

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
May 2, 2003

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bob Bennett, Past-President of Faculty Association

Jim Bednarz

William Burns

Dick Freer

Ernesto Lombeida

Bill Maynard

Jie Miao

Joe Sartorelli

Norman Stafford (proxy – Dave Truncellito)

Richard Wang

Larry Salinger

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chris Brown (absent)

Dan Marburger

Terry Roach (absent)

Jim Washam (proxy – David Dearman)

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Lillie M. Fears (absent)

Jo Anna Grant (absent)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright

Kris Biondolillo

Dan Cline

John D. Hall – Secretary/Treasurer of the Faculty Association

Charlotte Skinner (proxy – Joanna Grymes)

Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons (absent)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe, President of the Faculty Association

Alyson Gill

Ken Hatch

Albert Juhrend

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Troy Thomas, Secretary

Terry Baggs

Debra Walden (absent)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green (absent)

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis (absent)

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar (absent)

VISITORS

Dennis White – Parliamentarian

Greg Chance – KASU Radio

Sherry Pruitt – Jonesboro Sun

Curtis Steele – Art Department

Grover Welch – Herald

Dr. Lynita Cooksey – Academic Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of 4/18/03 meeting approved – Bennett 1st, Humphrey 2nd, all in favor.

REPORTS

1. President Rowe passed out proposal on scholarships.
2. Vice-Chair Humphrey brought a report from the last Graduate Council meeting. A new policy about graduate assistants (GAs) and teaching assistants (TAs) was introduced at the meeting. Humphrey was bothered by the fact that the policy had come from the top down and that the members of the Graduate Council had never seen the policy before. Humphrey offered this as yet another example of the breakdown of shared governance at ASU. The point was raised that the Graduate Council is not a shared governance committee; however it was felt that such a policy should have come before the council prior to its finalization. Senator Freer stated that regardless of whether or not this incident was a shared governance issue, the Faculty Senate had to decide what it is going to do about repeated violations of the Faculty Handbook (including shared governance). Rowe stated that this would be discussed under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Senate will get a list of faculty members who want a copy of the 1996 Faculty Handbook and the ASU Operating Policies and Procedures and try to get those disseminated. An attempt will also be made to get a copy of the 1996 Faculty Handbook up on the web.
2. IT Policy Resolution – FSR 2003-04. Rowe distributed a copy of the resolution to the Senate. Resolution was proposed by the Executive Committee of the Senate and co-

sponsored by a number of departments on campus. Senator Maynard read the resolution to the Senate. Vote – Majority in favor; Senator Marburger and Proxy Dearman against; Abstentions – Proxy Grymes, Senator Yanowitz, President Rowe.

ASU Faculty Senate Resolution 2003-04

Whereas the faculty handbook is the legal contract between the faculty and Arkansas State University, and

Whereas all general and specific policies governing employment must be in the handbook, and

Whereas the current faculty handbook (1996) contains a “Creative Works Policy” (III-4) wherein it is stated that the university “expects” faculty to provide service to the public, and

Whereas to encourage creative works the aforementioned policy clearly sanctions the use of university facilities, regardless of whether or not income is generated, and

Whereas faculty and administrators alike have used university computer facilities for both creative and commercial endeavors, and

Whereas the aforementioned “Creative Works Policy” contains no reference to sanctions for a violation of said policy, and

Whereas the university is attempting to override the aforementioned policy through the implementation of an IT policy which is not in the faculty handbook, and

Whereas a tenure track faculty member having been notified of his reappointment in January, has subsequently been informed that he will NOT now be re-employed, it being alleged that he is in breach of the university’s IT policy, and

Whereas the said assistant professor, having been singled out by the university’s administration, had received no written warning from the university that he was in breach of the IT policy, and

Whereas all faculty at Arkansas State University should receive reasonable notice of any alleged Handbook or procedural violation/s, and

Whereas all faculty at Arkansas State University should be confident that any sanctions / disciplinary actions arising from alleged handbook or procedural violations will be reasonable and appropriate, and

Whereas termination of employment for an alleged infraction of a university policy that is not in the Handbook cannot be considered reasonable, therefore

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Arkansas State University, representing the faculty of Arkansas State University, considers the current actions of the administration of this university to be arbitrary and capricious, and the Faculty Senate call upon the university’s administration to abide by the legally defined Handbook in this, and in all matters / policies relating to faculty employment.

3. Faculty Survey – Senator Cline, with the assistance of Senator Biondolillo and Past-President Bennett, will develop and distribute a faculty survey based on the goals and objectives in the 1996 Faculty Handbook that tie into the mission of the university. This survey will go out in Fall 2003.
4. +/- Grading – Bennett reported no further developments with the proposed +/- grading system. Issue will be picked back up in Fall 2003.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Equity Review – Rowe contacted Rick McDaniel concerning equity review. Rowe’s interpretation of the conversation was that equity reviews will be done but nothing will happen until funds are available.
2. Faculty List Serv – IT Services will fix emails so that Reply and Reply All functions work properly
3. Senator Reapportionment – Humphrey passed out the procedure for determining apportionment of senators along with the apportionment of senators for 2003-2004.

Procedure for Determining Apportionment

1. Use official Fall Semester ASU Academic Affairs Roster.
2. Count only faculty at the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and professor.
3. Each faculty member counts as 1 unit, including part-time faculty.
4. Each library staff member counts as 1 unit.
5. Each temporary or on-leave faculty counts as 0 units.
6. Sum the faculty units.
7. With the exception of the University College, Library and Military Science (each of which receives 1 Senator) the table below is used to determine the apportionment of Senators for each college:

Critical number of faculty units needed for Senators based upon 15:1 faculty to senator ration*:

Faculty Units	8	23	38	53	68	83	98	113	128	143
Number of Senators	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

The critical values were determined as follows: Multiply the number of seats by 15 and subtract 7. This would entitle a college or independent department to receive the next higher number of seats if it exceeds a multiple of 15 by eight faculty.

The apportionment of the ASU Faculty Senate for 2003-2004 is as follows:

College	Number of Faculty	Number of Senators
Agriculture	15	1
Business	50	3
Communications	28	2
Education	80	5
Engineering	12	1
Fine Arts	43	3

Nursing & Health Professions	51	3
Humanities & Social Sciences	89	6
Science & Mathematics	57	4
Library		1
Military Science		1
University College		1
Total		31

4. Faculty Handbook Violations – The following issue was raised – “At what point do policy violations become a breach of contract?” Rowe stated he would like to form a committee to look at this issue. Rowe also wanted people who felt that there had been violations to email him so detailed information could be collected. Discussion ensued about other possible courses of future action by the Senate regarding HB violations. A suggestion was made that a lawyer be consulted regarding legitimate options. No formal decision was made regarding this suggestion.
5. Faculty Senate Retreat – Suggestion was made for a Faculty Senate Retreat. Rowe indicated that this was already being considered for the fall semester.
6. Faculty Association Office – Rowe reported that Room 123 in the Fine Arts Building would serve as the Faculty Association Office.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary