

A-State Faculty Senate
Friday, November 17, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Steering Committee

- Mike McDaniel - Chair/President Present
- Loretta McGregor – President Elect Present
- Vice Chair – Claire Abernathy Present
- Secretary – April Sheppard Present
- Joanna Grymes - Secretary/Treasurer Faculty Association Absent

Agriculture and Engineering (2)

- Greg Phillips Present
- Shivan Haran Absent

Business (3)

- Sharon James Present
- Richard Segall Present
- Philip Tew Present

Education & Behavioral Science (6)

- Jeonghee Choi Present
- Amanda Wheeler Absent
- David Holman Present
- Sharon Davis Present
- Gwen Neal Present
- Amy Pearce Present

Fine Arts (3), Humanities & Social Sciences (6), and Media & Communications (2)

Fine Arts (3),

- Claire Abernathy Present
- Matthew Carey Present
- Bill Rowe Present

Humanities & Social Sciences (5)

- Win Bridges Absent
- Richard Burns Present

- Mary Donaghy Present
- William Maynard Present
- Rollin Tusalem Absent

Media & Communications (2)

- Manu Bhandari Present
- Pradeep Mishra Present

Library & Information Resources (1)

- April Sheppard Present

Military Science (1)

- Major Brian Mason Absent

Nursing & Health Professions (6)

- Annette Bednar Present
- Jody Long Absent
- Stacy Walz Present
- Donna Caldwell Present
- Jessie Camp Present
- Mollie Manning Present

Science & Mathematics (5)

- Travis Marsico Present
- Ross Carroll Present
- William Paulsen Present
- Suzanne Melescue Present
- Jeff Jenness Present

University College (1)

- Nikesha Nesbit Absent

Proxies:

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. He told the Senate that he attended the last executive meeting where the plans for strategic planning was announced. A Strategic Planning Committee will work on the plan in the spring and will roll it out in the summer. He stated that faculty

will be well represented on the committee and noted that both him and President Elect McGregor, as well as other professors, were on the committee.

Chair McDaniel gave an update on the possibility of an early retirement incentive. He said that the plan is going before the Board and that there was not expected to be any pushback, but also noted the plan was not a done deal until the Board approves it. Currently, the plan is 60 years of age with 10 years of service. Provost Cooksey added that an announcement should be made before Christmas break so that employees can discuss with their families over the holidays.

Chair McDaniel then gave a brief update on campus budget cuts, stating that all Academic Affairs units have their proposed cuts in. He noted that all Vice Chancellors are making cuts and even Athletics.

Chair McDaniel then updated the Senate on the Advance ASU initiative. He stated that the survey should be rolled out the Monday of Fall Break and would take about 30 minutes to complete. He urged Senators to give constructive criticism. Chair McDaniel then shared information from an email he had received from System President Chuck Welch, stating that the total cost of the consultation was not to exceed \$995,000 and that funding was coming from the System Office's Reserve Fund. He further noted that Huron claims that they will be able to save the system between \$10 and \$15 million in the first year. Senator Maynard asked if HCM strategists contributed to the initiative and Chair McDaniel noted that he would find out.

Next, Chair McDaniel shared the schematics of the faculty space on the 8th floor of the library. He said that faculty will have access to bathrooms and a kitchen. He said that the elevators will be open to the 8th floor and access will be granted through card swipe with faculty IDs. He also said that there was money to make the space look nice. President Elect McGregor asked when the space would be ready; first of the year if all goes well.

Chair McDaniel then discussed dropping the agricultural ban issue. He noted that the paper has covered the issue and that there was nothing else to add now.

Chair McDaniel then moved discussion to faculty representatives for commencement. He noted that there will only be one commencement at 10am this December. Senator Phillips agreed to carry the mace as past Faculty Senate president. If other faculty would like to be a marshal, let Chair McDaniel know.

Chair McDaniel asked the Senate if there were any changes to be made to the minutes. Senator Burns moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Abernathy seconded, motion passed.

Senator Burns noted that President Elect did a great job in Chair McDaniel's absence at the November 3rd meeting.

Chair McDaniel then started a discussion on the Book of Committees. He noted that he had already received requests to add additional committees such as assessment committees from Summer Deprow. He added that some committees still need to be cleaned up, but now the committees are all in one place which should help with confusion since 2/3 of all questions he receives about the handbook are in regards to committees. Senator Maynard asked how the Faculty Handbook would reference this book; clickable links in PDF that go straight to that committee.

Senator Burns moved to approve the Book of Committees. Senator Phillips second, motion passed.

