

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of January 20, 2006

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PROXY

Bill Humphrey—Chair	P
Richard Freer—Vice-Chair of the Senate	P
Bill Rowe—Past President	P
William B. Maynard—Secretary of the Faculty Association	P
Margaret McClain—Secretary of the Senate	P
Win Bridges—Acting Parliamentarian	P

AGRICULTURE (1)

Bert Greenwalt	P
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BUSINESS (3)

Mark Foster	P
Louella Moore	P
Jim Washam	Absent

COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Jack Zibluk	P
Osa Amienyi	P

EDUCATION (5)

Cindy Albright	Absent
Daniel Cline	P
Amany Saleh	P
Marci Malinski	P
Vacant Seat	---

ENGINEERING (1)

Shivan Haran	P
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FINE ARTS (3)

Alyson Gill	P
Tim Crist	Absent
Kelly Shaefer	P

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)

Win Bridges	P
Mary Donaghy	P
Robert Baum	P
Joe Sartorelli	P
Richard Wang	Absent
Eric Gilbert	Absent

LIBRARY (1)

Myron Flugstad	P
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MILITARY SCIENCE (1)

LTC Larry P. Aikman	Absent
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NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (3)

Richard Freer	P
Donna Caldwell	P
Cathy P. Hall	P

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)

William Burns	Absent
Bob Bennett	P

Jeff Jenness P
Jie Miao P

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Margaret McClain P

I. MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2, 2005, meeting were approved.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

New Resolution (added to agenda)

Dr. Dan Cline moved to suspend the rules and add a new agenda item, a resolution sponsored by the Departments of Fine Arts, English and Philosophy, Educational Leadership, Political Science, History, and Modern Languages, and endorsed by the ASU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. (See insert to follow.) Cline presented the motion as a question to be voted on after discussion. He moved to put the resolution on the floor and discussion followed.

The Resolution:

1Faculty Senate Resolution from the Colleges and Departments of: Fine Arts, English and Philosophy, Department of Educational Leadership, Political Science, History, Modern Languages and endorsed by the ASU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors:

Whereas, consideration of the latest draft of the new Faculty Handbook has included the solicitation of legal opinion/advice, as well as input from the American Association of University Professors, and whereas;

The faculty Senate's lawyer, Mr Donn Mixon, and the American Association of University Professors have completed their reading of the draft Faculty Handbook, and their respective comments have been received by the Faculty Handbook Committee and the ASU chapter of the American Association of University Professors respectively, and whereas

the reports from the Faculty Senate's lawyer and the AAUP have found significant issues with the existing draft of the Faculty Handbook, and whereas

the respective reports include substantive suggestions for strengthening the current draft of the Handbook in keeping with the high principles of academe, best practice in shared governance, and in line with the laws of the State of Arkansas, and whereas,

the reports from the Faculty Senate's lawyer and that of the American Association of University Professors have been circulated to the faculty at large for reading and comment, therefore be it resolved

that the Faculty Senate calls upon the Faculty Senate Handbook Committee to faithfully address the concerns raised by the said Faculty Senate's lawyer and the AAUP as outlined in their respective reports, and that they, the Faculty Senate Handbook Committee, incorporate the remedies/corrections suggested by both the Faculty Senate's lawyer and the AAUP into the current draft of the Faculty Handbook forthwith.

Dr. Humphrey explained that the Handbook Committee had already addressed the concerns included in the resolution. For example, the Committee had met with Donn Mixon regularly throughout the process of putting together the new Handbook and had incorporated Attorney Mixon's recommendations. He further maintained that the Committee had dealt with and incorporated the AAUP's recommendations of November 14 and had sent the Handbook back to Mixon for his approval.

Several faculty members explained their position on the weaknesses of the Handbook. Dr. Maynard recommended that the Handbook address all AAUP principles; he found that some AAUP principles were not incorporated.

Dr. Hall said that in looking back over the November 14 AAUP guidelines, he found that material related to the rights and status of adjunct, non-tenured and probationary faculty was missing. Dr. Rowe agreed that the university is unsympathetic to non-tenured faculty.

