

Faculty Senate Meeting September 20, 2019
Humanities and Social Science 1028

Attendees: Annette Bednar, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Ross Carroll, Kim Davis, Mary Donaghy, Paul Finnicum, Kathryn Flannigan, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, Gauri Guha, Shivan Haran, John Hershberger, Matthew Hill, Sharon James, Ryan Kelly, Donghoon Kim, Cheryl Knight, Joseph Loar, Bill Maynard, Loretta McGregor, Jeff McLaughlin, Suzanne Melescue, Jie Miao, Pradeep Mistra, Vicent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Joseph Richmond, Robert Robinette, Bill Rowe, Richard Segall, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson, Christine Wright, Karen Yanowitz

Proxy Attendees: Kacie Altom (Sarah Davidson), Kim Davis (Annette Hux)

Absentees: Manu Bhandari, Than Boves, Robert Bradley, Win Bridges, Bill Burns, Matthew Carey, Kellie Martin, Arianne Pait, Greg Phillips, Paul Sikkell

Meeting Called to Order: Loretta McGregor established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1502 by Loretta McGregor.

Approval of September 6, 2019

Motion to accept September 6, 2019 with amendments made by Ryan Kelly, seconded by Kathryn Flannigan, motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kelly Damphousse

Dr Damphousse discussed Arkansas State University's change of status from a MI to a R2 institution. He posed the question, do we want to remain a R2 and if so, how do we maintain it? He stated that our current infrastructure limits research ability, faculty salaries and teaching load. Another subtle change to consider is that being a R2 U.S. News and World Report sees Arkansas State University as a National University as opposed to a Regional University. Due to the change in status we dropped in USNWR ratings – this rating is based on various resources including class sizes, faculty salaries and how much money is in the bank. In addition, USNWR measures undergraduate teaching (Arkansas State University ranked 76th in the country and 1st in the state) and social mobility (ranked 119th in the country and 1st in the state). Arkansas State University has the largest number of online programs in the state (42% of May 2019 graduates graduated from an online program).

Enrollment: Over the last 4-5 semesters Astate has had large graduating rates. Factors that impact enrollment: low unemployment and perception that universities are too expensive. Astate not only needs more freshmen we need to retain freshmen. Funding built on Productivity Funding Formula, Dr. Damphousse stated “timing” was not in our favor. 1st year of Productivity Funding Formula no one lost funding. 2nd year Astate lost money that went into a pool. 3rd year (this year) Astate can make money on the re-allocation but not sure yet if there will be additional new money. We do get credit for being a research institution. All of this plays into strategic planning. A series of town hall meetings are being planned for community leaders, faculty, staff, students, etc..

Students now have the ability to apply to multiple universities at once- what makes us distinctive? We need to think about students' needs.

Dr. Damphousse asked for questions: Q- What are we doing to improve the virtual classroom?

A- Expanding quality, technology and the structural design of the online teaching paradigm.

Q- Academic partnerships. A- Partnerships are for 7 years, at 5 year mark reviewing

Q – Possible change in health care center. A- Considering changes to improve health services.

Students will not be disadvantaged in any way, if the new plan is not better than what currently exists Dr. Damphousse states he will not sign off on it.

Old Business

Senate Finance Committee –Criteria and criteria recommendations for Senate Finance Committee will be emailed to Senators by Dr. McGregor.

New Business

No New Business

Open Discussion

No discussion

Adjournment

Motion made by Joseph Richmond to adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 16:17.