

A-State Faculty Senate  
Minutes for April 19, 2019  
Delta Center, Room 201

**PRESENT**

Jeongho Ahn, Donna Caldwell, Kim Davis, Sharon Davis, Mary Donaghy, Joanna Grymes, Matthew Hill, Sharon James, Marika Kyriakos, Mollie Manning, Kellie Martin, Bill Maynard, Loretta McGregor, Jeff McLaughlin, Nikesha Nesbitt, Joseph Richmond, Bill Rowe, Richard Segal, Paul Sikkel, Marcus Tribbett, Stacy Walz, Amanda Wheeler, Christine Wright

Proxies: Matt Carey by Marika Kyriakos, Annette Hux by Amanda Wheeler; Irina Khramtsova by John Hall; Robert Robinette by Wendy Christ; Steve Weimar by Marcus Tribbett

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. McGregor determined there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Dr. McGregor asked to suspend the approval of the minutes of April 5, 2019, as there were requests for the minutes to include more detail. Secretary Cheryl Knight agreed to add detail. McGregor will send out an updated version.

**VISITORS**

Dr. Dampousse, Chancellor, provided updates:

- Last year's retention rate was a record 5%, and was the largest across the state
- Retention rates for Fall registration currently are a little lower; we are aiming to break last year's record
- Dr. Alan Utter accepted the position of Provost and will begin July 1
- Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan will be leading focus groups this next month and town meetings June through September. The plan will be written Fall 19 and implementation will begin Spring 2020.

Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran, Executive Director of Global Strategies & Outreach, provided an overview of the unit, which is comprised of International Programs and A-State Online.

International Programs

- is self-funded
- 810 students Spring 2019
- Enrollment decline due to some visa policy changes, some scholarship options from some countries

- International students represent 69 countries
- 23 active partnerships related to exchange and transfer students
- ESL tuition and fees, international application fees, summer programs are the revenue stream for his International Programs operations
- Partnerships include active exchange programs, transfer and double degree programs, and active transfer programs representing Europe, Asia, Africa, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Mexico
- Vetting process of the program for transfers and degree programs – inquiries come either from the universities themselves or faculty who have graduated from those universities; International Programs determines if there is mutual interest; if mutual interest, International Programs approaches the program/department; the department chair signs off on the courses to transfer/substitute; a site visit with or without interested department faculty occurs
- Study Abroad – 13 students this year; 126 students in faculty-led programs this summer; different approaches (third party vendor or work with faculty to partner with another institution/create their own)

#### A-State Online (AOS)

- 5243 enrolled; only 11 international students; about half are in-state/half out-of-state
- Average age is 33 for undergraduate and 36 for graduate students
- 37% of spring enrollment for spring; 43% of graduates last year are in AOS
- Generated net profit of \$4.5 million (after all program expenses)
- 15 undergraduate, 25 graduate programs online; 9 certificates
- Helped fund 3 new degrees
- Displayed the current AOS programs
- AOS Funded 19 full-time faculty lines
- \$708,000 revenue shared back to departments in FY 18
- Looking at 4 undergraduate and 2 graduate programs
- Projected growth - \$3 million in international tuition
- Projected FY19 online profit @ \$5 million and estimated \$950K- \$1 million revenue to departments

The floor was opened to questions for Dr. Sivakumaran

Curiosity about the vetting process was expressed. Is there a formal system for creating partnerships? For the Malta process, Thilla met with chairs about programs in January, then chairs reviewed courses determining those they would be willing to accept. Each department handles how to look at the partnership and approval process differently; could be the department as a whole participated or only the chair. The programs/chairs determine what happens with the program approval based on course syllabi.

It is typically either faculty who bring partnership opportunities. Either the faculty has worked at or graduated from the institution or may have students who have come from or are going to these institutions.

Vetting of programs occurs at the department level; International Programs vets the university and does conduct a site visit; if faculty are interested, faculty may visit as part of that process. Is there a wholistic review of the institution? For example, in Malta, they may have had syllabi, but those were for classes not yet taught.

