

Faculty Senate Minutes for September 6, 2013

Chair Julie Isaacson called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library Board Room (Dick Smith Library).

Welcome

Chair Julie Isaacson welcomed the new senators to the meeting: Joanna Grymes, Tom Ratliff, Hans Hacker, Wendy Crist, Hyung Kim, Judy Pfriemer, and Larry Morton. Senators were also reminded of the gathering at the home of the Chancellor with members of the Board Friday evening, 20 September 2013. There will be a Board of Trustees meeting earlier that day.

Approval of the minutes of April 26 (attached)

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

Diversity – Dr. Cocchiara

Dr. Faye Cocchiara (Business) requested help from the Senate to create a framework for this institution establishing priorities for diversity and inclusion. The Office of Diversity is putting together a diversity survey, which will be distributed in October. Survey questions will include how people feel about the climate. Dr. Cocchiara asked for the support of the senators to encourage faculty participation.

HLC Update – Dr. Cooksey/Isaacson

Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Lynita Cooksey announced that the self-study for the Higher Learning Commission has been completed and is available online for viewing. Minor corrections will be made, mostly making sure various links are functional. The document has been submitted to the visiting team, which is scheduled to visit in late October (28-30). The team will set the agenda and times will be arranged for the visitors to meet with constituency groups. A meeting with the Senate has not been confirmed. Vice Chancellor Cooksey extended many thanks to Chair Julie Isaacson for a tremendous amount of work, as well as Dean of Science and Mathematics, Dr. John Pratte (proofing), Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research, Dr. Gina Hogue (compliance), and Dean of University College, Dr. Jill Simons (retention). Cooksey emphasized that ASU has come a long way in the last 10 years; our university is in far better shape than many of the institutions in Arkansas with a 73.3% retention rate from last fall. Chair Isaacson added that all the work done at the fall conference is in the document, and faculty should look for those portions to acknowledge the many great things faculty are doing in their classes. Cooksey expressed her belief that ASU would receive a good report. The report shows good representation of where ASU has been and where we are going.

First Year Studies – Dr. Simons

Dean Jill Simons provided explanation for a tornado disaster study on the ASU campus that will be conducted on Monday, 30 September 2013 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Various departments will assist in carrying out the exercise: Interdisciplinary Studies will go over natural disasters; Engineering will assess the structural damage; Communications will provide news coverage; Nursing will tend to victims; Theatre will play the victims; Music will put on a benefit concert three days following the disaster for the victims and request the collection of goods. Please encourage all faculty and students to participate.

Old Business:

Board Of Trustee Reception

See above under the **Welcome** heading.

Advising Statement (attached)

The statement was moved to approve by Senator Bill Humphrey and seconded by Senator Andy Mooneyhan. The motion passed with none opposed and one abstention.

Diversity

Chair Julie Isaacson informed the Senate that the new policy proposal couldn't go forward due to Arkansas law not allowing same-sex marriage. She suggested to add a brief statement "as allowed by Arkansas law", as the existing wording cannot be approved by University Council. The university attorney is concerned about the statement regarding benefits for partners. Dean John Pratte recommended adding "and federal law" to the suggestion of the senate chair. Perhaps this would expedite the process of approval. Senators were reminded that the proposal has already been approved at the Chancellor's level. Chair Isaacson will seek advice regarding the proposed added statement.

New Business:

Degree Checksheets

The new Excel graduation checksheets were devised with the input of department chairs and representatives from each college. Some problems exist, but efforts have been made for improvement. Suggestions are welcome. Contact Jesse Blankenship in the Registrar Office for errors. Senator Joanna Grymes mentioned that the Excel checksheets are unwieldy and not friendly for advising, especially since dropdown menus cannot appear when printed.

Vice Chancellor Gina Hogue explained that the checksheets are temporary. They had undergone a trial test for the August commencement; however minor problems still persist. ASU will move into using the "CAP" system as quickly as possible. Testing should begin immediately and volunteers are needed.

Vice Chancellor Lynita Cooksey added that Deans and Chairs were told to get the word out about the checksheets. People are still available to visit your college to assist. The NCAA is one reason behind this need for standardization. The Higher Learning Commission is asking for one place for the standardized checksheets to exist. Currently, ASU has different versions of the same degree programs in various locations, which is not acceptable.

Student Evaluations of Faculty & Courses Online—John Hall

Senator John Hall brought to the attention of the Senate that there have been ongoing discussions regarding issues concerning the use of technology. Many faculty believe they should have more of a voice in using technology. A big concern is the teacher evaluations as well as issues relating to personnel. Access to personnel information should be related to the supervisors only. At present, those who should not, have access. For evaluations, it is possible that they are being completed by inappropriate individuals. These evaluations are very important to faculty, especially regarding promotion, retention, and tenure, as well as merit. There are also ethical issues. Student participation has been voluntary in the past. Because this is now required by some colleges as a part of the grade to ensure a high percentage of participants, it may be violating the students' rights.

Several clarifications and points were made in an ensuing discussion. Most evaluations are being completed online, but this does vary by department. The process was intended to be completely voluntary. The online version can be viewed at any time by faculty. Most faculty have found that the number of evaluators plummeted with the online version, and there were fewer comments, if any. Some preferred having a choice between the written or the online version. Concern was expressed over students who have never been to class filling out the evaluations online. WN grading will take care of this problem (students would not be prompted to complete the evaluation).

