

Faculty Senate Minutes for September 20, 2013

Chair Julie Isaacson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Delta Center for Economic Development, Room 103.

Welcome

Approval of the minutes of September 6 (attached)

Senator Bill Humphrey moved to accept the minutes. Senator Andy Mooneyhan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Osteopathic Medical School Update—Dr. Jason Penry

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Dr. Jason Penry informed the Senate of the latest news regarding the possibility of a private Osteopathic Medical School here at ASU as a branch campus of New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). This idea originated in 2009 when Dean of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Susan Hanrahan had a discussion with the Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association. At that time, the cost was such that the idea could not be considered. Shortly after Vice Chancellor Penry arrived last year, Lincoln Memorial University came to visit about a possible partnership with ASU. Opening branch campuses is a merging trend in Doctor of Osteopathy schools. Virginia Tech in particular has been quite successful in this endeavor. There is a shortage right now in primary care physicians, which makes the Doctor of Osteopathy school attractive in comparison to the Doctor of Medicine. Arkansas is actually the 48th state to recognize that Doctors of Osteopathy and Doctors of Medicine are of equal stature. Vice Chancellor Penry explained that universities have better students in the “stem” areas. The economic impact varies annually from 20 to 60 million. ASU is interested in the overall concept of becoming a branch campus; this would result in a private school being located on a public campus. The resources are already available here at ASU, and it would have a good impact on the region and state, as well as the students. Trip Umbach has been hired as a consultant to assist with the possibility of ASU becoming partners with NYIT. Umbach has worked with over 20 schools on such matters. Hopefully a recommendation will go to the Board of Trustees in December.

Senator Judy Pfriemer asked if the school would become its own college. Vice Chancellor Penry replied affirmatively; the college could be called something like ASU –NYIT College of Osteopathy, but it would be a private school on our campus. Senator Andy Mooneyhan inquired as to whether there was anything like this in our area. There is actually no school of osteopathy in Arkansas or in Louisiana. Senator John Hall asked where the physical structure would be located. Possible sites may be on campus, north of town, or in existing buildings in town. No decision has been made. There will be no public funding. All costs would be covered by tuition, which is being considered on the high side of the average of comparable schools at \$40,000 per year. Degrees would come NYIT; however, the ASU name may be recognized somewhere. There are no potential donors as of yet, but we are not in a position to ask as of yet. The Chief Executive Officers for both NEA Baptist Memorial Health Care and St. Bernards Health Care

are supportive of a branch campus here in Jonesboro. If all goes well, the school could possibly open by August of 2016, but that date is not certain.

Surveys

Chair Julie Isaacson reported that faculty received two surveys today. One from the Faculty Association with the ballot and one from the SGOC with a survey on the culture of shared governance. The shared governance survey has gone out in duplicate/triplicate in some instances due to a glitch at IT. There were 17,000 surveys sent out today. . Please complete the surveys only once. If you accidentally complete more than one, IT will delete any duplicates.

Old Business:

Discrimination

Isaacson reported that she sent university counsel the proposed edits to the discrimination policy as requested by the senate. University counsel has scheduled a meeting for Oct. 1 to discuss this.

Adjunct Policy Proposal

The Shared Governance Oversight Committee would like the proposal to be revised so that it is not in resolution format. Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Lynita Cooksey specified a needed correction for item #8, the first sentence of which should read:

- 8) ASU- adjunct faculty will not be allowed to teach more than 9 semester hours per semester. (*instead of 12 semester hours*)

Added suggestions for the first portion of item #9 are as follows in italics:

- 9) ASU-J adjunct faculty pay will be increased to a salary more consistent with the state average. This salary should be a minimum of \$2,000 per 3 semester hours for Instructors, \$2,250 for *Assistant or* Associate Professors, and \$2,500 for Professors, *pending funding*.

Senator Fabricio Medina-Bolivar indicated that his constituents in the Department of Biological Sciences would prefer the Adjunct Policy Proposal be amended to include the following:

Temporary full-time faculty serving in excess of 5 years, having shown their necessity and competence, should be hired as permanent with funds provided by the administration to the department. Also, temporary full-time faculty serving in excess of 5 years should be doing the mentoring.

Vice Chancellor Cooksey commented that these types of changes cannot be addressed at this time; however, a discussion with the college dean would be most appropriate to initiate a need for a new faculty line.

Senator John Hall moved that we amend this proposal including Vice Chancellor Cooksey's concerns regarding items #8 above, and put the document in a format that is acceptable for SGOC. The motion was seconded by Senator Win Bridges, and passed with one abstention.

Senator John Hall moved to change item #9 as stated above. Senator Judy Pfriemer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Selection of Academic Administrators—proposed Faculty Handbook change (attached)

Senator John Hall explained that the proposal for changes in Faculty Handbook is actually unfinished business. The committee worked very diligently on needed changes last year. The proposal has been presented, but is yet to be voted on. Please take the proposed changes back to your constituents in order for us to vote after receiving proper feedback.

