

A-State Faculty Senate
Friday, February 16, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Steering Committee

- Mike McDaniel - Chair/President Present
- Loretta McGregor – President Elect Proxy
- Vice Chair – Claire Abernathy Absent
- 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 Proxy
- Amanda Wheeler Present
- David Holman Absent
- Sharon Davis Proxy
- Gwen Neal Present
- Amy Pearce Present

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

Fine Arts (3),

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

Humanities & Social Sciences (5)

- Win Bridges Present
- Richard Burns Present

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

Media & Communications (2)

- Manu Bhandari Present
- Pradeep Mishra Absent

Library & Information Resources (1)

- April Sheppard Present

Military Science (1)

- Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason Present

Nursing & Health Professions (6)

- Annette Bednar Absent
- 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

Chairs Council (1)

- Marika Kyriakos Present

Proxies:

Loretta McGregor – John Hall
 Jeonghee Choi – Nicole Covey
 Sharon Davis – Irina Khramtsova

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He began the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Tom Manning and Loretta McGregor's mother. He then thanked Shawnie Carrier and personnel from the Delta Center for allowing the Senate to use the space.

Chair McDaniel then reminded Senators that Jollean Sinclair sent out an email regarding Fall textbook adoptions. He encouraged faculty to make sure to turn in their adoptions on time.

He then gave an update on the faculty space on the 8th floor of the library. Progress on space has temporarily halted so that room 804 can be used for workspace for the Higher Learning Commission's visit.

Chair McDaniel then suggested that the Faculty Association give \$375 to Up to Dawn. Senator Phillips made a motion to support the donation. Senator Burns seconded, motion passed.

Next, Chair McDaniel gave an update on the faculty handbook. The reorganized handbook has successfully made its way shared governance and it now in the System Office. However after approval, lots of work will still need to be done to update the information in the handbook – such as updating the section about textbook adoptions.

President Chuck Welch then addressed the Senate regarding the Faculty Senate resolution regarding the System Office and recent Transparent Tuesday emails. Talking points included:

- Personnel from the System Office are always willing to meet and talk.
 - Has personally reached out to Erik Gilbert and Senator Maynard.
- Big proponent of shared governance, but part of shared governance is shared responsibilities.
- It's true that new money dropped off in 2015, but Arkansas State has still received new funds.
 - A lot of 2011-2015 new funding went to the Humanities Building.
 - State funding remains low. Flat funding is good now.
 - Universities are under pressure not to raise tuition, but legislators also know that universities can make up loss of funding through raising tuition.
 - Only way to receive new funding is to change the way we do business. Show that we are willing to be held accountable.
- To say that Arkansas State is failing in the productivity formula due to the System Office is wrong – it is all of us. We need to do better together.
 - We are tied in last place in the funding formula, but we are only measured against ourselves in future years, not other institutions.
- System Office has done a self-study to help determine potential shared services while keeping institution autonomy. Has already identified shared procurement opportunities among the two year campuses.
- ASU Newport is a standalone campus and not a satellite of Arkansas State Jonesboro.
 - Vast majority of ASUN students are seeking technical degrees not offered at A-State.
 - Even if ASUN was not in Jonesboro, other 2 year colleges are and would appeal to the same students.
 - Requests for ASUN classes in Jonesboro come locally, including from our campus.
- The System Office has 6.75 staff at the Jonesboro campus, the rest are in Little Rock.
 - System staff have education experience and directly related work experience – the most qualified people in the state at what they do.