Chair McDaniel noted that the Faculty Handbook has lots of errors and that he has been trying to reorganize and cleanup the handbook to make it easier to understand. Senator Maynard commented that a faculty committee had written a handbook years ago following guidelines and input from an AAUP lawyer but that the current handbook was put upon faculty. Chair McDaniel stated that the Board had given the faculty committee a drop dead date to turn in their version. Senator Maynard stated that no work should be done on the handbook until someone with a legal mind looks at it. He stated that we need to protect our rights as faculty. Senator Burns stated that we agreed that when we present to the Board that we leave it open that the handbook is an active document that will change. Senator Maynard commented that it seems strange to accept that we can modify it later. President Elect McGregor asked the Senator what his biggest concern was. Senator Maynard answered that it follows principals, doesn't weaken faculty position in the handbook, and that a lawyer is needed to protect faculty. He stated a concern for loss for faculty if the current document is approved as it stands. In addition, he noted that the faculty developed handbook stated that the handbook was a contract whereas the Board approved handbook stated that it was NOT a contract. Senator Burns added that this is where an AAUP attorney comes in. Chair McDaniel stated that no changes had been made to the content itself, just reorganized – if we approve this, we will be no worse off than we are now. President Elect McGregor asked if there is a sense of urgency to finish the handbook now. Senator Tew asked why come up with a new handbook if we do not believe that the Board would approve it. Senator Maynard replied that the original faculty developed handbook did not even make it before the Board. Senator Phillips then offered support to Chair McDaniel, stating that changes will never be approved by both sides but reorganization now will make it easier to look at and make substantial changes in the future. He then asked the Senate if it would be possible to have a lawyer look at the handbook before the Senate votes. Senator Burns stated that the issue can be reintroduced on the 1st and that the Senate should not feel a sense of urgency. President Elect McGregor asked if the Senate already have time to look at this. Senator Marsico added that he was not aware of two handbooks with competing content. Would it be possible to compare the documents? Chair McDaniel replied that he was not sure that the handbooks were competing and added that the reorganization of the handbook began three years ago and that four sections had already been vetted through the shared governance process. Senator Maynard asked how many lawyers were involved and Chair McDaniel did not know. Senator Donaghy asked the Senate why we wouldn't want a lawyer to look at it if it was so important. Senator Burns then suggested that an AAUP attorney be invited to speak to the Senate. He also added that there were 2-3 new Board members and that the Board might be more sympathetic than we expect. Chair McDaniel stated that the Senate will revisit this issue on December 1st and will ask the Senate what they want to do.

Discussion then moved to Senator Phillip's resolution regarding the state's funding formula. He stated that he had recently received additional information from System President Chuck Welch and that he would be revising the resolution based on Welch's comments. He then gave an overview of the two examples in the newest resolution. Senator Paulsen noted a flaw in the numbers in the example given regarding points assigned to students based on graduation, that the numbers were actually worse than in the example. Senator Jeffness added that it is not uncommon for students to take 8 years to graduate and that this is even more punitive. Senator Marsico agreed, adding that maintaining 120 hours at graduation is impossible. President Elect McGregor noted that the reality is that college is more expensive, forcing more students to work full-time and go to school part-time. The state is penalizing students for not graduating in 4-6 years when they cannot afford to. She then asked the Senator if we believed that state legislators would understand the point we're making when they read the resolution. Senator Burns stated that the resolution is data driven and that legislators understand data. Senator

Marisco added that he believed the resolution was clear and hoped that it would bring to light issues that legislators had not thought of before. Senator Burns made a motion to approve the resolution as revised. Senator Maynard second, motion passed.

Chair McDaniel told the Senate that a report from the Education and Technology Committee was included in the packet passed out. He added that he was not sure if Proctor U was a done deal. Provost Cooksey added that the committee needed time to come up with resolution in the spring. She added that faculty will have the ability to choose whether to use Proctor U or not and that students should only be charged a fee for the classes that do. The Ucard would still be used for authentication in Academic Partnership classes, but the card by itself is only \$2. Senator James noted that she had issues with the Ucard in her classes and that the customer support for it is terrible. Provost Cooksey answered that the Ucard is primarily for AP classes and that her class may not have been coded to use it. Senator Tew asked if faculty needed to use Proctor U if they were not an AP class; no, they have a choice. She added that she would like to develop a task force on academic integrity to address the ongoing problems with authentication and students sharing information.

Chair McDaniel added that he will be piloting a course in Canvas next spring, but that the Education and Technology Committee had not taken a firm stance on whether to move away from Blackboard or to use Canvas. Senator Carroll added that the university has two Blackboard contracts. If we move to Canvas, this would only affect the educational component, not the transaction portion of Blackboard.

Chair McDaniel then invited Chancellor Damphousse to give an update on the completion commission. Dr. Damphousse address the Senator, giving an update thus far:

- Commission has been meeting every Wednesday for 7 weeks.
- Commission meant to be a collision of ideas.
- Learning about what is happening on campus:
 - What happens in different departments
 - Listening sessions with students and faculty
 - Creating website
- Possible future policy changes
 - If so, will go through shared governance process.
- Monitoring spring enrollment of new students
- Started Pack Support to help and retain students.

Senator Burns asked Chancellor Damphousse about Stafish. He stated that he had not personally used it and had not heard any complaints about it in big discussions. The Chancellor then made two announcements:

- Tim O'Reilly made request to start building the conference center/hotel on campus within 90 days.
- Major Brian Mason has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Senator Maynard raised the issue of concurrent classes and issues they are causing. He stated that sophomores are taking college level history and that the state should not allow this. He added that students in concurrent courses should come up to our level, not us go down to theirs. Chair McDaniel added that new students coming in at the sophomore and higher levels are not mature. Senator Maynard also noted that concurrent classes are discriminatory, that only richer kids can take them and poorer kids need to borrow more money in college to take fuller loads. He stated that he would like to

see a resolution regarding the issue. Senator Tew stated that that someone on campus needs to look it over, that it is an internal issue and not a state issue. Senator Maynard agreed that this was an internal issue. Senator James stated that her department has had issues with concurrent students coming in at the junior level that can't even write at the 9th grade level. President Elect McGregor explained that schools make the arrangements and decide which courses are to be concurrent and which institutions they want to work with. She also noted that standardization at legislative level would help. Students are coming in with 30 hours of credit but not able to do college level work and struggling at the junior level. Chair McDaniel wondered what this scenario would do to the funding formula if they can graduate in three years. Senator Phillips stated that the impact is not the funding formula, its loss of tuition. Concurrent students pay fees, not tuition. Senator Caldwell asked who gets this fee money. President Elect McGregor answered that a percentage goes to the institution.

President Elect McGregor made a motion that the December 1st meeting be the last meeting of the semester. Senator Burns seconded, motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 4:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Sheppard
Faculty Senate Secretary