

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

1-20-2017

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT	SENATOR
AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	Greg Phillips
BUSINESS	
COMPUTER & INFORMATION TECH	Richard Segall
ECONOMICS & FINANCE	Phillip Tew
MANAGEMENT & MARKETING	Sharon James
EDUCATION & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE	
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE	David Holman
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP	Gwen Neal
HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, & SS	Claudia Benavides
PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING	Loretta McGregor
TEACHER EDUCATION	Jeonghee Choi
AT LARGE	Amy R. Pearce
ENGINEERING COLLEGE	Shivan Haran---absent
FINE ARTS	
ART & DESIGN	Joe Ford---proxy Bill Rowe
MUSIC	Kyle Chandler
THEATRE	Claire Abernathy
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	
CRIMINOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY & GEOG	Mary Donaghy
ENGLISH, PHIL & WORLD, LANGUAGES	Richard Burns
	Win Bridges
HISTORY	Aiqun Hu
POLITICAL SCIENCE	Hans Hacker---absent
LIBRARY	April Sheppard
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS	
COMMUNICATIONS	Manu Bhandari---absent
MEDIA	Pradeep Mishra
MILITARY SCIENCE	Vacant

NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

NURSING	Brinda McKinney
HEALTH PROFESSIONS	Annette Bednar---absent
SOCIAL WORK	Jody Long
AT LARGE	Debbie Shelton
AT LARGE	Larry Morton
AT LARGE	Amber Wooten

SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

BIOLOGIC SCIENCE	Bob Bennett---absent
CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS	Ross Carroll
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Jeff Jenness
MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS	Suzanne Melescue
AT LARGE	

UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES	Nikeshia Nesbitt
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Faculty Association	Mike McDaniel
Past President, Faculty Association	Greg Phillips
Vice President	Loretta McGregor
Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Association	Joanna Grymes

Visitors- Doug Whitlock, Tom Moore, Wayne Wilkinson

Call to order-

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

First Order of Business-

Approval of minutes. It was noted that Richard Segall was marked absent although he was present at the December meeting. That change was made and the minutes were updated. Hearing no other changes, Richard Burns moved to approve the minutes and Susan Melescue seconded. Approval of minutes was made by acclamation.

Opening statements-

Mike McDaniel stated he was asked by the Gazette his opinion of the University of Arkansas dropping out of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). This organization was formed in 2002 for universities with division 1 football. It is comprised of approximately 65 faculty senate presidents. The organization is changing its bylaws and wants input from all constituents. McDaniel admitted that he was not aware of A-State's membership so details will be forthcoming. A flyer was presented to senators if they chose to seek out more information on the organization.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Lynita Cooksey was introduced to discuss House Bill 1209. This is a bill to adopt a productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education. It is proposed to improve student success and graduation rates. The hope is to raise completion and graduation rates by 10%, raise attainment of degrees by the underserved by 10%, and by fall 2018 increase adult enrollment (ages 25-54) by 50%.

Cooksey presented a PowerPoint outlining the funding model, how the productivity model helps meet the goals of the master plan, and how the metrics are defined. This was disseminated to all senators via hard copy and e-mail. Two sample student scenarios were also presented to show the breakdown of points accumulated for the university based on the parameters of the funding model.

Cooksey pointed out the strengths of the model—student centered, individual institution recognized, provides equal weighting for traditional vs. non-traditional students, encourages accountability, and aligns funding with state priorities. The total funding recommendations will be calculated from prior funding + new funding + reallocated funding, with no more than a +/- 2% change per year.

Cooksey stated if passed, faculty must be more thoughtful when advising students and be mindful of transfer credits, course sequences, and substitutions to increase student success and completion.

Doug Whitlock stated academic policies may need to be adjusted in light of this new model and all updates on the legislative process will be passed on as they come forth.

Cooksey made some final comments on her trip to the A-State campus in Mexico. Construction is moving along and there are hopes to accept the first class in 2017.

Maurice Gipson, vice chancellor for diversity, was introduced to discuss new efforts being put forth in regards to campus climate. Campus climate can be defined as the attitudes, behaviors, and standards of faculty, staff, administration, and students concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities, and potential. Gipson quoted the diversity mission statement of the university and stated their office helps facilitate discussions and brings differing opinions together for the benefit of all. The office of diversity and human resources regularly assesses campus culture and environment. They are charged with the responsibility to:

1. Serve as a resource
2. Support individuals who have been affected
3. Collect data regarding incidents
4. Provide research-based solutions and recommendations
5. Refer individuals to the appropriate support services
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of the response process

A new Campus Climate Council is being proposed to hear issues from around campus. Their goal will be to address issues and concerns in a timely manner, act as a resource, and foster a sense of community

facilitation of dialogue. Proposed council members would consist of diversity, human resources, and student & academic affairs staff, member from the SGA, women & gender studies, Greek life, campus police, disability services, Global initiatives, IFC, NPC, NPHC, and residence life.

Several comments were made regarding the council structure being too “administrative” or “top-down” in nature and felt some individuals may be apprehensive to come forth. Perhaps the structure could include a member of the faculty or staff senate. Gipson stated that he is open to suggestions as nothing has been confirmed, but this structure hoped to put individuals on the council who were “decision makers” and could see that issues are validated and resolved.

Loretta McGregor stated she understood the reasoning behind the council structure but also felt it may be beneficial to include a faculty senator as someone who is “working in the trenches” with students on a daily basis and can report back to the senate on a consistent basis.

Whitlock stated he supported these efforts and also noted that certain faculty who are experts in their respective disciplines could be vital resources should certain issues arise and should be taken into consideration.

John Pratte mentioned that many colleges around campus already have some way to bring groups together as issues arise and this council can simply unite them as one.

A common question from several senators alluded to noting the differences between the established shared governance committee versus the campus climate council. Gipson noted the key difference is the climate council can only advise solutions and give recommendations. It will not have the authority to make decisions. Gipson closed by stating he invites feedback and nothing is concrete. He will be happy to consider all suggestions.

Old Business-

McDaniel stated that the chancellor search, sexual discrimination, medical amnesty, and shared governance action have all been approved. The time will be approaching soon for leadership changes in the senate and anyone interested in a leadership role should bring those forth at the appropriate time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday February 3rd. Richard Burns made a motion to adjourn and it was approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wooten