

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
January 18, 2002

FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Bob Bennett, President (AS)
Jeff Bailey, Past President (LIB)
Bill Rowe, Sec/Treasurer (FA)

FACULTY SENATE

Bob Bennett, Chair
Bill Humphrey, Vice-chair
Debra Walden, Secretary
Michael Morrell, Parliamentarian

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Roger Abernathy
Jim Bednarz
Joe Sartorelli
Dick Freer
David Jimerson absent
Ernesto Lombeida
Bill Maynard
Victoria Spaniol
Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dan Marburger
Clint Relyea absent
Jim Washam
Chris Brown proxy – Sonya Premeaux

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Anna Grant absent
Lillie M. Fears absent

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright
Kris Biondolillo
Joe Justen absent
John Ponder
Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Charles Coleman absent

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe

John O'Connell

Ken Hatch absent

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs

Steve Guffey

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

Daniel Tiscareno absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

Dr. John Hall

Dr. Jerry Linnstaedter

Greg Chance - KASU

CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:03.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the Dec. 7, 2001 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. John Ponder noted that he had been present at the meeting and requested that the minutes be corrected. A motion to approve minutes, with corrections, was made by Albright; seconded by Flugstad. Motion carried.

REMARKS

Parking Garage -

Chair Bennett recognized Dr. Rick Stripling to report on the status of the parking garage. He stated that the facility would open February 1st and provided senators with a copy of an announcement about the garage opening. He provided the senators with an overview of the operational and procedural features of the garage. Cost for visitor parking will be \$1.00 per hour and \$1.00 per four hours for faculty and staff with vehicle hang tags. He noted that there would be 613 parking spaces available with 20 designated visitor spaces per floor. Senator Spaniol asked whether current parking spaces designated for faculty and staff would still be available. Stripling stated that this was the intent. However, some parking spaces near the entry of the facility will be reviewed if they impact traffic patterns entering and leaving the facility.

Dr. Stripling provided the senators with a copy of the estimated budget for the parking garage. He informed the faculty that this is a 4.5 million-dollar facility with an

approximate \$430,000 annual debt service. Stripling indicated that income from several areas is dedicated to debt service. Included are those fees from parking meters, parking decals, traffic fines reserved lot fees and a Sodexo commitment which all be applied to the annual debt service. Some question remains regarding the amount of anticipated income generated from the parking garage fees and parking garage reserved spaces. Stripling noted that the cost of a reserved parking space in the facility would be \$400.00 per year. He suggested that the demand for reserved spaces would be met. Stripling responded to several questions from the senators regarding a variety of use issues including the impact on campus visitors. Senator Freer offered a concern that free parking space currently available not be eliminated in order to force individuals to use the parking garage. He suggested that the option of a \$2.00 per day parking fee might prove to be an attractive option. Proxy Premeaux inquired as to where moneys collected from parking meters and reserved parking spaces had been used. Stripling stated that fees generated in past had been used to make a first payment on the facility. Any additional funds would be used exclusively for parking improvements. Senator Bednarz suggested that after the 20-year payment cycle, income from the parking garage is a potential source of revenue for the university. Chair Bennett thanked Dr. Stripling for his informative presentation.

Budget

Bennett recognized Dr. Jerry Linnstaedter, associate vice-president for academic affairs, to discuss the current university budget concerns. Dr. Linnstaedter noted that the key issue this year, 2001-2002, will be having to take away 2.13 % of what had already been budgeted. These budget cuts have already been made. In planning for next years budget assumptions have been made that the economy will not be back on track. Therefore, in budgets are being planned to take into consideration the possibility of 2%, 3% and 4 % budget cuts and how this would impact university programs. Linnstaedter stated that we might expect some degree of "suffering" from the next three legislative biennium. He issued his belief that we will "weather" this situation. Senator Maynard verbalized his concern about the difficulty budget constraints present when searching for and attracting qualified faculty. He noted that academic units are being asked to make cuts when substantial expenditures are occurring in athletics i.e. the hiring of 8 new assistant coaches and the recruitment of football players. He asked how faculty could be expected to "rally around the flag" given these circumstances. Linnstaedter stated that all people will not be pleased by the activities of the "company" and that he did not know how to address the cost of the football program. Senator Humphrey asked about the average percent of budgets in each department committed to faculty salaries. Linnstaedter stated that he knew that some department's budget were 96% faculty salaries, which severely limited options for budget cuts. He stated that he was aware that there were critical faculty shortages that may have to be filled with temporary personnel. He noted that most colleges' budgets are 90% salaries. Senator Rowe expressed his concern that we are losing faculty to competitive markets and do not have the money to bring new people into the university. Bennett noted that there is a committee of 5 vice-presidents who help to prioritize demonstrated faculty needs within departments and fill those vacancies. Senator Bednarz noted that Arkansas may not be at a severe disadvantage when compared to other states because many states are experiencing budget cuts. Dr. John Hall, visitor, stated that he had heard no discussion of halting new program proposals. Bennett responded that new proposals are going forward. The assumption is that by the time each new program is ready that there will be money for new faculty lines. Senator

