

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 4, 2002

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Bob Bennett, Chair and President of Faculty Association
Jim Bednarz Richard Grippo (proxy)
William Burns
Dick Freer
Ernesto Lombeida
Bill Maynard Erik Gilbert (proxy)
Jie Miao
Joe Sartorelli absent
Norman Stafford absent
Richard Wang

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

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Lillie M. Fears
Jo Anna Grant

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

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Thomas Parsons

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Bill Rowe, President-Elect of the Faculty Association
Alyson Gill absent
John O'Connell
Ken Hatch

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions
Troy Thomas, Secretary absent
Terry Baggs absent
Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Polly Green absent

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad Jeff Bailey (proxy)

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

John D. Hall – Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Association
Dr. Lynita Cooksey

CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the September 20, 2002 meeting were reviewed and approved with 1 addendum – the text of the letter from AR State Senator Jimmy Jeffress to Dr. Wyatt that was read at the last Senate meeting will be added to the September 20 minutes.

REMARKS

Chair Bennett reminded the senators present that they are responsible to the faculty members that they represent and that the senators should be in some form of regular communication with their constituents so that the Senate is not operating in isolation separate from the wishes of the faculty.

Bennett informed the Senate that a copy of the Faculty Senate minutes would be sent to the ASU Board of Trustees after every meeting beginning with the September 20, 2002 minutes.

Jennus Burton will be coming to the November 1st meeting to speak to the Senate on the details of the proposed campus health center. Dr. Hall asked if Dr. Mason would also attend as well as members of the Fringe Benefits Committee. Chair Bennett stated that he would extend that invitation.

The Finance Committee has begun its work. The committee members are: Louella Moore, Dan Marburger and Bob Bennett. The first official meeting will be Tuesday, October 8th at 12:30. All interested parties are invited to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

- Faculty Handbook – Chair Bennett spoke with Dr. McDaniel's office – Handbook is in the process of being forwarded to Lucinda Moore.
- Campus Survey – Copies of the summary of the results of the campus survey were provided to members of the Senate. Bennett suggested that the senators consider the survey and share the findings with their constituents. Issues related

to the survey will be considered at the next Senate meeting. Kim Hester will be here at that time and has offered to answer questions and share data (if so desired). The first page describes the features of the survey.

- Town Hall Meeting – Senators were asked at the last meeting to discuss a possible Town Hall Meeting with Dr. Wyatt with their constituents. Senators were polled regarding their findings.
 - Outcome – Not all faculty were interested in a meeting with President Wyatt. Those faculty members that desire a meeting do not desire the typical Town Hall format. A structured and controlled interaction is desired guided by information drawn from the work of the Senate committees and questions submitted by the faculty and summarized/organized by the Faculty Senate.
 - Bennett will speak to Dr. Wyatt to determine his interest in the meeting type desired by the faculty.
 - Senator Wang suggested that Dr. Wyatt be invited to speak to the Senate. The senators could invite colleagues to attend. Bennett suggested that questions could be collected in advance and provided to Dr. Wyatt before the meeting.
 - John Hall remarked that he did not feel that it was necessary to rush this meeting. Hall felt that it was important to wait until the Senate committees had completed their data collection so that the information could be used to formulate appropriate questions/issues for discussion.
- Discussion of Confidence – Bennett clarified that what the Senate is talking about is simply having a discussion of confidence as it related to administration. Bennett stressed that we are a long way from considering a vote of no confidence. Bennett stated that he wants to continue this dialogue over the next several weeks. Bennett stressed that this was a serious matter and that it was important to proceed cautiously and not rush towards a choice that we might later regret. The purpose of today's discussion was to have a brainstorming session regarding what is meant by the term confidence. Senator Wang brought forward a point of order. Since no motion existed, no discussion should ensue. Wang proposed that the Senate disband to a "committee of the whole" which would procedurally permit the discussion. Senator Freer seconded this motion. The motion passed. The Senate then proceeded to discuss the concept of confidence as a committee of the whole. The following chalkboard concepts were discussed:
 - Trust
 - Full disclosure of Information
 - Is shared governance really working?
 - Are academics the top priority on campus?
 - Are administrative decisions being made that are academically detrimental to students?
 - Is the administration focused on the mission of the University?
 - What is the academic plan?
 - Why is the priority on buildings?
 - Is there gross mismanagement?
 - Is there neglect of academics?
 - There is a need to establish a definition of "no confidence" (such as handbook violations).
 - Does ASU have a positive image?
 - Concern about the future financial stability of the University.

- Concern about student satisfaction (e.g., fees, services, and library).
- The only goal seems to be the research center (i.e., the biotech institute). However, there is no plan. There is uneasiness that we are failing at our academic mission. Other units on campus need attention.
- Concern about ability to maintain quality of education when we cannot attract and retain high quality faculty members.
- No investment in faculty development.
- No budgetary investment to allow a search for faculty diversity.
- Concern about our unfavorable image at the Capitol in Little Rock.
- Concern about funding for new buildings, energy costs, and maintenance.
- Concern that the administration is not aware of “how deep the hole is”- Has this been thought about?
- What is “confidence”? A belief that the university administration can effectively lead the University and manage its resources. If you have this belief then you have confidence.

Dr. Bailey clarified during the discussion that the recent decision to cut library hours was made internally and not by administration.

Bennett made the point that his motivation for having this discussion was that we have a survey that only ½ of the faculty responded to, and we have responses that suggest that the faculty are not interested in meeting with the President. Bennett further remarked that if the administration is not concerned with this issue, that the faculty are feeling increasingly uncomfortable with administration and how the university is being run, then the administration is not doing its job since part of administration’s responsibility is to manage the university and to make ASU a proper place for students and to foster a learning environment. This is difficult to do when you have faculty who are concerned and are uncomfortable about where the university is going. If we don’t do something then the university will not continue to grow. We only grow as a group. You can build all the beautiful buildings that you want but if you can’t get faculty in the buildings who are motivated and happy to come to work then the reputation of the university goes down the tubes regardless of how good the campus is. We need the administration to understand that there is a problem on campus, and we hope that we will all work together to solve this problem. Bennett stressed that the survey results and the responses by faculty members to the Town Hall meeting idea suggest that the problem is a significant one and not just the problem of a few “anti-administration” senators.

A discussion followed about whether or not the current state of unrest and the discussion of confidence would have occurred if the recent state budgetary problems had not occurred. Bennett remarked that these issues have been brewing on campus for some time and that the recent events probably served only as a catalyst for a reaction that was going to occur anyway.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary