

Faculty Senate Meeting
October 2nd, 2015
Delta Center 201

In attendance: Greg Phillips, Shivan Haran, Claudia Benavides, Sam Pae, Richard Segall, Amber Wooten, Debbie Shelton, Julie Grady, Win Bridges, Julie Isaacson, Larry Morton, Pradeep Mishra, Donna Caldwell, April Sheppard, Suzanne Melescue, Jeff Jenness, John Beineke, Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Claire Abernathy, Brenda Anderson Proxy for Brinda McKinney, Nikesha Nesbitt, Rejoice Addae, Loretta McGregor, Mitch Holifield, Ryan Kelly, Bill Rowe, Marika Kyriakos, Bruce Johnson, Bill Maynard Proxy for Cherisse Jones-Branch.

President Greg Phillips called to order at 3:04 pm.

Welcome to senators, proxies, and guests.

Approval of minutes of September 4th, 2015

Senator Richard Segall pointed out that the attendance was missing from the minutes for the September 4th meeting. Senator Shivan Haran points out that not having the attendance would reflect on the elections. Senator McGregor reminded us that we could not have voted if a quorum was not stated. President Phillips pointed out we had a quorum because most of the votes have 24 or more votes, so there is a quorum. Senator Haran requested for the sake of completion to try to reconstruct that. President Phillips will work on a current list of senators and we will ask by Email if we were here on September 4th to try to reconstruct the attendance.

Senator Haran recommends a more complete notation of the discussions for each meeting. Secretary Benavides-Espinoza indicated from now on she will include more detail on that. President Phillips indicated he will ask on the same Email to elaborate on the travel and parking discussions to make the meetings more accurate.

President Phillips calls for a motion to defer approval of the minutes. Senator Haran moves. Brenda Anderson seconds. Discussion is open and there are no comments.

In favor: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

Approval of minutes of September 18th, 2015

Amber Wooten indicated that she had nominated Senator Donna Caldwell.

Senator Medina-Bolivar indicated he did not ask the question regarding the quorum, Senator Donna Caldwell believes it was her that asked.

Senator Brenda Anderson moves to defer the approval of these minutes for the next meeting.

Senator Haran seconds. Senator Caldwell suggests we indicate what changes need to be made. She disagrees the initial presentation from the president was professional development.

Senator Caldwell agrees and suggests we take time to read the minutes and make specific requests for changes. President Phillips indicated that he stated his initial presentation was done in the spirit of professional development. Senator Jones-Branch indicates the minutes

should reflect what happened in the meeting, not what people perceived happened. Past President Isaacson suggests to clarify that President Phillips called it what he thought of as professional development.

Past President Isaacson wanted the minutes to reflect that she had asked about the role of the senate in shared governance; the need to clarify when it is a senate issue vs a college or department issue; and that there is a procedure in the handbook that addresses alleged violations of shared governance.

Senator Medina-Bolivar asks that clarification be made that Henry Torres is not a senator and is a non-senator faculty member who was appointed by the faculty senate to serve on the new Intellectual Property Committee.

President Phillips: Is the motion at hand to defer that these minutes approval be deferred to the next meeting? Brenda Anderson moved and Dr. Haran seconded. In favor: 26. Against: None, abstentions: 0.

Election of Vice Chair

President Phillips distributed and collected a ballot with the following names on it: Shivan Haran, Loretta McGregor, and Donna Caldwell as per nominations made at the previous senate meeting. After counting the votes the tally was:

Senator Haran: 14

Senator McGregor: 8

Senator Coldwell: 6

Senator Haran is now the vice chair of the Faculty Senate with 50% of the votes.

Old business:

SGOC proposals - there are no new proposals.

Discrimination policy – Recommendations have been forwarded to Dr. Hudson. It has been recommended that marital status should be included, but there is no guarantee unless there is some direction from the state that that is a protected group. Chairs Council and the SGA also wanted marital status included.

The FI (Academic Integrity) proposal is still under pause for additional wordsmithing.

Health Benefit Status - Thank you for all of you who gathered input and forwarded it. President Phillips perceived that there was a majority of faculty (about 4:1) in favor of keeping the grandfathered plan, and the Staff Senate also wants to keep the grandfathered plan. Those comments were due in LR yesterday.

Travel policy recommendation - Provost Cooksey is working on it. She did not have a written response, but has indicated that she will be available at the October 16th meeting where she will present a response to our request.

COIA Faculty Senates & Athletics Survey - Bill Rowe

Senator Rowe believes the concerns of the Coalition On Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) are about budget allocations. Athletics is not totally separate from the overall budget of the university and there are questions about the academic budget being spent on athletics in universities around the country. Administration states the budgets are not mixed, but the feeling of the faculty is that the university budget is supporting the deficit in athletics. Senator Rowe said he would be available for a personal interview if anyone wants to call him up. President Phillips asked if he would be open to receiving input from other faculty and Senator Rowe indicated he would receive it by Email at wrowe@astate.edu.

