

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 1, 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 proxy – Edward Hammerand

Jim Bednarz

Joe Sartorelli

Dick Freer proxy - Chuck Joiner

David Jimerson absent
Ernesto Lombeida proxy - Warren Johnson
Bill Maynard
Victoria Spaniol
Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dan Marburger
Clint Relyea
Jim Washam
Chris Brown

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Anna Grant
Lillie M. Fears absent

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright absent
Kris Biondolillo
Joe Justen absent
John Ponder absent
Karen Yanowitz absent

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Charles Coleman

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe

John O'Connell absent

Ken Hatch

COLLEGE OF Nursing & Health Professions

Terry Baggs

Steve Guffey proxy- Troy Thomas

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

Daniel Tiscareno absent

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar absent

VISITORS

Paula James Lynn - Admissions

Allison Gill, Instructor – Art

Gauri Guha

Students: Julia Marisett, Kevin Steele, Raven Jones, Audra Malone, Brandy Donaldson, Lesley McCrotty, Christie Benham, Casey Pearce, Crystal Caudle

CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the Feb.15, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Humphrey; seconded by Senator Grant. Motion carried.

REMARKS

Chair Bob Bennett recognized Dr. Rick McDaniel, Vice-chancellor of academic affairs. He reported on the academic affairs presentation to the UPC and shared copies of budget reduction objectives with the senate. He stated that he believed academic affairs was successful in clarifying the implications of budget cuts for the UPC and that Dr. Wyatt was receptive to those concerns. He emphasized the fact that salary savings were derived

from budgeted positions, not from any “extra” funding source. These savings occur when budgeted positions are filled with adjunct faculty or are left unfilled. McDaniel stated that he informed the committee that cuts in the academic affairs budget keeps the faculty from being able to “teach their courses” and that many faculty positions were required to maintain accreditation of certain programs. McDaniel stated that he believed our case was well presented and also well reported in the Herald. Chair Bennett opened the floor to questions.

Senator Maynard asked if Dr. McDaniel knew of any provision for not implementing cuts should state revenues be higher than projected. McDaniel responded that there had been discussions with Dr. Wyatt about this possibility and that he was personally optimistic.

Parliamentarian Morrell ask Dr. McDaniel to comment on the differences in budget considerations in academic affairs and the athletic department. He asked about “loans” to the athletic department. McDaniel stated that he did not know specific facts but knew that “if there is a deficit, it has to be paid”. Bennett added that we are currently allowed to transfer \$750,000 from ENG but that Dr. Wyatt may approach the legislature to increase this amount. ENG funds are monies that are derived from end-of-year funds identified by finance.

Dr. McDaniel entertained several questions from the senate related to budgetary concerns. Senator Relyea noted that the proposed budget shows cuts in salaries for teaching positions in the summer. He asked what this meant to the faculty. McDaniel stated that he hoped there would be no impact. He noted that he had asked deans and chairs to be very responsible in course offerings. Offerings both on and off campus cannot violate enrollment minimums.

REPORTS

UPC

Chair Bennett reported on outcomes from the UPC committee and ad hoc Committee for Academic Affairs. Bennett serves on both committees. He shared information that both he and Dr. McDaniel felt was alarming.

1. There appears to be decline in full-time faculty positions on campus. There are a number of reasons for these losses. However, there does seem to be a trend to hire more adjuncts and interim faculty. This trend appears to be campus wide.

2. There is no discussion about increases in salary for faculty this year. He noted that he had pointed out a thirty-year tradition of small faculty raises to Dr. Wyatt. The lack of raises combined with recent increases in health care impact our salaries.

Bennett shared copies of the Intercollegiate Athletic Budget Summary that were provided at the UPC meeting. A discussion of the revenue sources followed including student fees, money games and increased contributions from the booster clubs. Senator Rowe noted that there appeared to be an 80% increase in fringe benefits. Bennett stated that there was limited discussion at the meeting regarding this matter. There was some question about a problem in how fringe benefits had been calculated in past by the athletic director. Most of the increases in supplies and services were due to increased travel costs.

Bennett referred the senate to a second handout that had been provided UPC by Dr. Rick Stripling outlining proposed room and board rate increases for 2002-2003. Apparently the budget has been impacted by unexpected maintenance costs. Bennett stated that the occupancy rates are higher for women's residences than for men's. Senator Rowe noted that decreasing enrollment has impacted every area of the budget. Senator Biondolillo expressed concerns related to the decreasing number of faculty with terminal degrees as potentially impacting accreditation status of departments. Senator Humphrey expressed his desire to see salary savings used to support current programs, not to support new programs.

