

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
September 5, 2003

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Bill Rowe – President (Fine Arts)
John Hall – Secretary / Treasurer (Education)
Bob Bennett – Immediate Past-President (Science & Mathematics)

AGRICULTURE (1)

Bill Humphrey (Vice – Chair of the Senate)

BUSINESS (3)

Dan Marburger
Terry Roach
Jim Washam

COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Marlin Shipman

EDUCATION (5)

Cindy Albright
Kris Biondolillo
Dan Cline
Charlotte Skinner

ENGINEERING (1)

Tom Parsons

FINE ARTS (3)

Allyson Gill (Proxy – Curtis Steele)
Ken Hatch
Bert Juhrend

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)

Ernesto Lombeida
William Maynard
Larry Salinger
Joe Sartorelli
Richard Wang

LIBRARY (1)

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE (1)

NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (3)

Judith Pfriemer
Troy Thomas (Secretary)
Debra Walden

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS (4)

William Burns
David Gilmore
Jie Miao

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Margaret McClain

VISITORS

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

- Rowe recognized Mark Hoeting from IT Services. Hoeting explained the recent problems with Web for Faculty and Web for Students. Current architecture has reached its maximum potential. System is reaching breaking point at which new system needs to be considered. Increase in real-time services and number of users are exceeding current system's capacity. Performance-tuning measures are being used as a short-term fix but long-term solutions will need to be considered soon.

Rowe – How can faculty/students help?

Hoeting – Course search function puts a heavy load on the system.

Humphrey – What will the long-term solution cost?

Hoeting – We are beginning the discussions. Least expensive option is probably about \$5 million.

Bennett – I think an option that would help would be to go back to paper for mid-term grades if that would help to reduce the load.

Humphrey – The old print course catalog was easier than the online stuff.

Wang – With all respect, this seems like a failure in planning that has led to this problem. I expect the problem may be worse than we expect. Would it be appropriate for the Faculty Senate to see the server log to see how much down time the server has experienced.

Hoeting – Sure. Many of the things that have happened were not foreseeable.

Salinger – This is a big problem.

Humphrey – Where are we with the Internet 2 project?

Hoeting – Should be up by the end of September. Internet 2 is not causing our current problems. It is a separate issue.

? - How are we on the wireless?

Hoeting – You can go to the wireless @ astate.edu site to see where we are. Biggest challenge is getting wireless devices into the hands of the users. Faculty can order the wireless card for a laptop through the campus computer contract.

Hall – What can Faculty Senate say to higher administration that might help IT Services?

Hoeting – This needs to be a priority when UPC processes get started; IT needs faculty support for this. Also the virus issue has been a big problem. Faculty can help by keeping antivirus definitions up to date.

Cline – I realize that the end-user's perception is probably different than what the data show. My perception is that, in spite of the new systems we've installed, things are getting slower and slower.

Hoeting – The problem is we are pushing 8 times more data than we intended to. Some things we could foresee; some things we could not... like 3000 students exchanging movies online.

Humphrey – What percentage of faculty are using Blackboard?

Hoeting – Not sure. Blackboard is a separate system. It is not part of the problem. We have fast lines and obsolete/archaic data systems.

Hall – Should students be downloading movies in light of the appropriate use policy?

Hoeting – The IT policy went through the shared governance process once; I would like to have faculty senate feedback on the appropriate use policy.

- 5/2/03 Minutes approved. (Bennett 1st, Humphrey 2nd, unanimous)
- Bill Rowe – Summary of Summer Activities
 1. Faculty equity has been placed in the hands of the deans. Executive Committee worked all summer on this issue and had several meetings with Susan Allen. The individual who came to the rewrite the Faculty Handbook was originally not big on faculty equity but left thinking equity was a good idea for ASU.
 2. Tracking faculty grievances
 - a. Truncellito's case was resolved; financial settlement was involved; settlement involved agreement not to discuss settlement.
 - b. 3 issues came up related to promotion – 1 faculty member left; 2 grievances are still in process.

- Wyatt's response to Senate Spring 2003 resolutions: Rowe handed out copies of President Wyatt's written responses. The texts of the responses from May 13, 2003 are listed below.

FSR 2003-02 Resolution to Abolish the Use of a Native American Identity at Arkansas State University

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I have your letter of May 6, 2003, which covers a resolution of the Faculty Senate regarding the need to abolish the use of a Native American identity at Arkansas State University. The resolution is addressed to me as president and to the ASU Board of Trustees. Thank you for sending this material for my review and response.

In response to this concern, I have had discussions with faculty, staff, and current students of the university. I also have talked with many constituent organizations external to the university. I find clear and consistent support for the identification of ASU as "The Indians." Further, I have heard resentment expressed toward the Faculty Senate for proposing to change the institutional traditions and heritage.

I am sympathetic to a concern of the Faculty Senate, in that I would not wish to see the university embrace Native American representation in an undignified and irresponsible manner. I feel that we can manage this responsibility to show respect and provide educational focus which will honor Native Americans.

Because I find little support for the resolution of the Faculty Senate, and because there are indications that this issue would be divisive among internal and external constituents, I have declined to forward the Faculty Senate resolution to the ASU Board of Trustees. The trustees in their individual capacities, however, have expressed publicly and to me privately that they do not wish to see the university consider changing our Native American identity.

FSR 2003-03 Resolution Requesting Updated Copies of the ASU-Jonesboro and ASU System Operating Budget

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I have your letter of May 6, 2003, which covers a resolution of the Faculty Senate regarding quarterly updates and publication of the ASU-Jonesboro and ASU System-wide budgets, and that these updated copies be placed in the Library. The resolution is addressed to me as president and to the ASU Board of Trustees.

The ASU budget is a complex and dynamic document. While we will spend the next month compiling and preparing the budget for review and approval by the trustees, once it is approved the budget will then reflect many changes throughout the operational year. The budget, at any moment, is but a snapshot of institutional fiscal activity which represents management of well over \$100,000,000. This management has withstood scrutiny by internal and external auditors without audit exceptions for over six years.

The resolution of the Faculty Senate would place an onerous and costly burden on the small ASU Budget Office. The resolution states an expectation greatly exceeding any other reporting requirement authoritatively placed by any state or external agency, or by the Department of Finance and Administration. Further, there is no practical benefit to the

university or to the State to impose such an unneeded requirement upon an already overworked staff.

I decline to support this resolution of the Faculty Senate, and also decline to forward it to the trustees for their consideration.

FSR 2003-04 Resolution Calling the ASU Administration to Abide by the Legally Defined Faculty Handbook in All Matters / Policies Relating to Faculty Employment

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I have your letter of May 6, 2003, which covers a resolution of the Faculty Senate regarding the Information Technology (IT) Appropriate Use Policy, the Faculty Handbook, and the issues of faculty employment. Thank you for sending this information for my review and response.

In consideration of these issues, I note that the Faculty Senate failed to address any aspects of the IT Appropriate Use Policy in the proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook, submitted recently. I also note that Faculty Senate leadership failed to respond to repeated requests to participate in the development of a university IT Appropriate Use Policy statement. This appropriate use statement was produced as required by law, and was approved by the ASU Board of Trustees on March 8, 2002.

With respect to the Faculty Senate resolution, the Faculty Handbook states that activities of faculty are expected to be lawful and responsible. The handbook cites some of these responsibilities, including those which pertain to the use of the university computer facilities. The handbook does not, and cannot include all pertinent state and federal laws which pertain to faculty conduct. These laws are nonetheless applicable to the faculty, collectively and individually.

With respect to the Faculty Handbook, we have tried to employ the handbook policies and procedures in faculty employment issues. Faculty are also bound by Board of Trustees policy, other institutional operational policies, and pertinent laws. Employment decisions are not arbitrary and capricious, but instead take account of expectations for lawful and responsible conduct which permit and confer academic freedom to the faculty, and which insure that the university operates within its legal authority.

FSR 2003-01 – Resolution to Change the Format of ASU Commencement

Status of this resolution is unknown

4. Update on Faculty Handbook revision process – Dr. Allen hired a consultant to write the HB with “one voice”. Not sure where this is going other than that he is going to write it. Consultant seemed to be a reasonable person, but we won’t accept it if we don’t like it.

5. Wyatt’s response to request for Faculty Senate to be on regular agenda of Board of Trustees meetings – Wyatt’s response was no. Faculty Senate can submit stuff through Dr. Allen and work with Trustees through Dr. Allen.

Hall – There is an official policy in OP&P for addressing the Board of Trustees; we can try this and see what happens.

Shipman – Can we send a letter to the board asking what they want?

Wang – It seems we have a President who is acting as a gatekeeper to prevent Faculty Senate resolutions/opinions from reaching the Trustees. Perhaps we should think about circumventing the President.

New Business

- IT policy – Need to record problems that we are facing so we can have a file on this stuff.

Rowe – IT committee should keep up with system performance.

- Nomination of Faculty Senate Secretary – Bill Humphrey elected as new Secretary.
- Vice-chair election – Delayed until next meeting.
- Coalition of intercollegiate athletics and ASU faculty → attendance at Oct. conference. Coalition is coordinating conference thru AAUP related to financial problems related to intercollegiate athletics.

Rowe – I think it's important that we go. Motion to send persons will go on agenda for next time.

- PRT revisions

Susan Allen met with University PRT Commission and suggested some things related to PRT being reworked. The commission is working on things. They should have something to bring before the Senate soon.

Suggestions

1. Change tenure process to 6-year process instead of a 5-year process.
2. Addition of a chance to reapply.
3. Request for external letters of support for PRT.

Anticipated date of effect unknown; will depend on changes to be made.

Albright – It seems that a shift from 3 pillars (teaching, research and service) to research for promotion is on the horizon.

Discussion ensued about the changing picture of PRT on the campus.

- Faculty Survey on Mission, Organization and Governance

Faculty Senate is getting ready to do the survey that this body approved in the spring. The survey is designed to assess goals and objectives listed in the 1996 HB.

- Faculty retreat – Sept. 20 at Radisson Hotel, downtown Memphis from 11:00-4:30p.m. Agenda will be published to the list serv.
- Diversity Report – Report is on reserve in the library.

- Merit raise issue will be on next agenda.

Announcements

AAUP State Conference at ASU – John Hall will send out an email; meeting will occur at Holiday Inn followed by a social. Speaker is Dr. Anita Lerry (will talk about shared governance and HB).

Maynard suggested Faculty Senate consider donation to scholarship of late wife of Dr. McFarland.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary