

A-State Faculty Senate
Friday, October 6, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Steering Committee

- Mike McDaniel - Chair/President Present
- Loretta McGregor – President Elect Present
- Vice Chair – Claire Abernathy Present
- Secretary – April Sheppard Present
- Joanna Grymes - Secretary/Treasurer Faculty Association Present

Agriculture and Engineering (2)

- Greg Phillips Present
- Shivan Haran Absent

Business (3)

- Sharon James Present
- Richard Segall Present
- Philip Tew Proxy

Education & Behavioral Science (6)

- Jeonghee Choi Absent
- Amanda Wheeler Present
- David Holman Present
- Sharon Davis Present
- Gwen Neal Absent
- Amy Pearce Present

Fine Arts (3), Humanities & Social Sciences (6), and Media & Communications (2)

Fine Arts (3),

- Claire Abernathy Present
- Matthew Carey Proxy
- Bill Rowe Present

Humanities & Social Sciences (5)

- Win Bridges Present
- Richard Burns Absent

- Mary Donaghy Present
- William Maynard Present
- Rollin Tusalem Present

Media & Communications (2)

- Manu Bhandari Present
- Pradeep Mishra Present

Library & Information Resources (1)

- April Sheppard Present

Military Science (1)

- Major Brian Mason Present

Nursing & Health Professions (6)

- Annette Bednar Present
- Jody Long Present
- Stacy Walz Present
- Donna Caldwell Present
- Jessie Camp Present
- Mollie Manning Present

Science & Mathematics (5)

- Travis Marsico Present
- Ross Carroll Present
- William Paulsen Present
- Suzanne Melescue Present
- Jeff Jenness Absent

University College (1)

- Nikesha Nesbit Present

Proxies:

Matthew Carey – Proxy Marika Kyriakos

Philip Tew – Proxy Jeffrey Pittman

Guests: Jennifer Smith, Associate Vice President for Benefits, Systems Office

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. He reminded those Senators who are on committees that the committees need to meet and elect a chair. He then stated that he had recently

gone to the Querétaro campus and was impressed by the campus, students, and personnel. He encouraged the Senators to visit if they can.

Chair McDaniel provided information on the Limebike bike sharing program on campus.

Chair McDaniel asked the Senators if there was interest in having a local physician to come to the Senate to discuss health concerns related to burning of the rice fields. The Senate agreed that this issue had a broader campus appeal and that it would be of interest to everyone. President-Elect McGregor suggested an open forum or lecture. Chair McDaniel stated that the Faculty Senate would serve as sponsor.

Jennifer Smith addressed the Senate. She provided information about changes to TIAA, including:

- Lori Wynn and Jim Washam are the representatives from our campus that serve on the System's Retirement Committee.
- Arkansas State was premier class, but had recently been upgraded to institutional class.
- TIAA has four tiers to choose from.
- Starting this year, funds will be going into new mutual funds.
 - New funds will mirror what campus had before.
 - HR cannot move funds for employees, must be done by self online or through phone.
- Some employees may not want to move funds, particularly those with old money or nearing retirement.
- When checking your TIAA, it is best to go through ASU site, not TIAA site.

Questions posed to Smith included:

- Can we get better information about performance in the current market? Smith said that she will check into this.
- Will we receive IRS forms when moving funds; if moving ASU funds to ASU, then no 1099; if moving funds from another institution to ASU, then will receive 1099.

Smith then addressed the Senate in regards to Cigna and health insurance. She gave an update to the current state of health insurance, including:

- ASU has not had a rate increase in 3 years.
- This year have seen very large claims.
 - Last year, \$1.9 million on 22 claimants; this year, \$3.3 million so far on 33 claimants.
 - 2% of members have used 43% of plan dollars.
 - Reasons for increase includes medical inflation and specialty drugs.
- The minimum fund balance reserve is \$1.4 million. Will quickly reach this if large claims continue and nothing is done.

Smith then introduced proposed changes to health insurance to address issues above. Proposed changes include:

- Increasing contributions. How much employee contribution increases will depend on whether or not campus increasing employer contribution.
- Plan changes, including incentives to get people to choose cheaper options.
 - Encourage people to go to Urgent Care versus ER.
 - Encourage generic prescriptions (ASU has 98% generic usage).
 - Add or increase copays to higher cost services.
- If these plan changes do not fix declining fund balance, may need another change in July.

Questions posed to Smith included:

- Are health plans done by calendar year; yes, changes would start January 1st.
- Has there been any discussion of HAS; we can talk to Lori Winn if there's interest on campus, but would not happen before January 1.
- What about wellness benefits such as standing desks; this would be an accommodation request through HR.
- Can we increase flexible spending accounts; depends on IRS. If they raise limit, we will raise limit.
- Why is flexible spending accounts \$4,999 and not \$5,000; depends on HR and payroll. Takes a lot of time and work to take out extra penny.

Chair McDaniel stated that progress had been made on a book of committees.

Senator Pearce stated that several faculty members were interested a progress report on several issues on campus: Proctor U, slow response time to service requests, Xerox contract, offering credits through continuing education.

Senator Maynard asked about the makeup of the Completion Committee. Stated that the committee did not include full-time faculty who were not also administrators. Chancellor Damphousse stated that he would be happy to have Faculty Senate nominate faculty to be on the committee.

Senator Phillips moved to approve September 15th minutes with edits. ??? seconded; motion passed.

Senator Maynard made a motion to adjourn and Senator Long seconded. Motion approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Sheppard
Faculty Senate Secretary