

**Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes of November 11, 2005**

**FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**PROXY**

Bill Humphrey—President	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
_____—Parliamentarian	--

**AGRICULTURE (1)**

Bert Greenwalt	P
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**BUSINESS (3)**

Mark Foster	P
Louella Moore	P
Jim Washam	P

**COMMUNICATIONS (2)**

Jack Zibluk	P
Pradeep Mishra	P

**EDUCATION (5)**

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

**ENGINEERING (1)**

Shivan Haran	Absent
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**FINE ARTS (3)**

Allyson Gill	P	
Tim Crist	Absent	
Kelly Shaefer		John O'Connell

**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)**

Win Bridges	P	John Hall
Mary Donaghy	P	
Robert Baum	P	
Joe Sartorelli	P	
Richard Wang	P	
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		Debra Walden

**SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)**

William Burns	Absent
Bob Bennett	P

Jeff Jenness  
Jie Miao

Absent  
P

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Margaret McClain

P

I. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 21, 2005, meeting were amended and approved.

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

#### Committee Reports

##### i. Parking Committee—Myron Flugstad

Myron Flugstad reported that in the past the Parking Committee had been hard-line in their approach to parking tickets issued to faculty. Any appeals for not displaying a hang tag were commonly rejected. Flugstad reported a positive change. The new rule is that anyone forgetting to display a hang tag will receive a one-time-only exemption from being ticketed. The citation will remain in file at parking enforcement. He reminded faculty that appeals can now be entered online.

##### ii. UPC Committee (Humphrey)

Dr. Humphrey reported developments at the UPC Committee meeting he had recently attended. He referred to the "Economic Performance" sheet published by the government at <http://inflationdata.com>. Humphrey commented that one reason faculty feel as if they are not making economic strides may be the current 4.69 percent rate of inflation in comparison to the previous year's rate of 2.54 percent.

Humphrey further noted that inflation may also be playing a part in poor retention rates at ASU and other universities. He cited further statistics from the report that indicated a nationwide 6.8 percent average rise in tuition over the last twelve months. Humphrey also presented a graph entitled "State Revenue Comparison" that he had received at the meeting of the UPC Committee. While it appears that the states have growing surpluses of funds for education, the majority of these surpluses are going into the public school system.

Humphrey presented a chart entitled "Scholarship Analysis: Original Budget Vs. Actual." This is an ASU document prepared by the Office of Budget Planning and Development on 10/26/2005. Humphrey pointed out that the documents comprise a "wish list" of monies to be set aside for scholarships as part of the University's retention initiative.

Humphrey went on to comment on the document entitled "2005-2006 Retention Initiatives," which grew out of the recruitment and retention report prepared by Dr. Jim Black and a faculty committee. Humphrey drew everyone's attention to **Action Plan 3.1.3**, which outlines changes in developmental programs at ASU, specifically the hiring of a full-time reading instructor "to meet the increasing demand of students with inadequate college reading skills." Humphrey pointed out that according to this report, over 50% of ASU's entering freshmen require at least one remedial course.

Humphrey directed the faculty to look at the last page of the Retention Initiatives document, which summarized "ACT Scores, Remediation, and Persistence." Humphrey noted the downward trend in ACT scores of first-time freshmen from Fall 1994 to Fall 2004. This part of the document also summarized the retention rates for full-time first-time freshmen from fall to fall of each academic year from 1993 to 2004 and the graduation rates for full-time first-time freshmen from 1988 to 1998.

Dr. Zibluk had heard from his Dean that open enrollment is still a popular concept to which the University and the Board are still committed. There appears to be no move by the Board to raise standards.

Dr. McDaniel added that the University is indeed committed to serving the students of the Delta. However, he did mention that there was a shared governance document calling for the gradual phasing in of higher standards over a one-year period.

Dr. Humphrey stated that the plan included gradually raising standards by the year 2009, at which time the plan is to have two-year colleges take over the remediation.

Dr. Freer pointed out that not only was ASU attracting students with lower and lower composite scores, but that it was also failing to attract students with the top scores.

Dr. Humphrey said that the University of Arkansas and University of Central Arkansas were or had been conducting surveys to learn why some highly qualified students had chosen to attend other schools.

Drs. Humphrey and Wang agreed that we have an image problem.

Dr. Wang said that we were failing to send the right message that we care about academic excellence. Therefore, ASDU is no longer a school of choice, but one of last resort. He urged the faculty to take the lead in attracting the superior students with ACT scores in the 30-35 range.

Bill Humphrey reminded the faculty that three years ago we had passed a resolution to raise standards.

Humphrey went on to point out that according to the Retention Savings Worksheet, ASU could save \$3.5 million by increasing retention by only 15%.

Jack Zibluk said that the University needed to decide what its priorities were—raising standards or serving our population.

There was some brief discussion about the University's new slogan, "Empowering Minds."

There was also a brief discussion about an upcoming cost-savings initiative. Due to the projected 1000% increase in the cost of gas, faculty would be asked to turn off thermostats when leaving their offices, and follow other cost-cutting measures. The university will be allowing the use of electric space heaters, however.

### **iii. Graduate Council (Sustich/Humphrey))**

Several years ago, there was a move to change graduate faculty policies. The Graduate Council has thus issued some new policies. The new policies must be approved by the Senate. In the new policies, the Graduate Council has defined two types of members: *regular* and *temporary*. Each department will set its own standards. A regular member will be appointed for up to a six-year term, at which time the faculty member may reapply. Re-appointment has usually been automatic. The new policies grew out of a dispute in which Dr. Emmert left the University when after serving on the Graduate Council, he was denied a vote.

Dr. Cline told the Senate that in 1994 he, Dr. Fowler, and Dr. Linnstaeder had proposed a three-point policy that was adopted by the Graduate Council. The policy is still in place.

Dr. Zibluk made a motion to discuss the "Graduate Faculty Policy." The motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the Policy was unanimously approved.

### **iv. Handbook (Humphrey)**

Bill Humphrey reported that he had received Donn Mixon's comments the previous day; however, since he had not heard yet from the AAUP, discussion would be postponed.

Dr. Maynard said that the AAUP had read the Handbook and was in the process of writing its report.

Humphrey handed out the current Foreword to the Handbook and Attorney Mixon's revisions of the Foreword. He urged the faculty to read the revision for further discussion later on.

## **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bill Rowe announced that before the Saturday, November 12, football game, there would be a meeting between ASU and Native American representatives at the Convocation Center Auditorium at 3:30 PM. He stated that the Western Cherokee would be presenting views on the issue of the Indian mascot. Rowe did mention that the Western Cherokee were not a federally recognized tribe. Rowe stated that research by several faculty members revealed no published works by any of these representatives.

Several questions about these representatives were raised: Who selected the panelists? Did the athletic department select them? Who paid for their hotel rooms? Why were the Osage Indians not participating?

Other information that came out was the following: that the Stein Firm from New York City deals in trademarks.

Dr. Bennett stated that he was initially excited by the seeming progress made by Athletics, in inviting Native American representation. He and other faculty members were now more suspicious about the motivation behind the visit.

Dr. McDaniel pointed out that one of the recent visitors had come to ASU in 1991 to propose that we house some Indian artifacts; ASU did not choose to house the artifacts.

Dr. Maynard pointed out that even the Arkansas Archaeological Survey does not recognize the group. He stated that the attempts to become involved in ASU policies is a thinly veiled endeavor to achieve federal recognition, and thus qualify for huge amounts of federal monetary assistance, lands, and casinos.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.