

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 2nd, 2024
HSS 1028**

Attendees: Ed Salo, Richard Segall, Jake Qualls, Jessica Curtis, Pradeep Mishra, Bert Greenwalt, Karen Graham, Alexandr Sokolov, Guolei (Jason) Zhou, William Maynard, Ibrahim Duyar, Gary Edwards, Matt Carey, Zahid Hossain, Cheryl Knight, Rollin Tusalem, Veena Kulkarni, Audrey Folsom, DayDay Robinson, Katie Camden, Addie Fleming, Kim Vickrey, Paul Finnicum, John Hershberger, Suzanne Melescue, Kristen Sumler, Robert Robinette, Arianne Pait, Scott Mangan, Robert Williams, Tocarra Carter, Khem Aryal

Proxy Attendees: Karen Graham for Sarah Scott

Guests: Sandra Combs, Brandon Tabor, Mark Smith, Mary Jackson Pitts, Dustin Sullivan, Amanda Mohler (President Elect), Lillie Fears

Absentees: Shanon Brantley, Andrea Brown, LTC J. Morgan Weatherly, Dwayne Powell, David Pearlman

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 to approve the order of the day by Paul Finnicum, seconded by John Hershberger, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the January 19, 2024 meeting minutes by Paul Finnicum, second by John Hershberger, all in favor, motion carried.

Provost Update/Q&A- Dr. Calvin White: Conducted by Will McLean

- Dr. White unable to attend, Chancellor Shields and Will McClean present to answer questions
 - Question from Qualtrics: “What is the protocol for colleges/Deans to pay for manuscript publications? Some Deans will pay no matter the author order a faculty member is on the manuscript. Other Deans will only pay if the faculty is full-time and first author. Some college/ Deans will not pay if the authors are adjunct. There seems to be some inconsistency on the campus regarding supporting research. What is the policy for having manuscripts paid for by the college/ Dean?”
 - Chancellor- a lot of inconsistencies. Working with deans to correct. No policy on it across campus, but there will be. We can see what works in other places and adopt it. Is the budget from the University or is it only up to colleges? Depends on the college. Differential tuition could pay, grants,

deans. Be as equal as we could. Use this first, then this, and then this, and then we might be able to help.

- University policy for overload? What is the policy? There isn't one right now. Dean makes the decision. Not consistent about this. 9 month vs 12 month? Don't know about that. It has been inconsistent. The workload policy that is being worked on should help some with this. This should be something that is set.
- Teaching course in accredited program—would you ever cancel in fall or spring due to low enrollment? Could do an independent study. Is this a consistent problem and need to look at this more closely? We don't want students to get hurt. Are faculty teaching equitably—working to get this consistent. Required class in summer, students complain. Can't have required class in summer only.
- Delayed FAFSA- how has it impacted enrollment? Hoping we would have it by now. Using other data sources. Might miss 2%, but not that many. Using proxies for what FAFSA will give us later. Everyone is in the same boat. Affects us with the Promise Plus scholarship. We are currently estimating and guessing where people are at, but saying here's what we think.
- Does a separate CRN count as separate course? AOS- Chris aligning policy on that. If there are 2 separate courses, it counts separately. If merged, they don't. Refer to dean. 7 separate classes with 100+ students. No overload, and now not hiring adjuncts and pushing work back to faculty. You should get compensation if you're a chair or direct a department. This is why we need a workload policy then this is what we will be telling deans and chairs. Can address for now at university level. Timeline for workload policy? Hopefully it will be ready for next year. We'll get to it this spring. A lot comes down to money; enrollment is up; even if we have lowest yield, we'll have more than in the past. Social media marketing. Increased students on campus and online. Finances should be there to do what we are talking about.
- Summer camps and housing not able to give us dates/costs? Unable to plan. Art Design department—Chancellor will investigate. Can't set dates—will talk to Martha.

New Business:

- The Closure of the Multimedia Journalism Program And Its Implications For The Program Viability Review Process- Gary Edwards Associate Professor of History
 - Ed- thank Dr Edwards for preparing; did this on his own and was not asked
 - Keep civility in this; what happened and what we can do in the future.
 - 17th of November- losing programs- music and journalism-music changed structure of degree. Journalism- not sure what happened
 - Dug in records, emails, when was decision made, who knew? Doing viability for Masters, but undergrad program was dead.
 - If it was science, this would have never happened (only have 4 per year; but others must have 6)
 - State not interested in programs at all schools; but we should be interested in all our programs.