Summer School Pay Policy - Are there volunteers other than Senator McGregor to serve on such committee? Senators Julie Isaacson, Mitch Holifield, and Rowe volunteered. Senator Haran asked how many we need. Senator McGregor said if anyone other than the 4 would like to join they are welcome to. President Phillips requested that the committee identify its own chair.

Parking - President Phillips met with Vice Chancellor Stripling regarding parking issues as it was a hot issue at the September 4th meeting. Dr. Stripling shared the 3 pages in the attachments. The first page states the cost of maintaining parking facilities on campus, the second page compares our prices to other universities, and the third page illustrated the total number of parking permits this year is similar to the number of parking permits issued last year. So, the parking problems are hard for them to understand because they have the same number of permits this year. President Phillips indicates the demographics and geography of campus has changed, and the addition of some reserved parking took away a few spaces for Faculty/Staff parking. President Phillips would be happy to pursue this further and invite them to a following meeting. Senator Bruce Johnson asked if he addressed faculty spaces. President Phillips indicated the net loss was 5 faculty staff spaces that were not relocated after the addition of reserved spaces.

Senator Jones-Branch is wondering if we have input or if this is just information that is being passed by us. President Phillips said we have 3 faculty representatives on the Parking and Traffic Committee and they have looked at these proposals. Senator Jones-Branch clarifies that her question is relevant to the American with Disabilities Act because they charge a premium for more accessible parking, including handicap parking. Her concern is that the disabled should not have to pay a premium to park in a more accessible spot and the faculty on that committee should be thinking about that. Senator Caldwell, and Past President Isaacson, questioned whether there was a need for a paid parking permit in order to park in the handicap spaces. Senator McGregor said she does not know the law, but she believes having a state handicap sticker allows a person to go through a barrier, but not park a car there without having paid the premium to be in the gated area.

Senator Caldwell has a handicap sticker and she says she is allowed to park anywhere on campus without a parking sticker.

Senator Bridges asked how hard it is to get a handicap permit? Senator Caldwell answered: Get a prescription from a doctor, go get a tag from the state, then go to the Student Union and get

permission from A-State. Senator McGregor said when she had one she would have to have a gated area permit to park in the handicap spots in the premium parking. There are other handicap spaces that are not in premium parking, but they are farther away. Senator Rowe said faculty that are handicapped and need to leave campus and come back struggle to find parking unless they pay the \$70 parking fee as well as the \$300 premium parking permit. Senator Jones-Branch said that is the key issue she is trying to point out. President Phillips said the policy in the handbook is being followed correctly, and there is no violation to point to, unless senators wish to form a committee to suggest alternative wording for that policy. No one indicated a need to form such a committee. President Phillips will check on handicap parking policies on campus.

New business

Robin Hicks from Academic Affairs is here to introduce Jenny Keller from the United Way. The University participated for several years in United Way in the past, and we have decided to get involved again. The events are: We are selling tickets for Strawberry's BBQ on October 8th from 4-6. Swing through Cooper Alumni Center and drive through, and we will bring your meal to you. We are also looking at Dunk a Dean or Dunk a Chair and we will take any contributions you would like to do.

Jenny Keller - Thank you for having me and thank you for all you do for the community, not just the United Way. I am really excited for this partnership. We want this campaign to be exciting and make a difference in the community. A video was shown. The video was created here on campus, and we will be able to give through payroll deduction.

You do not have to support United Way, I am here to convince you we are one of the best places to give. United Way raises money and we reallocate those funds to nonprofits here in NEA. A committee looks at the finances and outcomes of those non-profits. Henry Torres serves on that committee and we have other people on campus that serve as well. Education is important to us, so we deliver packages to schools and books to kids in Northeast Arkansas. We had volunteers that worked at these non-profits. The university (staff and students) had almost 200 people. We are looking at giving the university their own day separate from the community because it is getting really big. We also do scholarships through a 5k and a mud run and the scholarship goes straight to A-State. Consider giving to United Way first and then give to other organizations that you are passionate about. Out of every dollar, 99c stays local, only 1% goes to United Way worldwide and that provides our branding.

The campaign is from October 5th to November 13th. Website:

<http://www.astate.edu/a/chancellor/united-way/>

ITTC changes - Senator Beineke

In late August - early September our Interim Dean Dr. Hogue met about several issues. One of which was a new procedure put in place that would reduce the amount of technology assistance that online education would receive from ITTC effective Spring 2016. On September 8th an Email arrived from a staff member indicating what the reductions would be. The Email went out to 90+ individuals that he assumes have some stake in online education. A response came from two other colleges indicating that this was not the agreement put in place when individuals,

partners, and programs signed off on when they agreed to participate in online education. Last week the Ed Leadership department sent a 34 page white paper from tenured professors regarding 3 issues. Two of the issues do not have anything to do with the senate, but the one dealing with ITTC services does. This week the white paper was sent to the list serve of 90+ individuals after informing interim Dean Dr. Hogue.

