

A-State Faculty Senate
Friday, January 19, 2018
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 Absent

Education & Behavioral Science (6)

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

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

Fine Arts (3),

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

Humanities & Social Sciences (5)

- Win Bridges Absent
- Richard Burns Present

- 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)

- Lieutenant Colonel 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 Present

University College (1)

- Nikesha Nesbit Present

Chairs Council (1)

- Marika Kyriakos Present

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 2:59 pm. He begun by asking for approval of the agenda; there were no objections. McDaniel called for a moment of silence for Dr. David Agnew. He then recognized Brian Mason for his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Senator Burns made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Phillips seconded, motion passed.

President Elect McGregor then recognized Dr. Maurice Gipson for his new position as cabinet-level chief diversity officer.

Vice Chancellor Len Frey then addressed the Senate. Discussion points included:

- Impact of government shutdown:
 - Did not foresee major impact, but those funded with federal grants may be furlough.
 - Lt. Col. Mason added that approximately a 1/3 of his staff are federal employees and would be affected.
- Work was being continued in room 804 of the library to convert it to faculty space, including adding card swipe access and replacing carpet.
- Unsure how the new tax law will affect charitable giving on campus.
 - Could have possible impact on foundations.
 - Would be prudent for programs that are dependent on charitable giving to budget less.

Chancellor Damphousse then addressed the Senate and provided information and outlook about the campus's future, including:

- We are destined to have lower 2018 Spring enrollment than 2017.
 - Smaller freshmen class, fewer transfers, fewer returns, and large December graduating class all add to small Spring number.
 - While number is lower, not as bad as it could have been.
- The university is working hard on retention, especially with first time freshmen.
 - Last year, retained 86%. This year, retained 91.3%.
 - Only four more students needed to reach 92% (record retention).
 - Puts university on track for 85% retention goal in the Fall.
- Administration received a consultation report regarding our transfer system.
 - We have not done well with transfers and with our sister campuses.
 - Need to gear up transfer efforts on campus.
 - Not just for bottom line, but for student success.
- Record number of students admitted to the Fall semester: 3,305.
 - Need to make sure students come here.
 - Even if 50% come to A-State, will have dramatic impact on our campus.
 - Could possibly look at faculty and staff salaries. Staff are incredibly under paid.
- A-State did not fare well in the new funding formula.
 - We do not qualify for any new state funding.
 - We are being held harmless this year and will not be cut any funding.
 - Next year, we will be half harmless and could face 1% cut.
 - After that, could be facing 2% cuts if we don't make improvements.
- A-State needs to do better with diversity.
 - Only 12.8% of the student body is African American – lowest number in years.
 - There are only 32 minority faculty members on campus.
- The Governor has requested that Arkansas universities not raise resident tuition.
 - Can raise out-of-state tuition and fees.

Comments and questions posed to Chancellor Damphousse included:

- Is there any flexibility in academic suspension; Provost Cooksey stated that A-State already has a pretty lenient policy and has the restart program to help students, but we need to look at the suspension. We don't want students racking up debt if they won't change behaviors. Chancellor Damphousse added that students now also have the ability to regain scholarships if they can bring their grades back up.
- Update on the efficiencies study; Data collection is completed, waiting on reports to be compiled. Initial reports are showing that A-State is already lean. Expect 70% of report to cover revenue increases and only 30% to cover efficiencies and cuts (reverse from what Huron recommends at most campuses). Governor gave the System Office \$500,000 to help cover the study.
- Is the Completion Committee looking at sharing transcripts between campuses; a lot of work needs to be done to make improvements, including the System Office working with campuses and their agreements. Also need to improve communications whenever a student is at fault (e.g. unpaid bill).
- Other schools have a presence at Beebe but we don't; we don't have good communication with our sister schools.
- Other colleges, such as UCA, accept credits that we won't; need to look at campus agreements. We also need to consider if we are being too restrictive or are the other colleges being too open.

Provost Cooksey then addressed the Senate regarding the upcoming Higher Learning Commission visit:

- HLC will be on campus March 5 and 6 and should be a typical HLC visit.
- Normally, we complete a self-study to submit to HLC. This year, we had to complete an assurance argument.
 - More challenging report – challenge in trying to show evidence (e.g. missing minutes from shared governance committees).
 - Questions are broad in nature – try to focus on best practices and guess what goes in.
 - Study due in two weeks. Once submitted, we cannot make changes to it.
- When HLC is on campus, will expect them to meet with staff, faculty, and students and have more targeted questions when meeting with groups.
- Provost Cooksey stated that this will be the last HLC visit she will oversee.

Chair McDaniel stated that he didn't get the faculty handbook all the way through shared governance, expects it to be approved at the March 6th Board of Trustees meeting. He then asked the Senate for help in finding missing minutes from committees. He added that while researching the missing minutes, they found that there is no place for committees to even upload their minutes.

Chair McDaniel then told the Senate that he was schedule to go to the System Office the following week to receive the efficiencies report. He added that he would try to have another member of the steering committee at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Nikki Turner, Director of Sponsored Programs Accounting and Project Manager from Concur, then addressed the Senate regarding the Concur travel software, including:

- Two committees were formed: implementation and steering.
- Testing the software first with Athletics since they do a lot of travel and lot of different issues.
- Full campus rollout in March and all new requests need to be made in Concur starting May.

- Travel requests that have already been entered and approved through June 30th will be okay in the current system.
- Any travel for July and/or August that has already been entered and approved will need a new request in Concur.
- Automatic enrollment for employees who have complete essential training (Title IX, Child Maltreatment, Privacy & Security).
- All departments will receive individual training in addition to open training sessions.
- As with any new software, expect a few minor issues. Please email if you run into any problems.

Comments and questions posed to Ms. Turner included:

- If you don't complete the essential training, you can't travel; yes, you cannot access Concur without completing essential training. Training is mandated, even if not travelling. Departments will be notified who is missing training before Concur rolls out.
- Was it our idea or Concur's to tie in training with travel; it was our idea, there are over 800 people on campus who have not complete mandatory training.
- With the mobile option, do we still need to keep paper receipts; yes. Mobile allows you to take photos and upload receipts, but we are still required to keep the paper.
- Is there a preference for departments to have delegates or for everyone to submit their own travel; no preference, but the software is easy enough for anyone to use.
- If something is denied or sent back, will it be easier to tell why; whenever something is sent back, a comment must be made as to why. Concur also contains a tab that lists who has approved the request and should list any reasons for rejection.
- Dr. Damphousse commented that Concur is the go-to travel software and that he used it at his previous campus. He added that the mobile app was a life saver.

Chair McDaniel stated that several things were coming through shared governance, but were not at the point to discuss now. He added that Parking has asked SGOC to put something together regarding Limebikes on campus and people leaving them in streets and other obstructive areas. He then discussed the possibility of sun setting committees that don't meet or elect a chair in 2-3 years.

Senator Burns made a motion to adjourn. Senator Long seconded, motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 4:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Sheppard
Faculty Senate Secretary