

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
January 17, 2003

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bob Bennett, Chair and President of Faculty Association

Jim Bednarz

William Burns (absent)

Dick Freer

Ernesto Lombeida

Bill Maynard

Jie Miao

Joe Sartorelli (proxy – Dave Truncellito)

Norman Stafford

Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chris Brown

Dan Marburger (absent)

Terry Roach

Jim Washam

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Lillie M. Fears (proxy – Jack Zibluk)

Jo Anna Grant

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright

Kris Biondolillo

Dan Cline

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

John Ponder

Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe, President-Elect of the Faculty Association

Alyson Gill

Ken Hatch

John O'Connell

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Troy Thomas, Secretary

Terry Baggs

Debra Walden

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Polly Green

LIBRARY

Myron Flugstad

MILITARY SCIENCE

LTC Michael Loftis (absent)

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

Jan Duggar (absent)

VISITORS

Dr. Susan Allen – VPRAA

Warren Johnson – CAS

Marlin Shipman - Journalism

Phillip Stuly – ASU Herald

Jonathan Stanley – reporting student

Grover Welch – reporting student

Brooke Vermillion – reporting student

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 1 and November 15 meetings were approved without change.

REMARKS

- Dr. Susan Allen – Vice-President for Research and Academic Affairs (VPRAA)
 - Dr. Allen made her first official visit to the ASU Faculty Senate. Dr. Allen answered questions from the faculty concerning the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) and the ABI's projected impact on the ASU academic environment, as well as questions related to academics at ASU in general and Dr. Allen's role and priorities as the new VPRAA. The following main points came out of this discussion:

- Status of ABI with respect to staffing – RFP went out in November; 15 proposals were received; 10 have been funded
 - First biennium funding will be used to buy permanent equipment for the ABI building
 - Dr. Frank Orthoefer, a past president of Riceland Foods, has been hired as Interim Director
 - Advertising will commence soon for a permanent director and ABI faculty
 - Dr. Allen responded to concerns that ABI faculty resource needs would cut into already-stressed academic resources. Library holdings were a specific concern that was mentioned. Dr. Allen stated that she did not expect an impact in the short run, but offered that in the long run the library, regardless of the ABI, would need to look at alternate, cost-effective ways to gain access to journals, etc.
 - Dr. Allen spoke about the move to performance-based funding. Dr. Bennett referenced Act 221 of 2001 (visit <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/data/resources.asp> to find text of this act). Dr. Allen stated that in order to utilize PBF, we must have data. She has asked the deans to submit data on current budgetary expenditures and to develop scenarios in which those budgets remain the same or change plus/minus 5 percent. Dr. Allen also mentioned that an ADHE Committee is currently looking at ways to measure the performance of an academic unit.
 - Dr. Allen that by necessity her primary focus so far has been the research component of her job. She indicated that a Dean of Research would be hired in the future, which would allow her to focus more on the academic part of her position. She also stated that since she is new to campus, she is still in the process of learning the system and gathering needed data to make decisions. She has requested that the deans submit information regarding teaching loads, class size, distance education, etc.
- QUEST Initiative
 - Jo LunBeck, from the Office of Finance and Administration, introduced the Faculty Senate to the OFA's new QUEST initiative. QUEST stands for Quality and Efficiency Support Team. QUEST is a cross-functional, customer-focused team within the F&A Division that provides financial, technical and operational consulting to the ASU community. Support teams will be holding meetings on campus seeking input on F&A's processes and procedures. For more information, call 8268 or visit <http://quest.astate.edu/>.

OLD BUSINESS

- Faculty Handbook
 - Chair Bennett and Vice-Chair Humphrey met with Dr. Wyatt approximately 1 week ago to discuss the Faculty Handbook which Dr. Wyatt had promised to read over the Christmas break. Dr. Wyatt had a series of questions about the reasons behind certain changes in the handbook. Bennett and Humphrey addressed these questions. Bennett said that Wyatt's questions were informational not adversarial. The Handbook is still waiting review by Dr. Allen and further review by the Deans. The Faculty Senate passed the following motion unanimously:
 - **Resolution urging the timely completion of revisions to the ASU Faculty Handbook**
 - The Faculty Senate strongly requests that President Wyatt and relevant administrators read the revised Faculty Handbook and report to the Senate by March 28, 2003, the points with which the administration agrees or disagrees. The Faculty Senate wishes for President Wyatt to understand that the Senate and the faculty it represents deem the handbook extremely relevant and important, a contract between the administration and the faculty.

- Funding for Undergraduate/Graduate Theses
 - The Faculty Senate passed the following resolution unanimously:
 - **RESOLUTION URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE THESIS RESEARCH**
 - WHEREAS, many universities provide small grant support for undergraduate honors and graduate research theses, and
 - WHEREAS, currently there is no such support available at Arkansas State University (ASU), and
 - WHEREAS, students pay tuition and fees for both undergraduate honors and graduate thesis/dissertation credit hours, and
 - WHEREAS, those funds are currently not available in any way to help support thesis/dissertation research costs, and
 - WHEREAS, at many institutions, a portion of the student government funds are allocated to help support student research and thesis/dissertation projects and associated costs (e.g. travel costs to present results at scientific meetings);
 - THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate strongly urges the ASU Administration, in cooperation with the Student Government association, to develop and to implement a small grant program to support student research, creative activities, and other expenses related to the completion of undergraduate honors and graduate theses/dissertations.

- Reporting +/- on student grades
 - The topic of faculty reporting +/- on student grades was once again addressed. A joint committee will be formed to look at this. The committee will minimally include representatives from the following: faculty, SGA, and the Registrar's Office.

- Childcare Committee Report
 - Troy Thomas reported on the proposed Childcare Center. This committee met just prior to the Christmas Break. At this time only 1 proposal had been received. That proposal was from Dr. Michael Prince, owner of the Child and Youth Development Center in Jonesboro. The committee was informed that the proposal would have to be reviewed first to make sure that it met the "letter of the law" as far as things that were required in the RFP. When (if) it is determined that the proposal does meet these criteria, then the committee will meet to discuss their recommendations concerning the proposal.
 - Several members of the committee received anonymous newspaper clippings through campus mail detailing the suspension of Dr. Prince's psychology license in 1999 for the use of improperly trained/supervised aides in the administration of certain psychological tests. This will require further investigation and will certainly be a topic of discussion should Dr. Prince's proposal pass the preliminary stage of evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Salary Report in Arkansas Democrat Gazette
 - Attention was called to the report of salaries of selected positions at educational institutions in Arkansas in the Sunday, January 12th edition of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

- Report of negative faculty recruiting experience
 - Senator Maynard offered an experience from his department's search for a faculty member. An excellent candidate who happened to be a Native American turning down ASU due to its use of an Indian as a mascot. It was previously reported that ASU had ignored the NCAA's call to explore a different mascot. Senator Maynard cited this "disregard" as an example of how the current ASU administration's agenda had hurt the university.

- Tenure rumor
 - Someone in attendance at the meeting stated that he/she had heard a rumor that the U of A – Fort Smith had eliminated tenure for new hires.

- Relay for Life Announcement
 - Relay for Life, the American Cancer Association's annual fundraiser, is scheduled for this spring. Details to come.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary