

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 3rd, 2023
HSS 1028**

Attendees: Ed Salo, Gabriel Horowitz, Donna Caldwell, John Hershberger, Jake Qualls, Robert Williams, Sarah Scott, Cheryl Knight, Matthew Harmon, William Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Robert Robinette, Richard Segall, Kris Biondollilo, Scott Mangan, Gary Edwards, Carlitta Moore, Veena Kulkarni, Zahid Hossain, and Arianne Pait

Proxy Attendees: Benjamin Poku for Claude Rector, Kayla Travis for Addie Fleming

Absentees: Karen Graham, Hrishikesh Desai, Tim Oliver, David Pearlman, DayDay Robinson, Eric Scudamore, Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Andrea Brown, Ibrahim Duyar, Bert Greenwalt, Pradeep Mishra, Nikesha Nesbitt, Rollin Tusalem, Kim Vickrey, LTC John M. Weatherly

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 to approve the order of the day by Kris Biondelio, seconded by Sarah Scott, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the February 17, 2023 meeting minutes by Cheryl Knight, second by Rob Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Q&A with Interim Provost, Dr. Len Frey:

- Dr. Frey discussed application materials that have been turned in for the Graduate School review for the Vet school. Things are in good shape. A question had been raised on the concern of eliminating positions or transferring positions to the vet school. That will not happen. The 40 proposed faculty positions for the vet school will be separate from existing faculty lines. The lines will be NEW faculty lines. Additionally there may be 8 more positions for advising/retention services.
- A question was asked about Lyon college. Dr. Shields let them know about the vet school as a courtesy, but nothing further has been discussed.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

- Faculty Handbook Committee - Suzanne Melescue
 - Summer 2021-There was a task force for major edits to the 2018 handbook commissioned by Dr. Utter. There has been significant work since then. Needed updating/correction for grammar/spelling. All changes have not been made, they have been suggested.
 - Fall 2021- Changes were voted on that were suggested in the summer.
 - Spring 2023- Minor edits were made to section II and section III. No major policy changes were made. Shared governance determined that they will not need to vote on these changes, and voting will be left to the

faculty senate. Please send emails to Mary Elizabeth Spence (mspence@astate.edu) with comments for the faculty handbook until our Faculty Handbook webpage goes live.

- A question was asked about research overload being addressed.
 - The handbook doesn't discuss research overloads.
- A question was asked about links in the handbook. Will links work in the updated handbook.
 - Faculty should report broken links if they don't work.
- A question was asked about a dynamic handbook that is integrated in our website.
 - That has not been discussed, but may be something that we look at in the future as our website is able to handle that capability.
- Team Teaching- John Hershberger
 - Team teaching will go through Shared Governance.
 - Some departments are already doing this, but this provides a formal policy to do so should a department decide to team teach their courses.
 - Tag team courses are included in the policy as being distinct from team teaching in that two or more faculty teaches at separate parts of the term. The policy refers to this as separate, but if departments are using a tag team model, they may continue to do so.
 - The deans requested a form be submitted each time a class switches to a team teaching model.
 - A question was asked about teaching a team taught course being taught permanently, and whether that was permissible based on verbiage from the last iteration of this policy that referred to the course dissolving after two years.
 - The answer is yes, it is possible for a course to be taught this way permanently.
 - A question was asked about having two faculty teaching one course being inefficient.
 - A comment was made acknowledging the possible inefficiency from a faculty standpoint, but the interdisciplinary opportunities and breaking down silos was made as a benefit that is thought to overshadow the potential for those inefficiencies.
 - A question was asked about when this will go into effect.
 - Possibly next spring or fall depending on how fast this policy makes it through voting.

New Business:

Shared Governance Proposals:

- Proposal 202310-02 Academic standing for December interim (Winter Session)- out for comments

New Committee- Resolution to Support Veterinary School:

- Need recommendations for members, can be any faculty. Officers will need to be elected and the officers have to be faculty senators.

New Committee- Resolution to Change the Teaching Load:

- Need recommendations for members, can be any faculty. Officers will need to be elected and the officers have to be faculty senators.

Other Business:

No discussion.

Open Forum:

- Two concerns from a faculty member were sent to Ed:
 - Student athletes: “The student athletes do not bring paper forms to inform an instructor their schedule since the last semester, instead, an ASU Athletics academic advisor/coordinator sends out an electric form as the athletics department moves the process to online paperless. So, now no student approaches their instructor until the last minute to inform the instructor of the upcoming traveling. It seems they pass the ball to the instructors and it is the instructors’ responsibility to track down each student athlete and their schedule.”
 - A comment was made that the electronic way is more efficient from their standpoint because the electronic notification gives dates for the whole semester.
 - A comment was made that some faculty have been notified AFTER the student has had the event.
 - A comment was made that the students should still have the responsibility to remind faculty if they have an athletic event.
 - A comment was made that the differences of notifications may be contingent on their academic advisors and their responsiveness to notify. This was also mentioned by a second senator.
 - A comment was made that academics is becoming more peripheral of the University focus, where it should be the primary focus as an academic institution. Suggested that the faculty senate should investigate this.
 - A suggestion was made that we bring the academic advisors to us, and then potentially start a committee to investigate this. Ed will get in touch with them.
 - Should we poll the faculty?
 - Will discuss after meeting with the advisors.
 - HPESS Wellness Center: “First, thanks for the HPESS to grant each Red Wolf faculty and staff a complimentary membership and to attend the wellness class for free. A) But, since late February this spring 2023 semester, it seems HPESS cut a significant number of complimentary classes during the prime time (i.e. 4 pm-6pm, 12 pm-1pm, etc.), when most faculty and staff would like to participate. Instead, the fee-required classes are offered at these time slots. We understand different faculty and staff has different needs. B) Also, HPESS does NOT offer complimentary towels since late February this semester. It would be nice if those complementary classes and towels could be resumed.”
 - A comment was made that the classes were offered more in the past, but attendance to the classes was remarkably low.

- Ed will contact Spencer at HPESS and potentially have him come to talk to us.
- Questions for Will McLean
 - When will classes be moved to Canvas.
 - Will mentioned that the goal is to have all classes moved over before spring break.
 - Will migration be made for the classes we are updating now?
 - Will said the current courses will be migrated last.

Ed Salo adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17th at 3:00 pm in HSS 1028.