

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

October 7, 2022

HSS 1028

Attendees: Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Kris Biordollilo, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Ibrahim Duyar, Gary Edwards, Addie Fleming, Bert Greenwalt, Matt Harmon, John Hershberger, Gabriel Horowitz, Cheryl Knight, Veena Kulkarni, Scott Mangan, William Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mishra, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Jake Qualls, Claude Rector, Robert Robinette, DayDay Robinson, Ed Salo, Sarah Scott, Eric Scudamore, Richard Segall, Rollin Tusalem, Kim Vickrey, Robert Williams

Proxy Attendees: Michele Johnson for Karen Graham

Absentees: Hrishikesh Desai, Katie Hill, Zahid Hossain, Carlitta Moore, J. Morgan Weatherly

Meeting Called to Order: Ed Salo established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Ed Salo.

Order of the Day: Motion made to approve the order of the day by Andrea Brown, Addie Fleming seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve the September 16, 2022 minutes by Matt Harmon, Andrea Brown seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Adrian Everett; Multicultural Center

- Located on 3rd floor of student union; trainings for equity and inclusion; can come to classes or department meetings for faculty and staff;
- Partnership with Alumna Shandra Turner-free Android tablets to students that are Pell Grant eligible can stop by the office to apply or can scan QR code and follow directions; end of spring semester faculty in drawing for gift card or trip. If students get other government assistance (military veterans, etc) and others may qualify. Tablets are the students to keep. One time activation fee for data plan \$11. Will send a video about tablets. Ed will send out a copy of the flier.
- DI training 3 different levels entry, all the way to top layer 3; share audience and can share different trainings that they offer.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Hans Hacker; Teaching at ASUCQ (Campus Querétaro)

- Taught this summer at our Mexico campus; two sections of general education course with 18 students total
- Came back with real appreciation of what faculty and administration is doing there. Campus is exquisite; classrooms first rate; modern buildings. Perched on edge of rough terrain 7,000 ft elevation. Shared beautiful pictures. Was adopted by three students while he was there.
- Message is that we need to take more of an interest there. What they have accomplished is outstanding. Two separate accrediting bodies (1 in US and 1 in Mexico); Interest in

expanding programs there. Academic reputation is improving and did have growth during the pandemic. About to start generating its own money—hopefully to finish the library. He's the first professor from ASU-J to teach on campus at CQ. Only 1 student has moved from Jonesboro to CQ. English was great, wonderful writing in a gen ed course. Want to develop more ties here.

- Interested in faculty-led summer abroad. Hans is going back next summer and they are interested in bringing more faculty there. Felt safe the entire time. Payment in summer would be from CQ, not Jonesboro—they pay at the adjunct rate. Thilla added we would love more faculty to go and could lead a study abroad.

Old Business:

Committee Reports: N/A.

New Business:

No new business.

Other Business:

Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran- Discussion about proposed changes to Admissions Standards

- No voting today; going through the shared governance process; SGOC meets next Friday. Thilla volunteered to discuss the proposal today. Proposal is wanted to be expedited. This is an informational session about the proposal. SGOC will vote if they want to expedite it—then would only have 7 days. Each constituency will vote. If this occurs, we would vote at the next meeting on 10/21.
- Last year we had 305 students denied admission 3.0 or 19 ACT or top 20; could appeal. Only 85 appealed; the other 224 did not. 76 of those that appealed got admitted. Start looking at other universities- UofA, UC, Ole Miss. Thilla stated we only have 1 pathway. Student 2.98, ACT 14 or so—denied- went through appeal and denied—ACT not a good indicator, but student denied. At A-State, the ACT is not a good indicator, but GPA is better. This would be a pilot study to let us study for 3 years where if you don't have those 3 things, you can be admitted under Pack Support. Support more on student life, study hall, concierge/student assistant for students to determine where to go to get info. We are a first generation university; so not all students have parents who know the process. Students in fraternity/sorority/athletics graduate at a higher rate. Living learning communities—create bonds with students—want this population of students to set up a living learning community or part of their college LLC. Task based study hall (like athletics). We need to make sure if we do this that we provide faculty for remedial math, english. Thilla will work towards getting these lines funded with Drs.Fry/Utter/Shields if needed—not part of the current proposal but will be addressed. Retention rate 75-76% for A-State freshman to sophomore 2.3-3.0 little over 50%--need to get this higher. Concern about debt for this student—with right support and guidance Thilla believes we can improve this. This is why this is a pilot study—will help determine what other support services might be needed.
- Question: Number of pathways- we technically have 3 pathways? Are these students accepted on campus at UofA or community colleges associated with these universities? Thilla stated they are admitted on campus, not community colleges. We tried this with ASUN and then transferred to ASU main campus, but it did not go well. Student support

workers vs students; coordinator for the whole program 1:150 ratio. Not helping with content; just liaison to different entities on campus. If the 3 benchmarks are met, then after 3 years, then it would become permanent. Faculty asked could we consider voting after the 3 years at the end of the pilot? Thilla was open to this suggestion.