As a result of the discussion, it was agreed that a task force be formed to work with Steve Leslie, Interim Director of the Interactive Teaching and Technology Center. Senators John Hall, Richard Seagall and Brenda Anderson volunteered to work with Leslie. The task force would also be opened up to the faculty.

Adjunct Salaries

Vice Chancellor Cooksey addressed the continuing issue of trying to improve adjunct salaries. The dollars for this academic year went to full-time faculty instead of adjuncts. In order to raise adjunct salaries, ASU needs \$200,000, which could come from .5% of full-time faculty salaries, but of course, that is not preferable. Enrollment is down all over the state. Our pot is not going to get bigger. Supporting adjunct salaries is important, but important decisions need to be made. Last year, ASU came up with \$600,000 to get the full-time faculty salaries up.

Parking

Parking continues to be an issue. Senator Marika Kyriakos questioned the expensive reserved lots. Though spots are not available in these lots, they are never full. What might be the case if all parking were made available without reserved sections? The Senate will revisit parking issues later as old business.

Branding/Logo

Senator John Hall expressed concern over various issues that perhaps would not be issues if they had been channeled properly through the Shared Governance Oversight Committee (e.g. Kays House, iPads, and the new logo). More conversation needs to happen before these things pass. Senator Andy Mooneyhan confirmed that indeed such items can go through SGOC, or could be initiated there. If they are not initiated in SGOC, they can still be taken there, but it may be too late. They would simply go through as an oversight.

Vice Chancellor Cooksey commented that these issues have not just been pulled out of thin air. The problem is communication. Dean John Pratte stated that the line needs to be drawn somewhere. Not everything can go through SGOC. Senator Mooneyhan mentioned that there is a lack of connection between what faculty believe should go through SGOC and what is appropriate for administrators to control without this process.

Regarding the new logo, A-State, Vice Chancellor Cooksey explained that this was an ASU System initiative as an attempt to set our system apart, allowing us to be more noticed. Senator Alex Sydorenko expressed concern that the new logo would not suffice as a tool to distinguish ASU in any way. It is not exceptional. Bill Smith, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications retorted that though he had only been on campus for 8 weeks, he feels that the A-State logo is fairly unique. It was designed by people on this campus seeking distinction. ASU is typically identified as Arizona State University. A-State is distinct. Communication is the key when problems like this arise. Chair Isaacson Julie confirmed that the Senate needs to take responsibility for input in opportunities presented to us outside SGOC.

Shared Governance Committee Reports:

The Finance Committee will meet this coming Monday, 9 September 2013. The Employee Benefits Committee will meet Wednesday, 11 September 2013 to discuss potential changes to the benefits.

Chair's Report/Announcements:

Chair Isaacson apologized for the lateness of the agenda. She complimented Dr. Cooksey highly for her work in preparation of the document. In addition, though there is not yet a full culture of Shared Governance on our campus, we will continue to resolve these issues. In spite of administrative turnover, the campus has new buildings, better students, and more!

Other:

Senator Brenda Anderson inquired about the absence of upper administration at graduation in August. Would this be a trend? Vice Chancellor Cooksey explained that the Chancellor and others were committed to different events at that time. She also explained that the Chancellor was ill during Freshman Convocation. These absences were necessary, but this will not be a pattern for the future.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Faculty Conference. Perhaps it should happen at a different time. It is difficult to have it just before classes commence when everyone is trying to get ready for school. Senator John Hall mentioned that he feels there is too much on faculty at the beginning of the year, and that some colleges hold meetings prior to Fall Conference, before contracts start.

Senator Bill Humphrey moved for adjournment a 4:53. Senator Andy Mooneyhan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Marika Kyriakos

Senators in Attendance:

Executive Committee:

Chair Julie Isaacson

Agriculture & Technology:

Bill Humphrey

Business:

Richard Segall

Jollean Sinclair

Communications:

Pradeep Mishra

Education:

Joanna Grymes (new)

John Hall

Andy Mooneyhan

Amany Saleh

Engineering:

Fine Arts:

Claire (Garrard) Abernathy

Marika Kyriakos

Bill Rowe

Humanities & Social Sciences:

Warren Johnson

Cherisse Jones-Branch

Thomas Ratliff (new)

Alex Sydorenko

Nursing & Health Professions:

Brenda Anderson

Larry Morton (new)

Judy Pfriemer (new)

Sciences & Mathematics:

Hai Jiang

Bruce Johnson

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar

Suzanne Melescue

University:

Margaret McClain

Military Science:

Cecil Clark

Library & Information Resources:

Wendy Crist (new)

Absentees:

Hyung Kim (new)

Larz Roberts

Patty Murphy

Joe Nichols

Shivan Haran

Win Bridges

Hans Hacker (new)

Deanna Barymon

Bill Payne

Proxies:

Visitors:

Aiqun Hu (History)—proxy?

Steve Leslie (ITTC)

Jerry Ball (Humanities and Social Sciences)—proxy? (currently rotating off)