- This was done to show that the university needs a better process to lead programs through viability review; the process didn't work. There are other vulnerable programs. Also hope we can still somehow have an accredited journalism program on this campus
- Questions/comments:
 - At one time, no interest in closing these programs and then it was like a switch was flipped
 - Go before ADHE, if you argue, they might let you give it a try; got strong arguments to make to ADHE for journalism (Will and Chancellor)--if you had solid argument, they'd say yes. Met with programs on list and had our arguments ready. When we got to the agenda, they said we're done. Texting Shane Broadway to see if we can make an argument later. New policy that no one knew of that if you've been on list for 3 years in a row, you were cut. It wasn't enforced before, but now it is. In July/August, we told faculty we want to try to revive this program, but that we will have to go back with a revised program. Chancellor has done this in the past. It is a crucially important discipline. Can't have democracy if citizens aren't informed. Over the country it has declined, but there are examples of where it has grown. Got team together to work on this; So far, that hasn't happened. At some point, we'll have to step in, but have tried to leave it up to faculty
 - Time frame? You can reintroduce at any time. If you reintroduce the same program, they'll say no. If it's revised, you can do it at any time.
 - How is information supposed to be disseminated? 3 year rolling average. But now they send every October, response due, and then reviewed. Sent out to Deans and Chairs historically. Invited them to come over to put together a response. It was never taken seriously in the past, because no one really got cut. 2021 and 2022, info never got to Deans/Chair. Faculty hadn't gotten until this past October. If had been made aware, would have addressed like Master's program is being addressed. Don't know why you weren't notified, but you will now. With administration now, don't wait until they notify us. Call yourself in trouble before you get on the state's list. If we give people a reason to cut us, they will. We are looked at as a private good now, not a public one. We've got to market ourselves and that's the reality. Everything is straight numbers and economics at the state now when new programs are presented. We are numbers on a grid.
 - Time frame- 6 year window before you are reviewed.
 - Similar issue in HPESS; someone above us made decisions not in our favor; didn't get a chance to respond. Didn't get anything until it was too late. Given 1 year opportunity; old program that went to new median (online). This is what ADHE is going to do; they are no longer the ones we talk to but dictate to us. We can revise and resurrect things. We can't fix the past but can work for the future.
 - Cheating scandals of 2017 & 2018- how is this going to affect programs when any are caught cheating and change majors? Doesn't sound like

we'll be able to defend that. Response is only about a paragraph in length; they aren't interested in the reason. They just want to know how you are going to have 6 or more graduates. Very prescriptive process and short window to respond (around 1 month).

- What is the data needed for ADHE to justify creation of new program—other university, employer needs. That process hasn't change. Do look at expenses. Going to look a lot at workforce—is this going to get a job? Adding a new program takes work, but not impossible. They ask—are these kids going to be able to work in AR? National or AR data?—both. State only considers job analysis in state only—only pull numbers for AR. We don't have to be vocational—we are an R2 4-year institution; we want to give students tools, but don't have to just be vocational.
- Can journalism be a track within creative media? Yes. Tracks are all then in same pool for viability, so that helps.
- Guest- Instruction was to become a 1-degree program with common core curriculum MMJ (4 of us) working since summer of 2023 to come up with minor for MMJ and core curriculum ideas for MMJ. Met with opposition that has been in writing from those who do not support journalism because it's not “creative”. Not going to be reconciliation; not going to be one degree or a core curriculum. All programs need to be fed and nurtured. Not people telling students to not take my class or program to beef up their own program.
 - Chancellor- I don't know the history. Do you want to work together and have jobs or do you not? Do you pull together for the benefit of students and campus or not? Administration will take over if that's what we must do, to do what's best for students. If people are being uncollegial, that has to be dealt with. Chancellor- “I won't be here and not have a journalism program” Will put on receivership if necessary, but not what Chancellor wants to do.
 - Could faculty make request to join with another areas? Yes, we can do lots of things; but we can't just not do anything. Would have to merge sometime of hybrid degree; it's not department, it's degree. Journalism does not want to be under umbrella of creative media? Journalism is not creative; it's the first part of history. Journalism does not make it up.
 - We all should be growing; but both these programs are declining; journalism just declined faster. More identify with “journalism” (high school students). The label is journalism. If we don't have that label to our communication programs, all will suffer.
 - Journalism requires accreditation; creative media could be accredited, but is not. Might be assessing well, but not going to save you if you don't meet graduation levels.

- A-state wasn't the only university to have programs cut; all universities were blind-sighted. First time in 30 years that they didn't hear arguments. Everyone was shocked.
- Cut down silos and work together for students. Chancellor: "I Do NOT want to go to receivership".
- Ask that administration be transparent in numbers of graduating students. Are programs/deans not tracking this data. The fact book is posted but is about 18 months behind. What year in the 3-year cycle are we each in?
 - Want data at faculty level; hoarding the knowledge is not helpful. We want to protect ourselves as the faculty. Democratizing the data.
 - Continue discussion next week; need people to get together to write a resolution. We want communication and alerts to be set in stone.
 - We don't want this ball to be dropped again
 - Volunteers for resolution- John, Khem, others. Write proposal stating what faculty senate wants. Does not have to go to shared governance since it's not changing a policy. This is just one part of the solution.
 - Number systems (Alex Sokolov)- 3 reasons why should be 5000/7000 level course—1 personal preference, 2- prereq for 6000 or 8000 (but doesn't have to be), 3- cross-listed with another level course.
 - Ed specialist- 7000 terminal degree
 - AI policy from CETL- volunteer group; discussing more on instructional side. The goal is to come up with some kind of recommendation.

Old Business:

- Discuss potential comments to the Board about what Faculty would like in a System President

Other Business:

- None

Ed Salo adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm. The next meeting will be Friday, February 16th, 2024.