- Money from the state does not go through the System Office. Money to the System Office comes from assessments tied to tuition.
 - In addition to funding formula, campuses are funded through Educational Excellence Trust Fund (EETF) and Workforce 2000.
- Board of Trustees members do receive training. State law requires 8 hours of training annually.
 - Created trustee liaisons to help trustees be better informed.
 - Implemented quarterly budget reports to give Board more time to look over reports and ask questions.
 - Trustees develop own financial reports.
 - Board of Trustees' decision to do Huron consultation.
- Faculty Salaries
 - All administrative salaries are institutional support and not faculty lines.
 - Instruction expenses have grown 8.3%, institutional support has grown 3.7%
 - From 2011 to 2016, professor, associate professor, and instructor salaries have grown against SREB averages.
- Part of benefit of System Office is addressing legislation that could affect the campuses.
 - We did get beat on conceal carry law, but we were successful at stopping previous attempts. Knew we couldn't win this year, so decided to focus on more training.
 - More bills regarding conceal carry coming. Issue is not going away.
- System Office
 - Little Rock office renovation and furnishings did not cost the university anything.
 - Current Little Rock residence was bought using funds from sale of donated Herbert McAdams home.
 - It would be a nightmare to renovate the Citizen's Bank building.
 - If it was up to Chuck Welch, System Office would be in Jonesboro; but Jonesboro is not the best location for the System.
- Arkansas State System:
 - Flagship campus benefits from system (transfer students, spreading of risk, Moody's debt standing, etc).
 - Does receive calls from other campuses interested in joining Arkansas State System.

Questions and comments to Dr. Welch, included:

- Senate resolution and Transparent Tuesday were not planned together or with knowledge of each other.
- Transparent Tuesday, resolution, and positive feedback tells us that we are in a precarious financial situation and we need to take steps to address the situation; undergrad enrollment, retention, and graduation are all down, but can't blame the System Office for these problems and getting rid of the System Office does not get rid of the System's needs.
- What are Pam Kail responsibilities; Kail puts together the Board's agendas, travel, and work. Has a high salary because she has been employed for over 20 years, works 7 days a week.
- Does the System Office have a projection of future available students/demographics; Flat for a few years, then raises. Expect increased enrollment of Hispanic students. Can't focus just on 18-year-olds, also focus on transfers and students elsewhere in the state.
- Will Huron data be made fully public; yes.
- What drives Moody rating; revenue, reserves, debt ratios - 2 year colleges have better reserves and debt ratios and help overall System receive higher ratings.

- What role does System Office play between campuses; we can help coordinate, but students are going to take cheaper, easier classes elsewhere regardless. Losing few students due to 2 year campuses.
- Would it be financially disastrous if System comes back to Jonesboro; System Office is bigger than Jonesboro. Have to put move in perspective of everything happening.
- What do community college professors do to help prepare students for junior and senior level classes here; a lot of community college students would be inadmissible here, a lot are seeking technical degrees. But we do need to improve pathways to matriculate.
- What about concurrent credit; not system issue, individual campus issue.
- It appears that the System Office cost as much money as it gives; Need to look at the benefits of a system. If we get rid of system, individual campuses would be responsible for legal, benefits, etc that System currently takes care of. In addition, being in Little Rock gives us a seat at the table with UofA. If move to Jonesboro, we would be dictated to.

Chair McDaniel asked for approval of the agenda. It was noted that the resolution be moved to old business. Senator Phillips moved to accept the agenda.

Provost Lynita Cooksey then addressed the Senate regarding the upcoming HLC visit:

- Provost Cooksey passed out criteria for accreditation to give Senators an idea of things we have to be accountable for.
- HLC is working on assurance arguments now.
- There will be a forum with representatives from HLC in the student auditorium during their visit.
- We do have a mission statement, but our actual mission is broader: serve students, provide economic development. The mission statement helps keep us focus.

Chair McDaniel asked for approval of the January 19th and February 2nd minutes. Senator Waltz motioned to approve both sets of minutes. Senator Phillips seconded; motion passed.

Chair McDaniel noted that Sarah Morris was leaving the Jonesboro Sun and thanked her for being a friend of the Senate.

He then asked what the Senate wanted to do with the resolution. Senator Maynard made a motion to table the resolution in order to make changes based on today's discussions. Senator Burns second. Motion passed with one abstain.

Chair McDaniel stated that SGOC needed a senator from the College of Business and asked for help finding someone to serve.

Senator Pearce noted that the Education and Technology Committee was looking at ProctorU alternatives including Biosign.

Senator Phillips asked if we are calling for nominations for Faculty Association Treasure/Secretary. Chair McDaniel replied that the Executive Council usually decides, but asked the Senate to be thinking about it.

Senator Burns made a motion to adjourn. Senator Maynard second; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 4:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Sheppard
Faculty Senate Secretary