Vice Chancellor Cooksey specified a needed correction: the title, *Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost* throughout the document should simply read, *Vice Chancellor and Provost*.

Dean of Science and Mathematics, Dr. John Pratte suggested revising wording regarding diversity.

Current wording: Candidates *will* reflect racial, ethnic and gender diversity.

Suggested wording: Candidates *should* reflect racial, ethnic and gender diversity.

Class Attendance Policy (attached)

Senator John Hall moved to approve the proposed changes regarding class attendance in the Student Handbook. In general, the revisions include support of student absences due to university sponsored academic or athletic events, or other activities with prior approval of the instructor. Senator Shivan Haran seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the proposed changes.

New Business:

Red Wolf Boulevard (resolution attached)

Chair Julie Isaacson explained that the reason for the push in approving the resolution was due to the Public Works Committee meeting in early October. Senator Andy Mooneyhan put forth a motion to suspend the rules and move forward on the resolution. The motion was seconded by Senator Pradeep Mishra. The motion passed with one opposed.

Senator Andy Mooneyhan then moved to approve the resolution. Senator Bill Humphrey seconded the motion. The ensuing discussion included Senator Bill Rowe stating that the resolution was pulled by City Council because ASU thought it would not pass. Concerns were expressed for costs to businesses. Chair Isaacson shared that the Chamber of Commerce had passed a supportive resolution. Senator Judy Pfriemer mentioned that ASU would not be incurring any expense and that Postal Services had agreed to deliver to Stadium addresses for 5 years in assisting with expenses incurred by local businesses. Senator John Hall expressed concern with timing and having to suspend rules, which does not allow enough time for

feedback. Senator Richard Segall suggested naming it “Red Wolf Stadium Boulevard”, so as not to confuse visitors looking for the stadium. Chair Isaacson responded that the purpose of the resolution was to support the proposed name change and not to propose new possibilities. She also shared that including the name Stadium had been considered. Those responsible concurred that as this is a major entrance to the university and as such is more than just the highway to the stadium. Adding “Stadium” further emphasize the athletics.

After the discussion, the vote resulted as follows: 15 in support; 7 opposed; 3 abstentions. The motion carried.

Senator Apportionment per College

Isaacson has compared the FTE’s for each college with the formula for senator apportionment. Only one college, CNHP, needs an adjustment. Based on their numbers, they are now allotted one more senator. Dean Hanrahan has been notified.

Shared Governance Committee Reports:

Senator Judy Pfriemer reported that the Fringe Benefits committee had met. The cost for insurance next year is not yet known, but major changes in cost are not expected. The percentages should stay the same. Everyone should have received email regarding Medicare. All changes will be made online. Please check beneficiaries and be good stewards of our benefits. Go to the doctor instead of the emergency room. If prescriptions are very cheap (\$4), consider not filing. We have very competitive benefits and need to be conscience of how to save money. Senator Bill Rowe supported the 125 plan for fixed medical costs and Senator Pfriemer agreed that faculty and staff should consider this plan.

Chair Julie Isaacson mentioned that Randy Kesselring (Economics and Finance) has asked to address the Senate on a future agenda. ASU has already absorbed costs related to premium increases.

Senator Bill Rowe announced that the Senate Finance Committee met. In the interest of time, a full report would be given at the next Senate meeting.

Chair’s Report/Announcements:

Chair Julie Isaacson thanked the Senate for a slightly rushed meeting in order to attend a reception with the Board of Trustees at the Chancellor’s home. At the next meeting, more time for reports would be available.

Senator Win Bridges moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m. Senator Bill Humphrey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Senators then convened to the home of the Chancellor for a reception with the Board of Trustees who met earlier today.

Senators in Attendance:

Executive Committee:

Chair Julie Isaacson

Agriculture & Technology:

Bill Humphrey

Business:

Richard Segall

Jollean Sinclair

Communications:

Pradeep Mishra

Larz Roberts

Education:

Minghui Gao

Joanna Grymes (new)

John Hall

Andy Mooneyhan

Engineering:

Shivan Haran

Fine Arts:

Claire (Garrard) Abernathy

Marika Kyriakos

Bill Rowe

Humanities & Social Sciences:

Win Bridges

Thomas Ratliff (new)

Nursing & Health Professions:

Brenda Anderson

Kat Carrick

Larry Morton (new)

Bill Payne

Judy Pfriemer (new)

Sciences & Mathematics:

Hai Jiang

Bruce Johnson

Fabricio Medina-

Suzanne Melescue

University:

Margaret McClain

Military Science:

Library & Information Resources:

Wendy Crist (new)

Visitors: Steve Leslie (ITTC)

Absentees:

Hyung Kim (new)

Joe Nichols

Amany Saleh

Warren Johnson

Cherisse Jones-Branch

Hans Hacker (new)

Alex Sydorenko

Cecil Clark

Proxies:

