan. Their responsiveness to faculty requests is greatly appreciated.

Chair Isaacson announced that Senator Wendy Crist would be helping with the Senate website. Suggestions are welcome. Please forward any ideas to Wendy.

The next Senate meeting should be the Friday before spring break as well as the Friday after. The preference was to cancel 21 March. Check email for details. We will most likely meet only on 4 April.

Feedback Needed from Faculty (Snow Days)

Vice Chancellor Cooksey asked Senators to seek immediate feedback from their colleagues regarding the excessive number of classes missed. Some Monday classes have missed 2 weeks. Possibilities include doing away with Study Day and/or starting finals a day late. Chair Isaacson mentioned that Fayetteville used a Saturday for finals testing. Most likely, faculty members have already compensated for classes missed; however, email Vice Chancellor Cooksey and Chair Isaacson with ideas. A decision needs to be made by early next week.

Senator Bill Humphrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. Senator Andy Mooneyhan 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

Larz Roberts

Education:

Minghui Gao

Joanna Grymes

Andy Mooneyhan

John Hall

Julie Grady???

Joe Nichols

Amany Saleh

Engineering:

Shivan Haran

Fine Arts:

Claire (Garrard) Abernathy

Marika Kyriakos

Bill Rowe

Humanities & Social Sciences:

Win Bridges

Warren Johnson

Cherisse Jones-Branch

Hans Hacker

Thomas Ratliff

Alex Sydorenko

Nursing & Health Professions:

Brenda Anderson

Kat Carrick

Larry Morton

Bill Payne

Judy Pfriemer

Debbie Shelton

Sciences & Mathematics:

Hai Jiang

Bruce Johnson

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar

Suzanne Melescue

University:

Nikesha Nesbitt

Military Science:

Cecil Clark

Library & Information Resources:

Wendy Crist