ITTC is running 14 sessions to train instructors teaching these courses. The tenured faculty in the department feel this will decrease the quality of online education of our students. Senator Beineke stated that this issue will increase as we expand online education. He believes this is an existing policy and procedure that should be addressed through shared governance. He would like for the senate to support the memo to be sent to Dr. Cooksey. In the memo the first 3 paragraphs were drawn from the Email sent by the ITTC staff to faculty. Memo was read by Dr. Beineke.

Dr. Beineke moves to: 1) clarify the functions of AOS and ITTC, 2) review current strategies, 3) identify problems, if any, with these strategies, and 4) construct recommendations, if needed, to enhance assistance from the institution.

Senator Jones-Branch seconds.

Dr. Haran inquires what the problem is. Dr. Beineke said it is that the class building, uploading courses, etc is now the faculty responsibility. Dr. Haran suggests taking this to our constituents. Dr. Beineke indicates promises were made initially to get faculty to sign on into this massive undertaking. Senator McGregor stated for anyone who has used ITTC services, if you go they are very helpful in the services they provide to faculty members. They have been indispensable to colleagues in the CoE helping them develop the media content that they upload in their classes among other things. For those of us who have not grown up with a computer attached to our limbs it is a great challenge to ask to not only develop a content, but also to understand the underpinnings of the network and create a shell.

Proxy Anderson asked if this is only for faculty teaching AOS or if it is for everyone. Past President Isaacson stated it applies to everyone. Senator McGregor stated she believes this implies the help for Tegrity, BbLearn, and other help from ITTC. Dean John Pratte is not so certain that this is a pull back on all, just a pull back on AOS. Senator McGregor would like clarification on who is going to be affected. Senator Holifield stated we need clarification of what are the functions of AOS and ITTC because the first Email came from AOS and the second Email came from ITTC. Everyone should reflect on this, regardless if they teach online in a traditional program or on a large scale with AOS. We were told we were going to have support, and now that support is being taken away without discussion, or feedback, we were just informed. Now we not only have to deal with students and academic assistants, we also have to deal with technology issues. My workload has increased significantly and I did not have an opportunity to discuss this change. We need to meet with Dr. Cooksey to learn what the problem is that is trying to be solved by this. There may be other alternatives that have not been explored because there has been no discussion.

Past President Isaacson asked Dean John Pratte if there is AOS money being returned to the colleges. Dean Pratte stated if it is not part of the faculty teaching load there is extra comp for the faculty member that teaches the course. If a course is taught through the AOS system (not online in a traditional program) my understanding is that the only money going back to the department is in the form of extra compensation for those teaching those classes. Senators

Holifield and Beineke clarify that is only true for overloads. If the course is part of the faculty workload there is no overload pay. Past President Isaacson asked if there is any other money going back from AOS that would allow departments to have the service if they are willing to pay for it from this money. Some senators do not believe there is money.

Mr. Dean Murray in attendance from ITTC was asked to comment: It is affecting primarily AOS or LSDE programs. There are other services ITTC provides and there is a committee being formed that is going to define our new functions. Dr. Sivakumaran asked if we would provide training and support for the AOS courses, copy them, fix issues, upload documents, etc. Now the instructors are responsible for uploading the content, but you can still call if you have a question and something does not work, but uploading the coursework is not something they want us doing anymore.

Senator Holifield stated that there is a blurry line between AOS and ITTC that needs to be clarified. And the main question is why our workload is being increased. Senator Jones-Branch stated all faculty may potentially be involved in the same issue. Motion to send memo to Dr. Cooksey by Senator Beineke and second by Dr. Jones-Branch. All in favor: 23. Opposed: 0, abstentions: 3.

Proxy Anderson: Multiple colleges should be represented on the committee that is looking at ITTC functions. The President agrees.

Senator Jones-Branch would like to know why the healthcare revision is happening. President Phillips stated the state mandates that policies be revisited every few years, this is the normal cycle for reviewing our benefits.

Dr. McDaniel asked to clarify a statement he made at the September 18th senate meeting regarding faculty handbook changes (see attachment). He read the attached memo.

Announcements by Dr. Medina-Bolivar: The Faculty Awards Committee, on which he serves, is looking at the award categories and are considering to create a new category for faculty of the year that is more encompassing or holistic. We met with Dr. Cooksey and she is open for discussion, we invite your input.

Claire Abernathy, Bruce Johnson, Kyle Chandler, and Debbie Shelton (through Proxy) volunteered as faculty marshals for the December commencement.

President Phillips: Senate appointments, faculty counts, and fee documents are all in the agenda attachments and will be discussed at the next meeting. Please see documents attached in the agenda for today's meeting.

President Phillips presented documents from Vice Chancellor Frey because there are no raises this year. The explanation given is that the Academic Excellence fee was not raised this year so the available money has already been allocated to raises. This is not a sustainable way to provide raises to faculty, but it explains why there are no raises this year.

The other issue was about 150 staff members who got merit raises. The state has longevity bonus dollars that they mandate and those individuals were picked out by the state mandated programs, not the A-State Board of Trustees. We can discuss this further in another meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 5:02 by Past President Isaacson and seconded by Senator Pradeep Mishra.

Submitted by:
Claudia Benavides, Faculty Senate Secretary