Dr. Zibluk voiced his understanding that the resolution on the floor asked the Handbook Committee to faithfully address all AAUP concerns. The Handbook Committee, consisting of Drs. Humphrey, Bennett, Maynard, Isaacson, Rowe, and Bennett maintained that it had addressed the recommendations of the AAUP and the Faculty Senate's lawyer, Donn Mixon.

There was a call to question. The resolution to have the Handbook Committee faithfully include all of the AAUP's principles and Donn Mixon's recommendations in the current draft of the ASU Faculty Handbook carried with 15 votes for and 5 against.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Handbook Committee:

Dr. Humphrey read the October 21, 2005, motion on the Handbook Committee's mandate and maintained that all parts of the motion were incorporated into the January 12 version of the Faculty Handbook. (See October 21 motion as follows.)

A MOTION:

- 1. input from AAUP and Mr. Donn Mixon will be offered**
- 2. after this, input/recommendations will be sent to all faculty senators for review**
- 3. faculty senators will have 2 weeks to offer comments to the Handbook Committee**
- 4. the Handbook Committee will meet and prepare recommendations for the full faculty senate. These recommendations will be sent out prior to the next senate meeting allowing enough time for review e.g. 1 week.**
- 5. there will be a vote up or down on recommendations from the Handbook Committee**
- 6. there will be a vote up or down on the entire Faculty Handbook**

He assured the Senate that all of Donn Mixon's recommendations would be followed. In addition, continued Humphrey, the latest version of the Handbook included comments and corrections submitted by various faculty members in response to the Committee's request for input. He felt that the Handbook was ready to be put to the vote. He presented for consideration the addition of the AAUP-approved material that had been omitted from the latest online version of the Handbook, namely, "**Section II.g. Selection of the President and the Chancellor.**"

Acting Parliamentarian Win Bridges gave the opinion that the Handbook Committee had the right to bring the present version of the Handbook to the floor for an up-or-down vote. He added that if there were any objections or proposed amendments, they could be argued. The Handbook could be approved in whole, approved in sections, or voted down in its entirety. The Faculty Senate also had the right to amend selected sections of the Handbook or recommend that sections be taken back to the attorney for approval.

Dr. Sartorelli took issue with the lack of clarity of the Handbook in its present form and added that a side-by-side comparison of the 1996 version and subsequent versions placed online might have been helpful in allowing the faculty to assess each change. He cited an example of a missing sentence from one key section.

Dr. Bennett was concerned about the large amount of redacted material in sections of the Handbook and wanted to see the missing material.

Dr. Hall moved that the Committee present the document for a vote, namely, the Draft of January 5, 2006 (which is the same as the December 27, 2005, document) except for the inclusion of commentary. Hall's motion did not include the new material, "II.g. Selection of the President and the Chancellor."

Dr. Bridges noted that if there were any amendments to the main motion, the amended section(s) could be excluded from a vote and be sent back to the Committee for further review.

There was some further discussion on the weaknesses of certain sections. Dr. Maynard noted that Section V posed problems. He stated that he had spoken with Donn Mixon that afternoon, and Mixon had expressed reservations about some questionable wording and omissions of AAUP recommendations. In Section V, according to Maynard, the material on the grievance procedure is confusing and not in keeping with AAUP guidelines. He stated that due to this and other problems he could not endorse the document in its present form. Maynard said that the attorney regarded the present document as a "galley proof"; apparently, Mixon preferred that he and two faculty members go over the document thoroughly.

Dr. Humphrey, after speaking with the attorney on the previous day, was under the impression that Donn Mixon was satisfied that the document was ready for approval. Humphrey stated that the latest version was indeed Mr. Mixon's rewrite.

Dr. Maynard introduced a friendly amendment that Section V be excluded from any vote under the main motion at this time. Dr. Maynard's amendment to the main motion to exclude section V was carried with 12 votes for and 7 against.

There was more discussion of sections of the Handbook that faculty members wanted excluded from the main motion. For example, Dr. Cline moved that Section II.d. be excluded; the motion carried. Dr. Baum stated that Section IV was not ready to be voted on. Problems with Section I.e. were also cited.