Biondolillo expressed her concern that what may be more devastating to our reputation than failing to implement new programs, is failing to fund the current programs we offer. A discussion followed regarding the number of vacant faculty lines and where salary savings might be used to support current programs. Linnstaedter pointed out that the degree centers are under funded and that salary savings are being used to fund these centers. Senator Spaniol asked if a percentage of summer classes might be cut across campus. Linnstaedter stated that if the course is filled, it will be offered. Bennett noted that closer attention would be paid to class size. These classes may not be continued in the future.

Bennett noted that on Monday, the academic affairs ad hoc committee on the budget will meet to review the proposed 2% budget cuts. He noted that Dr. McDaniel has spoken to Dr. Wyatt about the difficulty the budget cuts have placed on many academic units. Next year plans are being made for a 2% - 2.13% budget cut. The committee will also review proposed budgets with 3% and 4% cuts. This will permit the university to plan given a variety of budget scenarios.

Chair Bennett thanked Dr. Linnstaedter for his presentation.

REMARKS

Bennett noted points of interest discussed in the President's Council.

- Tuition wavers for graduate students. No funding this year due to budget cuts. However, Dr. Wyatt is committed to this concept and will reassess tuition wavers as a high priority. A three hour waiver is proposed for 2004 and a six hour waiver for 2005. This is a tuition waiver, not a fee waiver. The projected cost is about one-half million dollars. Dr. Hall noted that this recommendation came out of the Graduate Council.
- There has been no movement from administration to require a 40/hour work week from faculty
- A report from the Academic Calendar Committee was received from Sandra Bevell. The committee has voted to support the concept of 15-week academic calendar and a three-day mid-semester fall break. Senator Bednarz expressed the concern of several constituents who prefer to maintain a 16-week calendar to accommodate class content and integrity. He expressed a desire to have a discussion of this issue and a resolution developed by the senate. Discussion followed. Senator Wang expressed his concern about the lack of faculty input in this decision process. Bennett asked that Senator Bednarz bring forth a resolution for consideration at the next faculty meeting. He stated that he would ask the chair of the Academic Calendar Committee, a shared governance committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Faculty Handbook

Chair Bennett noted that the handbook, in draft form, has been available for faculty to review on the WEB for a number of weeks. He suggested that there was a need to present the handbook, in its present form (with revisions), to administration in order to get their input. He stated that he anticipated further discussion and revision of the handbook once administrative suggestions were made.

After senate discussion, the following motion was made by Senator Humphrey and seconded by Senator Bednarz:

To authorize the chair to send the faculty handbook document, with revisions, as a draft for administrative review, with the understanding that the senate will have the opportunity to review administrative comments prior to final acceptance.

Dr. John Hall asked about the status of the revisions that he submitted via email December 29th, 2001. He noted that these had been submitted to Bennett, Rowe and Biondolillo. Humphrey suggested that if we approve the motion to forward the draft copy of the handbook, then revisions, such as those offered by Dr. Hall, could be considered. Dr. Hall asked if action on the handbook could not be delayed until his revisions, which he was asked to develop, were reviewed. Walden inquired as to whether submitting these revisions to the handbook committee for consideration would be satisfactory.

Following further discussion, Chair Bennett asked for a show of hands. The motion passed.

Chair Bennett also asked for the formation of a new faculty handbook committee that would shepherd the handbook through review process. The following volunteers agreed to serve on this committee:

Humphrey
Sartorelli
Biondolillo
Morrell
Maynard

NEW BUSINESS

Web Site

Chair Bennett announced that he was in the process of putting together a Web site for the faculty senate/faculty association. He noted that members of the senate would be listed with their email addresses. He invited the senate to offer suggestions for additions to the site.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Walden, Secretary