Faculty Senate
Minutes of September 10, 2004

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS
Bill Rowe – President (Fine Arts)  P
John Hall – Secretary / Treasurer  P
Debra Walden- Vice-Chair of the Senate  P
Bill Humphrey –President Elect  P
Dennis White- Parliamentarian Absent

AGRICULTURE (1)
Bert Greenwald  P

BUSINESS (3)
Dan Marburger  P
Jim Washam  P
Gauri Guha Absent

COMMUNICATIONS (2)
Jack Zibluk  P
Osa Amienyi  P

EDUCATION (5)
Cindy Albright Absent
Kris Biondolillo Absent
Dan Cline  P
Charlotte Skinner  P
Amany Saleh  P

ENGINEERING (1)
Shivan Aaran Absent

FINE ARTS (3)
Allyson Gill  P
Kelly Schaefer  P
Tim Crist  P

University College (1)
Margaret McClain  P

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)
Ernesto Lombeida Absent
William Maynard  P
Mary Donaghy  P
Joe Sartorelli  P
Richard Wang  P
Win Bridges  P

LIBRARY (1)
Myron Flugstad  P
Senate called to order at 3:00. Minutes of August meeting approved.

Old Business:

Rowe reported that the senate's class action grievance is still being worked on. It has apparently gone to the University Hearing Committee.

Discussion on the status of the Faculty Handbook. Some progress has been made. The committee needs the shared governance document to complete Chapter 1. The deans have a rough copy and have made some suggestions. Duggart (Dean of Business) stated that the deans had discussed the handbook and feel we need some clarity on the procedure to move forward and that the deans representatives need to meet with the handbook committee to work out any differences.

Rowe reported that the Office of Student Affairs say they can not release information related to the criminal incidents on campus involving students with handguns it would cause ASU to lose their federal student aid. This does not sound right and will be investigated further.

Maynard reported that the International Student Committee has developed an agenda for helping the international students with the following:
1. keep dorms open during holidays
2. provide transportation (bus) to town for these students
3. work on allowing international students to pay in state tuition
4. work out problems with INS
5. find a better solution than the tofel test to determine English competency

Saleh reported that $45,000 was lost in graduate stipends. This money was apparently moved to the environmental Studies PhD program to support their doctoral students. This will cause a loss of 10 to 16 masters level stipends across campus. Rowe said that PhD students have tuition waived, they are required to take 9 hours/semester. He also said that it is his understanding that all new
programs will be required to have new funding for graduate students before they are approved.

Humphrey reported that the Fringe Benefits Committee have sent a proposal to the VCFA to provide a preventive care package as a part of our health coverage. The committee has also asked that some changes be made in our pharmacy plan as it is put out for bid this fall. These changes will not affect the benefit level but hopefully will reduce the cost.

New Business:

Walden made a motion for the chair to appoint a committee to gather information on the budget shortfall in academic affairs and its effects across campus. The committee will report back to the senate. Freer seconded, motion passed.

Freer made a motion to support the deans request to establish the procedure and timetable to move the handbook forward. Maynard seconded, motion passed.

Amienyi stated that the administration appears to respond to concerns raised by the senate following bad publicity. The idea of a vote of no confidence was raised. Cline asked “will the faculty roll over and play dead no matter what happens or will they finally have the courage to speak out?” Maynard stated that this faculty may be suffering from “learned helplessness”.

Hall introduced a resolution (attached) that would require the Board of Trustees to post minutes of their board meetings on the ASU website. This will be voted on at the next senate meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Rowe at 4:50 p.m.