After further discussion of deficiencies in several sections, Dr. Bennett moved to table the Handbook until the next Senate meeting. Dr. Sartorelli added that he wanted to include in the motion that the Committee make no further changes in the document, but just accept recommendations for changes from the faculty at large.

Dr. Maynard added that the Handbook was inconsistent in its language. He reiterated his earlier recommendation that the attorney and two faculty members thoroughly peruse and check the Handbook for consistency and omissions.

Drs. Amienyi and Louella Moore stated their belief that the attorney was only a consultant to the Senate and not the absolute authority. They agreed that the document needed to express the voice and desires of the faculty.

Dr. Bennett restated his motion that the Senate table its vote on the Faculty Handbook until the next regularly scheduled meeting; that faculty members submit proposed changes, additions, and corrections to the Handbook Committee by next Friday (January 27); and that the person making the recommendations highlight his/her proposed changes and give reasons for the changes. Dr. Bennett's motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Susan Allen said she felt she had to interject on the subject of the Handbook's approval. Her concern was that the administration was being vilified in the process. She reminded the faculty that the AAUP had praised the passage of the UCA Faculty Handbook as a good example of cooperation among the faculty, administration, and legal advisors.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WN Grading

Several faculty members expressed their displeasure with the way the Registrar's Office has been handling WN grading. Apparently, some WN grades have been changed without the faculty member's approval.

Dr. Rowe said he had received a Change of Grade form from the Registrar for a student who was not even on his roster. He stated that the Registrar insulted him by accusing him of making an error in grading. Rowe decried the poor treatment he and others have received from that office.

Cathy Hall stated that the Registrar had also treated her very rudely by accusing her of not posting final grades on time. She laid the problem at the feet of the Registrar because the Registrar's system would not take her grades when she tried to enter them. In addition, the Registrar's deadline was unrealistic in that the Registrar's exam schedule did not allow for grades to arrive from distant campuses.

Dr. Sartorelli stated that he entered his grades just before the system "crashed," but that others were not so lucky. When people called the Registrar's Office for assistance, they were rudely told to "keep trying."

Dr. Maynard stated that he had heard complaints from students whose dates of birth appeared on their transcripts. They complained that when applying for jobs, they could be subject to age discrimination by having this personal and sensitive information on their transcripts.

Dr. Cline took issue with the constant extension of registration deadlines. He stated that the last day to register should be the last day to register. Due to the late registration process, the actual deadline has been pushed further and further so that students are now arriving to class over two weeks late.

B. Kays' Rental Housing

Dr. Maynard stated that he had learned about the dilapidated state of Kays' rental housing from a friend who was denied renters' insurance. He thought the university should not be renting substandard housing, or at least bring it up to building codes.

C. Grading (+/-)

Dr. Humphrey reminded the faculty that some time ago there had been a movement to introduce +/- grading with a different point system at ASU. He asked the faculty to consider revisiting the issue.

D. Fall Break

There was a short discussion of the drawbacks of the timing of the Fall Break. Several senators agreed that it was a wasted week because students were not inclined to study or prepare for final exams when they returned from their vacation. The understanding was that this break was requested by the SGA. Some senators suggested alternative break times, such as the standard Thanksgiving break of Thursday and Friday, with a few days off earlier in the semester.

E. New Chancellor

Dr. Rowe said he had received a call from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* regarding the search for someone to fill the newly created Chancellor's position at ASU Jonesboro. He said he was concerned about the lack of public discussion on the issue; the newspaper had wanted to know what discussions had taken place over the last two to six years on the creation of the Chancellor's position. Rowe said he was not able to tell the paper about any discussions because of the apparent secrecy of the decision-making process and the lack of minutes of any Board meetings. The creation of the Chancellor's position was made public only recently.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Zibluk reported on a road trip he had taken with Don Maness to view Teaching and Learning Centers. He stated that ASU was trying to reopen such a facility. The Advisory Board was seeking funds for the center. Zibluk asked that any comments or suggestions be forwarded to either him or Don Maness by January 31.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

In the absence of further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.