Bennett stated that he believes that Dr. McDaniel did an excellent job of representing the concerns of academic units before the UPC.

Mail Order Prescriptions

Bennett talked with J.W. Mason about the status of mail order prescriptions. Apparently, Dr. Mason has already addressed the staff senate regarding the plan. If a faculty member orders a 3-month supply of drugs, they will be required to make co-payments for two months worth of drugs instead of three co-payments. This does represent a change in the originally proposed benefit.

Handbook

Bennett announced that Dr. McDaniel has formed committees to review the handbook. There may be more than one committee charged with the responsibility of reviewing the handbook. He stated that he was not sure what timetable these committees had for their work.

Ad hoc Committee on Distance Education

Chair Bennett recognized Allison Gill, a member of the distance education committee, whom reported on behalf the committee. Copies of the committee report were provided to member of the senate. Gill noted that the committee proposed several recommendations:

1. workload reduction for developing and teaching web-based courses i.e. 3 hours release in the semester prior to offering the course and an equivalent number of credit hours release time during the semester a new web-course is first offered
2. maximum course enrollment for web courses should range from 10-20 students, depending upon the nature of the course and discretion of the instructor
3. on-line courses should begin and end on the same schedule as traditional courses
4. no more than 2 remote sites plus the site of origin for CVN courses – this being negotiable depending upon minimal enrollments
5. maximum course enrollment for CVN courses should be 20 students per site with combined total of 50 students or less depending upon the nature of the course

Discussion followed regarding the unique nature of distance education including extensive demands on faculty time and the need to guarantee of quality instruction for students. Ms. Gill offered insight into her own experience.

Bennett stated that he would like to forward the report to the handbook committee for review since these recommendations could potentially be added to the handbook. The handbook committee could then come forth with a resolution regarding the distance education committees' recommendations. Senator Humphrey, chair of the handbook committee, asked for input about the recommendations from the senate.

Panel Discussion Update

Senator Maynard indicated that an invitation to participate on the panel had been issued to the athletic director and accepted. Noted authorities Murray Sperber and John Gerdy have agreed to come to campus to participate in the panel discussion. Maynard noted that

the anticipated cost to the senate might be less than expected due to support from the SGA. The date for the presentation is April 16 at 4:00 p.m. in room 182 in the museum. Tickets and publicity are being arranged. Chair Bennett asked that any comments or suggestions regarding the presentation be forwarded to Dr. Maynard.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution on the Proposed Academic Calendar for Fall 2003

Chair Bennett recognized chair of the academic calendar committee, Paula James Lynn. He noted that a request had been made from administration for input from the faculty senate regarding the calendar. He asked for a report from Ms. Lynn, discussion and a vote on the resolution to take back to administration.

Ms.Lynn noted that the committee process was laborious. The committee considered three major issues:

1. Our current calendar is longer than any other school calendar in the state
2. A later start date might help enrollment
3. Students have asked for a fall break

Ms. Lynn noted that there were strong arguments put forth by the various constituent members of the committee.

Senator Wang made a motion to support the academic calendar for 2003-2004 as proposed by the academic calendar committee. Senator Rowe seconded.

Following Ms. Lynn's presentation the senators engaged in a long debate regarding the impact of a shortened academic semester. Many and diverse opinions were expressed. Senator Bednarz reiterated his concern about the impact of a shortened semester on biological sciences. The three broken weeks of the proposed calendar would virtually eliminate two full weeks of laboratory experience. Bednarz stated that a 20% reduction in labs would hurt students who are attempting to compete with graduates from other universities. Other senators expressed opposing sentiments. Senator Wang reminded the senate that representatives from the SGA were in favor of calendar changes and that his faculty constituents support the calendar change.

Senator Marburger asked for input from faculty whose students are seeking professional certification. Troy Thomas, proxy, reported that the Physical Therapy faculty was opposed to the shortened calendar.

After this discussion, the senate voted on the resolution to accept the 15-week academic calendar as proposed by the academic calendar committee. The vote, following a show of hands, was nine senators "for" and thirteen senators "opposed". The motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Proposal on Graduate Council

Bennett noted that he had emailed a copy of a draft proposal that redefined the qualifications for Graduate Faculty status at all levels. He informed the senate that the council has met and is going to reconsider the document.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Walden, Secretary

