

A-State Faculty Senate  
Friday, December 1, 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 Absent

**Agriculture and Engineering (2)**

- Greg Phillips Present
- Shivan Haran Absent

**Business (3)**

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

**Education & Behavioral Science (6)**

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

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

**Fine Arts (3),**

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

**Humanities & Social Sciences (5)**

- Win Bridges Present
- Richard Burns Present

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

**Media & Communications (2)**

- Manu Bhandari Absent
- Pradeep Mishra Absent

**Library & Information Resources (1)**

- April Sheppard Present

**Military Science (1)**

- Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason Absent

**Nursing & Health Professions (6)**

- Annette Bednar Present
- Jody Long Proxy
- 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 Present

**University College (1)**

- Nikesha Nesbit Present

**Chairs Council (1)**

- Marika Kyriakos Present

Proxies:

Jody Long – Proxy Cheryl Knight

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He began by asking for approval of the agenda; there were no objections. He then told the Senate that he had asked Provost Lynita Cooksey to speak to the Senate to discuss budget cuts, stating that he planning on asking all Vice Chancellors to come before the Senate and discuss where their cuts came from.

Chair McDaniel asked the Senate about what to do with Senator Phillips' resolution. Senator Phillips stated that there was not a need for the Senate to sign the resolution.

Chair McDaniel stated that he had talked with Vice Chancellor Len Frey about the Faculty Space on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Library and noted that it was possible for the space to be ready when faculty come back in the spring. He also stated that funds from the Faculty Association may be used to buy furniture for the space with Faculty Senate approval.

McDaniel then noted an article in the Jonesboro Sun regarding sources of income for the ASU Systems Office. The article stated that one source is insurance. Chair McDaniel stated that he wanted to find out more information about this.

Chair McDaniel then stated that the Steering Committee voted to give KASU \$250. He also stated that he had been approached by Christian Canizales from the Student Philanthropy Council seeking contributions to help students. President Elect McGregor made a motion to make a contribution of \$250. Faculty Association Treasurer Grymes verified that there was \$12,000 in the Faculty Association checking account. Vice Chair Abernathy second the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Chair McDaniel asked the student to let him or the Steering Committee know if they or their constituents have issues they want brought up before Faculty Senate.

Provost Cooksey addressed the Senate and provided information regarding budget cuts to Academic Affairs, including:

- Academic Affairs cut was \$340,000 to share amongst departments.
  - Every department contributed funds, including Faculty Senate.
- Each Vice Chancellor is setting back funding to use if needed.
- Each dean was asked to give 8.5%.
  - Deans worked with chairs to decide where funds would come from.
- The Provost has not curtailed travel, but some areas may have less after cuts.
- If spring enrollment is good, some monies may come back to departments.

Questions asked to Provost Cooksey included:

- What was the amount of cuts for the entire campus; Chancellor Damphousse stated over \$1 million and included cuts in Athletics.
- If funds are returned in the spring, will they be returned in the same proportions taken? Yes, they will not be reallocated to other areas.
- If enrollment does not increase, what about next year; if no increases, will need to start making tough decisions. If enrollment continues to decrease, we can start getting into positions.
- What about raises; never say never.
- Are we still in a soft hiring freeze; yes, but are asking for additional justifications for positions.

Chancellor Damphousse then addressed the Senate regarding enrollment and other issues, including:

- Arkansas State just finished our United Way campaign and Dr. Damphousse thanked the faculty in helping the campaign succeed.
  - Goal was \$30,000, reached \$32,500.
- If enrollment does not go up, we can so more cuts in the fall.
  - Why campus is working so hard on enrollment.
  - End of November saw record number of applications and admissions.
    - But will need to see actual numbers that come in the Fall.
- Will have events in the Spring to encourage more students to choose A-State.
- Looking very closely at Freshman retention.
  - Calling students to see why not enrolling, what barriers they have.
    - First time we've done this, will be annual event December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Email regarding early retirement (not officially approved yet) has been sent out. Stressed that suggesting retirement and/or making jokes is against federal law. Must be a personal decision – no one pushed out.

Questions and comments to Chancellor Damphousse and Provost Cooksey included:

- Students are receiving holds for \$5 on accounts, can we raise the minimum for holds; Completion Committee is looking at this, but it is possible.
- How will record December graduation affect budget shortfall; a lot of the students are AP students as the AP population goes up, this adds to holes in the budget.
- Can we give graduating students final grades in a quicker fashion to help them seek employment and not panic; most grades are out before stated date, but we need to do a better job of telling students.
- Can we create a pamphlet or checklist for graduating students so they know what is automated and what they need to do and when; will report this information back. Students can also contact [packsupport@astate.edu](mailto:packsupport@astate.edu) if they get stuck.
- If faculty have already turned in their retirement paperwork, will they be grandfathered into the early retirement incentive; depends on their retirement date – before December 31<sup>st</sup>, no.
- Issue of graduating students getting transcripts can be luck of the draw depending on who you get on the phone, many students feel like they're not treated as adults; customer service training is coming. Part of problem is a lot of turnover and lowest paid employees may be afraid to admit when they don't do something. Students also don't always ask the right question/use the right terminology. Pack Support very important to help students avoid run around.
- Part of problem is also loose guidelines by faculty; this is a problem everywhere: deadlines are treated as suggestions.

Chair McDaniel then asked the Senate if a resolution similar to the funding formulate resolution was needed for the new tax bill and cuts for graduate students. He stated that these changes could have a real impact on graduate education. Senator Marsico stated that it was ironic that offering in-state tuition over waivers may end up better for students from a tax perspective. Senator Phillips called the tax law a direct attack on higher education. The Senate discussed a time table for a potential resolution, noting that any resolution would be made after the fact since the House bill had already passed. President Elect McGregor stressed that any resolution made not be a political statement, but shows how the tax bill will have a negative effect in a broad sense. She stated that this is about our students, not bashing parties. Senator Phillips offered to work on the resolution. Senator Burns moved that the Senate works on the resolution. Senator Bridges seconded the motion, motion passed.

Chair McDaniel reminded the Senator that Shared Governance 17 FA 01 had been approved. He then called 17 FA 02 to vote. President Elect McGregor moved to approve the faculty handbook. Proxy Knight seconded, motion passed with 25 yeas, 3 nays, and 2 abstain. Chair McDaniel added that more work does need to be done on the handbook.

Chair McDaniel mentioned a request to having Senate meetings on Wednesdays. He noted that he could not remember a time when meetings were not on a Friday, but was open to moving the day if that better served the Senate. Senator Paulsen noted that many faculty had afternoon classes with the exception of Fridays. Senator Pearce added that several groups already meet on Wednesday. Faculty Association Secretary and Treasurer Grymes suggestion that any change be made with the election of new senators since many agree to serve thinking that meetings will be Fridays.

Senator Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Abernathy seconded; motion passed.

Senator Burns moved to adjourn the meeting; Senator Walz seconded; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Sheppard  
Faculty Senate Secretary