

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
November 4th, 2022  
HSS 1028**

**Attendees:** Andrea Brown, Ibrahim Duyar, Gary Edwards, Karen Graham, Bert Greenwalt, Matt Harmon, John Hershberger, Zahid Hossain, Veena Kulkarni, Scott Mangan, William Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mishra, Carlitta Moore, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Jake Qualls, Claude Rector, Robert Robinette, Dayday Robinson, Ed Salo, Sarah Scott, Richard Segall, Rollin Tusalem, Kim Vickrey, Robert Williams

**Proxy Attendees:** Amanda Wheeler Griffin for Eric Scudamore, Matthew Harmon for Addie Fleming

**Absentees:** Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Kris Biondollilo, Donna Caldwell

**Guests:** Joanna Grymes

**Meeting Called to Order:** Ed Salo established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by Ed Salo.

**Order of the Day:** Motion made to approve the order of the day by John Hershberger, seconded by William Maynard, all in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made to approve the October 21, 2022 minutes by Andrea Brown, seconded by Bert Greenwalt, all in favor, motion carried.

**Q&A with Chancellor:**

- The Chancellor believes in communicating often, and will do this regularly.
- Cliff in demographics, double digit drops in enrollment in Arkansas universities.
- We need to talk about enrollment, retention.
- **Questions**
  - At what point do we get to a financial crisis with online/on campus enrollment and what do we do?
    - We are already there. We are down to 8000 students on campus. (11000 in 2011).
    - Do we cut spending or increase revenue? Focus is to increase revenue, and by increasing retention, increasing recruitment/enrollment (diff age groups). We need more ideas, however.
  - Saving money for A-State as a system. Library developed a plan to consolidate services, but never heard anything back. Could this play a role in cuts?
    - Shared services will be a big issue to consider at the system level.
  - A-State Jonesboro has had plans in place without buy-in from other libraries in the system.
  - Faculty reallocation? Is there a formal process?

- No, it is not clear, but we need one. By next spring, we will have a process. The process will be at the University AND College level.
- Will credit hours/workload play a part in the reallocation of faculty?
  - Yes. We will also look at existing programs for guidance.
- Legislation. If we look at Henderson, UALR, if their enrollment decreases dramatically, will it make the other Universities in the state stronger, or will they be helped?
  - If we are perceived as selling a private good versus public good, it will have serious ramifications. We are not trying to be a business model, we need to provide for the students.
- Clarification: Does the State of Arkansas have too many Universities from a legislative perspective.
  - Yes. We should concentrate on growing ourselves.
- How do we concentrate on mental health with the students and maintain our rigor?
  - Students will meet the expectations we set. Do not lower our standards.
- Our tax rates are different from other states. Why don't we get tax breaks like others? Arkansas Universities have to pay sales tax on equipment while others don't.
- Incentive for retirement?
  - Looking into that.
- Politics. Some parties think higher ed is bad, when this is advertised, how do we push back?
  - The advances in technology are helping with this. Without higher ed, not as many advances. We will still have to fight the fact that having a degree is not a "given" anymore like it was 10 years ago.
  - Let's not give them a case. Watch enrollment, recruitment, get through the "valley".
- Skill sets. You cannot get some things in online education.
  - We have been asked by industries to create certificates or courses on networking, working together, etc.
- We have existing classes as aforementioned already.
- Should we maybe branch out to other specialties and other geographical areas to reach more students?
  - Absolutely.
- Financial crisis. Part of our issue is the costs to get here for students. How do we support the students?
  - The Chancellor asks routinely for scholarship money from industries that ask us to offer programs. The Chancellor feels that responsibility falls on him.
- Are there Community Promises? There are areas of need around Jonesboro, would this help.
  - If local healthcare/industries would help with this, this could absolutely help with area needs/student costs, etc..
- Graduate level is hard for recruitment due to costs/lack of assistance for GA's.

- Grad programs and grad stipends are being looked at. There are donors interested in grad programs that we will approach.
- Grad students are very helpful in research.
- How much active recruitment is there?
  - We have some recruiters that help with this that are located in big areas like Dallas. Thilla has a document that details our recruitment endeavors.
  - We have stats on what counties we are losing students in. Craighead has less students going to college than ever before.
- We are in a deficit, how does a University have a deficit?
  - Online is subsidizing everything else.
  - 40% budget from the state, the rest is tuition/fees.
  - Over the last couple years, we have been using one-time monies. This is not sustainable.
  - Since Covid, enrollment has not gone back up.
- Slides from meeting this morning. 2015: online enrollment took off. Thilla took over around that same time. 2018 saw a drop in enrollment. With Online vs In person, is there a potential rethinking of on-campus operations?
  - Online and in-person are definitely different populations with different needs and both populations are changing, so we will need to rethink both populations, especially with advances in technology.
- Student life. Is there any thought to increase student activity?
  - Scheduling may be an issue.
  - It takes effort to help students figure out where they fit in, what activities could be offered. Development around the college is going to help with this. The mayor is trying to build an overpass for students to make it easier to get downtown.
- We lose students due to high costs of our housing compared to cheaper housing around us.
  - We need to market. Inflation is not helping.
  - Our fees are very low. Tuition in some programs is low (this needs to be advertised as well).
- Why are there less 18 year olds?
  - Economics has changed. Less people are having kids. Not just in the US.
- Has our international student population decreased?
  - It has actually increased.

**Guest Speaker:** No guest speaker schedule for this meeting.

**Old Business:**

*Committee Reports:* none

**New Business:**

Shared governance proposals:

- 1) Captioning:
  - Discussion/Questions/Comments: We have received many comments.
- 2) Admissions proposal:

- Discussion/Questions/Comments: Be sure to send comments, if any.
  - We have a couple of weeks for comments. Comments will be anonymous.

**Other Business:**

*No other business.*

**Open Forum:**

*No discussion.*

Ed Salo adjourned the meeting at 4:18 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18th at 3:00 pm in HSS 1028.