A site visit was completed for Malta; the university was accredited by the Malta government and by the EU. The US Embassy encouraged the partnership. An analogy was raised provided comparing the process to accepting transfer credits from an individual student; in that case it is determined if the institution was accredited but there is no formal review of the institution as a whole to accept the coursework. Thilla asked what criteria for a university and country should be considered before entering into partnership?

Thilla stated an oversight council that has been formed to improve the partnership process. McGregor asked what was the charge and membership of the council and what role does Legal Counsel play?

Every MOU goes through legal, even to have a discussion to occur to initiate the process. Members of the council were listed, it includes a faculty senator from each college, also included are a dean and a student. The charge of the committee is provide counsel and guidance on what are the criteria needed to make such agreements/partnerships.

A comment addressing the quality or level of institutions A-State partners with was made. Were A-State more highly ranked domestically, we could partner with more prestigious institutions abroad.

If a faculty has an interest or potential opportunity for a partnership, how can they initiate the discussion? Email Thilla and that can begin the conversation.

McGregor asked Thilla, given this last MOU did create a flashpoint, what might you do different going forward? Dr. Cooksey is forming a committee on how to vet programs and that may bring about changes. There is now a form that goes to all departments as part of the review process ascertaining if all program/department faculty are aware of the partnership and determining if there are any concerns about the proposed partner university.

Senator Paul Sikkell noted he was a strong supporter of these ventures as it moves A-State forward. Working with international "up and coming institutions"

allows for making connections not only with those institutions, but others that also see their potential and may be more prestigious. He described a partnership with a South Africa program that is better supported and better equipped than our A-State program. The partnership benefits students and faculty with research collaboration and course development. The exchange program sends students here in the fall; A-State sends students there in spring.

McGregor stated there have been some issues with this last MOU with Malta. Concerns were voiced. She asked what were the concrete changes moving forward. Thilla replied he had already described some (Council and department forms); there may be others things we can do moving forward.

McGregor stated the university, faculty and administration, may have to do a better job of communicating among ourselves and within our departments/colleges. McGregor stated that if there were things faculty believed she could do to facilitate improved communication, please contact her.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

All Shared Governance Proposals were voted on at the last meeting. The final resolution of these are still pending as the SGOC is waiting on some constituency groups to send final votes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The President-Elect for Faculty Association/Chair of the Faculty Senate will be elected this semester. This individual will step into position of President/Chair in 2020. Three nominations were forwarded; two declined to serve. McGregor will send out a ballot for the election with one nomination.

Senators with terms ending need to assure College and Departments hold elections for the new senators this spring. McGregor will be asking for those names during the summer. Elections should be held in the spring and those senators should be seated by the fall. Individuals must have 3 years of service to the institution to serve on the Senate.

Senators are needed to serve as faculty marshals for graduation. The May 1th 10 am ceremony is for CNHP and CEBS and two senators from NHP and two senators from COEBS are needed to serve. For the 2:30 Ceremony, one senator is needed from CAG, CB, or CECS and one is need from CLAC, CSM or US. Please email Dr. McGregor if you are interested as soon as possible, so names can be printed in the program.

Volunteers are also needed for August and December graduations as well.

McGregor sent an email from Dr. Simons requesting contributions to a scholarship in honor of Dr. Cooksey. In the past this book scholarship for first year students was funded through a book used by the first-year students. The scholarship was about \$250 and recipients were determined by the FY Faculty for students who meet the spirit of the first-year experience. It has not been funded for several years; when it was funded approximately 15 students were awarded.

McGregor asked if we were interested on making a donation to this scholarship. We have approximately \$11,000 in the Faculty Association checking account. Motion was made to donate to the LC FYE Book scholarship (James moved/Tribbett seconded). The motion passed; 19 yes; 3 opposed.

A motion for \$1000 donation to the scholarship fund was made by Sharon James/ seconded Paul Sikkel. Discussion arose concerning allocating funds to students that came from Faculty Association Dues; this is funds to be spent on faculty. How much to fund from the Faculty Association could be a concern. The motion was amended to \$500 (James/Sikkel); motion passed with 17 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

McGregor called for any more business. None was raised.

On Deck: Retirement Reception and Drop-in for Dr. Lynita Cooksey Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:00-5:00 pm Cooper Alumni Center

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:15 pm.