

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 2nd, 2022
HSS 1028

Attendees: Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Donna Caldwell, Gary Edwards, Addie Fleming, Karen Graham, Bert Greenwalt, Matt Harmon, John Hershberger, Veena Kulkarni, Scott Mangan, William Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Carlitta Moore, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Jake Qualls, Claude Rector, Robert Robinette, Dayday Robinson, Richard Segall, Sarah Scott, Eric Scudamore, Rollin Tusalem, Kim Vickrey

Proxy Attendees: Robert Williams for Ibrahim Duyar; Rashele Wade for Cheryl Knight

Absentees: Kris Biondollilo, Andrea Brown, Hrishikesh Desai, Katie Hill, Gabriel Horowitz, Zahid Hossain, Pradeep Mishra, Ed Salo, J. Morgan Weatherly

Guests: Joanna Grymes

Meeting Called to Order: Carlitta Moore established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Carlitta Moore.

Order of the Day: Approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes: Addie noted the wrong date for today's meeting with Dr. Shields coming (stated 12/4 instead of 12/2); has been corrected. Approved by unanimous consent with corrections.

Q&A with Chancellor, Dr. Todd Shields:

- Dr. Shields plans to be here regularly. If he's unable, he will send the Provost.
- Questions:
 - What is the vision for the new Provost?
 - Made sure with HR about the process. What's best for campus? Being proactive—calling people and asking who would be great representatives. Still making calls; would like to have a committee of 15; has 12 that have said yes so far. Hoping to have a meeting with these people next week.
 - Tentative timeline: Advertisements probably over holiday to January. Zoom interviews possibly in February. March for interviews. Offering in April.
 - Will ask someone to be interim, but someone who does not want to be a candidate for the position. If you have recommendations, let Dr. Shields know.
 - What he's looking for—open with finances; transparent; open; team-builder; someone you can trust; willing to have hard conversations; works to get collaboration across colleges; build bridges across campus; excited; someone that's empathetic.

- New Chancellor/New Provost?-- Alan called Dr. Shields on Sunday. Dr. Shields did not have anything to do with Alan stepping down.
 - Future plans to help with anxiety/depression?
 - Psychology graduate student to help low-risk students on campus.
 - Spring- faculty, staff, students--classes on Mindfulness. Martha and Student Life are working on these training sessions.
 - The Theater department did mental health first aid training
 - Training for students in FYE? Exploring the possibility of doing more of a welcome week to possibly assist with this.
- Dr. Shields' visions:
 - Wants promotion tracks with additional promotions past full-professor
 - Ensure financial stability
 - Look at staffing (currently have 14 interim chairs, people performing 4-5 positions)
 - Build sense of community
 - Look for external funding (has been meeting with industries)
 - Launch a capital campaign (try to have 100-150 people make verbal commitments on giving and bring others to commit to giving)
- Dr. Shields' is currently focusing on:
 - Enrollment (recruitment and retention) need to retain juniors and seniors
 - Positives: Diversified recruiting staff; number of students admitted now is much higher than this time last year; contacting these admitted students weekly by students here at A-State. 30-40% of students admitted actually come here.
 - Finances (here and external funding)
 - Community
- Other comments/ideas:
 - Need to do more for our transfer students.
 - Students coming from high school with a large number of credit hours. How do we address this moving forward?
 - Change in students: Our jobs as faculty are changing because students are changing. Don't lower the standard, but change the method.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

- Team Teaching- John Hershberger gave a report. This proposal discusses fully collaborative team teaching; all faculty involved there every class, involved with assignments, gradings. Hoping this leads to more collaboration among campus. Talking to Chairs, Deans, Provost office to get approval. First two times the course is taught, all would receive full credit. 3n/4 for enrollment at least. What is the written policy over enrollment for classes?
 - Per the handbook, minimum enrollment for
 - Freshman/Sophomore level courses: 18
 - Junior/Senior level courses: 12
 - 5000 level course and over: 8

- John asked should we leave enrollment numbers out of policy?
- No vote today. John stated the proposal has been sent to Chairs councils, SGA, Honors. Would like comments back now if possible before it goes to SGOC.

New Business: *No new business.*

Other Business:

- Calendar Committee- draft calendar. Want feedback quickly. Joanna Grymes will send out to Ed to ask for feedback. Send comments to Joanna and/or Ed by next Friday 12/9. Hope to get it out to everyone on Monday.
 - Why do we start on Tuesday? –students use Monday as an orientation day, meet people, help them fit (Dr. Shields). More late registrations in spring than fall.
 - Could online start on Monday?
 - Will-There was an error in the calendar and it had to be fixed to make it a 5 day final week (was unintentionally a 4 day final week).

Open Forum:

No discussion.

Carlitta adjourned the meeting at 4:22 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 20th at 3:00 pm in HSS 1028.