- Ed asked what it means for a student to be “admitted with Pack Support”-Thill answered it’s not technically “admitted with conditions”. Not conditional, but aids the student. In transition studies, you have to be admitted first. Students can then test out with Accuplacer (low math or english ACT subscores). Remedial, support, but have to be admitted first. We are not talking about transition study students. Assume most of these students will be transition studies? Yes. How is this different from what UC is doing?--they focus on the academic side; but we need to address student life. Have we thought about changing the appeal process? Thilla said yes, have considered removing letters of recommendation; don’t know how many will go through the appeal process or how many didn’t even apply.
- Is there a certain number of students or limit? Thilla stated expecting 150-200; will get additional lines if needed. We don’t expect to get 1000 students. Study hall? No guarantee, but having to monitor and be a part of their culture could tie to needs based scholarship—to make it mandatory. It is a risk that students don't follow through. Only study hall through 1st year, but assistants/concierge will stay with them for 4 years. Want someone to follow and continue to guide them. In AP have a coordinator that follows through; the number of “touches' ' is less in years 2, 3, & 4. In year 3 & 4 assistant/concierge would help set them up with career services. Will adjust this as we go through it and determine how this population moves through. May have to adjust the assistant to student ratio. Could vote at the end of 3 years if we want to continue.
- Want concierge for ALL students—SGA voted to cosponsor. Everybody should have this. Martha Spack stated you better be ready to provide this service for everyone. Money will come from Thilla’s unit—work on new online projects to funds (money from AOS). Will be up to Dr. Shiels and Dr. Fry and how they will continue funding. Proposal would have to be changed if we want to revote in 3 years. Can SGOC add to the proposal? Will first determine if it’s shared governance and then if it can go through expedited review.
- Pointing to already existing resources—student assistant/concierge will be for those admitted with Pack Support. Will work to hire and train. Would meet with other departments to learn more. Issues already with tutoring services
- Assistant-/Concierge- how is this different from PackSupport? This is “your person”; to help you find where to go. Teamwork app to communicate—to text for help. Bill Smith stated that as the student, I have to reach out to Pack Support—the assistant/concierge would be tracking students and reaching out to them. Assistant/concierge would meet students at NSO.
- Demographic data- how many from underrepresented populations? How is it different from an academic advisor? The assistant/concierge is not advising on classes to take—will help them connect with their advisor. Again, not an academic advisor. Model after Academic Partnerships (AP). Teamworks (with athletics)- would have access to students schedules to also help keep them on track. Will take work on the students part to stay engaged. Should we add more academic advisors? Not the goal of this proposal, but is being discussed. Again, the assistant would be more of a concierge.

- UofA, UCA are our competitors. Need test score for remediation. Departments can have their own standards (nursing, teacher education). Can put programmatic requirements, but program/department choice.
- Did we get data from students, social media? Data will be out in a few weeks. Previous task force listed standards in 2020; other schools made changes and we are no longer competitive. Will continue to look at admission standards every year. Only have 1 year of data? Is this enough data?
- Per Thilla, I can be an international student and just need a 2.3 GPA and then come and take the Accuplacer. If you are an Arkansan, you have to have to do a lot more. We make it more difficult for our in-state students to be admitted than for our international students.
- Can we apply to a small cohort of students and offer guardrails to see if this works—would seem like more of a pilot? Instead of 200, could we consider only 20 students? Where would we draw the line? Not worth it for only 20 and wouldn't tell us much. Can't cap it—can't say your in and your out.
- Ariane brought up the funding formula— if we miss a goal by a little bit, it feels as faculty that it's "our faculty". Not appropriate as expedited—will benefit if not expedited because then it can undergo minor edits. Thilla- More online students-more funding; If it doesn't get expedited, won't impact Fall 2023 class.
- Appeals process technically the "second pathway"? Transition studies is basically this process. Nikesha— saying we already do this model in transition studies. "First in the Pack"—already in place. Honors and Student Support Services already do this. Why can't this collaborate with Transition Studies? How would the success coaches be sustainable? Could possibly work together. Thilla stated he has spoken with Dr. Simons on this as well. Will impact other students' services, tutoring, etc. Student assistant—full time staff (Not a STUDENT worker). Does not exclude students from services we already offer (transition studies, tutoring, etc.).
- Ed stated he will send a list of senators who are on SGOC out in case you want to address any questions or concerns with them.

Open Forum:

- It was asked if we could send calendar invitations for meetings. Ed said yes, and that he would do this moving forward.
- Tim Oliver brought up enrollment data- were told we would get it 3 weeks ago and did not receive this information.
- Matt Harmon mentioned the Canvas transition- Could someone come speak to us about this? Training? Need to meet with them by the end of semester—may need Assessment to come at the same time. Kevin mentioned that Assessment has met with Canvas—but the Assessment office has major concerns. Still working on this.

Ed Salo adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 21st at 3:00 pm in HSS 1028.