

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
September 6, 2002

FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Bob Bennett, President (AS)
Bill Rowe, President-Elect (FA)

FACULTY SENATE
Bob Bennett, Chair
Bill Humphrey, Vice-chair
Debra Walden, Secretary

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Bill Humphrey

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Roger Abernathy absent
Jim Bednarz
Joe Sartorelli
Dick Freer absent
David Jimerson absent
Ernesto Lombeida
Bill Maynard
Victoria Spaniol absent
Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Dan Marburger absent
Terry Roach
Jim Washam absent
Chris Brown

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Jo Anna Grant
Lillie M. Fears

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Cindy Albright absent
Kris Biondolillo
Dan Cline
John Ponder
Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Thomas Parsons

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Alyson Gill
John O'Connell
Ken Hatch

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs
Troy Thomas
Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

Daniel Tiscareno absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

Dr. John Hall, AAUP, Psy & Counseling
Jeff Bailey, Library

CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the May 3, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. Following a motion by Senator Humphrey and a second by Senator Flugstad, the minutes were approved without corrections.

REMARKS

Chair Bennett welcomed new and old senators. He stated that tabletop nametags would be provided for meetings. Bennett requested that senators seat themselves directly at the table. Bennett asked the senators to introduce themselves by name, department and college.

Bennett then formally introduced Bill Rowe, president-elect of the senate.

Bennett asked faculty to make sure that they and their colleagues are on the faculty listserv.

Chair Bennett then offered remarks about the achievements of the senate during the academic year 2001-2002. He noted that the senate must primarily be concerned about the integrity of the academic mission of the University. During his presentation he outlined his agenda for the coming year. This includes the reactivation of a Finance Committee to review the University budget. The goal is to be proactive about the funding status of academics. He noted that it was not sufficient to complain about last year's budget but rather to collect data and go forward with specific recommendations.

Bennett noted that the Council of Academic Deans shares similar concerns. He proposed that a senate finance committee work closely with the Dean's Council. Bennett also proposed increasing the membership of the Executive Council to include additional members to help decide issues of importance for the senate. This group might become a senate advisory committee.

REPORTS

Bennett reported in the agenda items passed that the Board of Trustees meeting held this morning in Mt. Home. Bennett represented the senate at that meeting.

1. Redirection of \$2.00/student credit hour of Student Technology Fee for 2002-2003 year
2. Establishment of a surviving dependent's tuition discount
3. Separation of the College of Arts and Sciences into the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science and Mathematics. Computer Science will become a separate department. Bennett noted that this proposal was an administrative decision generated by Dr. McDaniel.
4. Approval of an M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction at Mt. Home, Beebe, Mid-South Community College, EACC, and MCCC.
5. Approval of a BS in Accounting in Mt. Home
6. Approval of an A.S. in Social Sciences and Health Services at Heber Springs and at the N.L.R. Air Force Base
7. Approval of a catastrophic leave bank for the faculty at ASU Beebe.

A senate discussion followed regarding academic issues on campus. The need to have correct and truthful information provided the campus community was stressed especially related to the impact of budget constraints on academic programs. Dr. Maynard indicated several concerns, including the current decision to restrict library hours. Dr. Cline reflected on need to safeguard the integrity of the institution, its faculty and its students. He indicated his hope that the faculty senate might be able to provide this safeguard. He stated that there might be way to articulate our position and concerns in relation to academic integrity to the students. Senator Brown suggested there was a need to discuss the best means to elicit a response to our concerns from administration. Chair Bennett noted that the voice of the senate was strengthened by media coverage last year but pointed out that media coverage has the potential to damage not only administration, but the university community and ourselves as well. Senator Rowe expressed his concerns about the composition of the Board of Trustees and the lack of presence of educators on the Board.

Senator Wang proposed that the senate focus on issues that might be brought forward via the Finance Committee. He stated that he supported Chair Bennett's agenda but thinks it would be good to keep the focus limited. Bennett confirmed that the reactivation of the committee is his primary agenda item. He stated that he was open to suggestions to deal with other issues at the pleasure of the committee. He restated his belief that the senate needs to be proactive with data collection and come to any discussion table ready to act. He verbalized his desire for a committee comprised of highly motivated persons who are willing to collect data quickly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Faculty Handbook-

Senator Humphrey reported that little progress was made on the handbook over the summer. He noted that Irene Martz is reading the handbook and has made grammatical corrections. She has also selected sections of the handbook to be sent to Dr. McDaniel. Humphrey stated that he hopes that we will have feedback from McDaniel to consider at the next senate meeting.

Senator Cline asked if a procedure for handbook review was designated in the document. Humphrey stated that it was.

In response to a question from Dr. John Hall, Humphrey noted that the section on Distance Education would be shown to Dr. McDaniel.

Survey-

Bennett stated that Kim Hester hopes to have a report in the next two weeks on the results of the campus survey. Bennett noted that mailing the survey had been extremely expensive – costing \$2000.00. He suggested that the senate review the results of the campus survey to determine if it would be beneficial to send the survey to the rest of the system. A discussion followed regarding alternate means of supporting the cost of the mailing system wide.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers-

Troy Thomas, PT. was unanimously elected to the office of senate secretary replacing Debra Walden.

Maynard nominated Senator Bill Humphrey to the position of vice-chair of the senate with a second by Kris Biondolillo. The nomination was approved by acclamation. Senator Maynard nominated Dr. John Hall to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Association. Biondolillo offered a second. The nomination was approved by acclamation.

Dr. Bennett asked senators to forward to him the names of persons who might be interested in serving as senate parliamentarian. This person does not need to be senator.

Dr. Bennett stated that Dan Cline would be serving as Webmaster for the Senate Web Page. Cline asked for input regarding the web format and content.

Reconstitution of the Finance Committee:

The senate agreed to rename the committee “The Committee for Institutional Responsibility.” It was agreed that the selection of members of the committee be postponed until the next meeting.

Senator O’Connell suggested the name of Louella Moore as a person knowledgeable about faculty budget concerns.

Creation of the Shared Governance Oversight Committee:

Bennett stated that it is important to evaluate the practice of shared governance on this campus. This committee would interface with chairs of the various shared governance committees.

Spring Speakers:

Dr. Maynard suggested considering a presentation in the Spring to address college budgetary concerns. Bennett expressed support for the idea but expressed reservations about the potential for financial support coming from the student government association.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Walden, Secretary