

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
November 1, 2002

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Bill Humphrey, Vice-Chair

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bob Bennett, Chair and President of Faculty Association

Jim Bednarz

William Burns

Dick Freer (proxy – Larry Salinger)

Ernesto Lombeida (absent)

Bill Maynard

Jie Miao

Joe Sartorelli

Norman Stafford

Richard Wang

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chris Brown

Dan Marburger (absent)

Terry Roach (absent)

Jim Washam

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Lillie M. Fears Jack Zibluk (proxy)

Jo Anna Grant

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Cindy Albright

Kris Biondolillo (proxy – Aaron Bolin)

Dan Cline

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

John Ponder (absent)

Karen Yanowitz

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Thomas Parsons (absent)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Bill Rowe, President-Elect of the Faculty Association

Alyson Gill

Ken Hatch

John O'Connell (absent)

These issues are important because research indicates that these attitudes impact both individual and organizational performance.

Bennett then read the following memo that he received from Dr. Wyatt following the second meeting. The memo read:

This follows our conversation today about your email of October 22nd regarding the faculty meeting scheduled for November 14th. As you know this meeting has been scheduled by the office of Academic Affairs. A process to solicit and present questions also has been defined by Academic Affairs. I appreciate your suggestions to modify the format of the meeting and the process by which questions are solicited, received and presented. As I told you today, I will stay with the format advanced earlier by the Academic Affairs Office. My reason for this decision is that I do not wish to undermine the authority of the Academic Affairs Office to organize such a meeting nor do I wish to question the integrity of that office to fairly collect and present questions. I feel the option of anonymity of questions will give the protection you sought in your proposal. Further as I mentioned in our discussion I will answer any ad hoc questions that arise following the written questions. I look forward to this public and candid exchange as a fulfillment of my pledge to you that I will be responsive to the concerns raised in the employee satisfaction survey. I see the need for better communication with ASU employees and feel that the Town Hall forum will provide for such an open exchange of information.

Dr. Les Wyatt, President, Arkansas State University

Bennett stated that Dr. Wyatt did assure him that all questions submitted to the Academic Affairs Office will be addressed at the Town Hall meeting, and Wyatt also said that if this Town Hall meeting is not as productive or effective as it can be, he will entertain additional future meetings.

The Town Hall Meeting will be held Thursday, November 14th at 3 pm in Riceland Hall in the Fowler Center. Questions should be submitted to the VPAA's office by the end of the day on November 11th.

On a personal note, Bennett indicated that he felt that Dr. Wyatt has, as a result of the discussions of the last two weeks, come to understand that communication and the process of shared governance has not been as effective as they could be. Dr. Wyatt committed to making these processes more open, fairer and more responsive.

Several senators expressed concern over the fact that with regards to a Town Hall meeting for the faculty, that Dr. Wyatt was unwilling to incorporate any of the suggestions of the Faculty Senate into the meeting format. Bennett stated that he

made numerous attempts to make changes to the format, but his efforts were unsuccessful.

REPORTS

- Academic Affairs Council

Chair Bennett reported on the last meeting of the Academic Affairs Council. Two main issues were discussed:

- Process for hiring international faculty and necessary paperwork
- Reporting of mid-term grades
 - Dr. Lynita Cooksey asked Bennett to determine the Faculty Senate's position on reporting mid-term grades for all undergraduates, not just freshmen and sophomores. Discussion followed on this issue with the main sentiment appearing to be that the Faculty Senate felt that unless a good reason could be presented to the Senate by the Student Government Association, then the reporting of mid-term grades for all undergraduates would involve unnecessary extra work for the faculty and was opposed by the Senate.
 - The following motion was made – Faculty Senate is currently opposed to the reporting of mid-term grades for juniors and seniors. **Motion passed by a vote of 15 to 8.**

- Graduate Council Report

Graduate Council will meet on Monday, November 4, 2002. Policy concerning Graduate Faculty Status is on the agenda. This policy has been circulated on the list serv in the past. Discussion followed concerning the need for such a policy. John Hall, a member of the Graduate Council, indicated that the policy was intended to provide a way to assure continued faculty progress and development. Several senators felt that the policy was an example of unnecessary micromanagement. Senator Cline voiced his concern about the potential future ramifications of such a policy. Faculty concerns regarding this policy should be forwarded to the Graduate Council or Graduate Council Representative in the faculty member's college.

Chair Bennett will invite Dean Wheeler of the Graduate School to come and enlighten the Faculty Senate at the next meeting concerning this policy.

- Proposed Campus Childcare Facility

Secretary Thomas, the faculty representative to this committee, reported on the status of the proposed facility. The committee met for the first time on October 17, 2002. The first duty of the committee was to review a proposal for a campus childcare facility that would subsequently be sent out to prospective contractors.

The plan is to find a company that will build and manage a childcare facility on the ASU-Jonesboro campus that would provide services to ASU students and staff. The initial plan is to provide services for approximately 80-100 children. ASU would lease the land to the company and would have some oversight duties, including hiring/firing input concerning the facility director. A copy of the initial proposal can be obtained from Troy Thomas (tsthomas@astate.edu). The proposed site of the facility would be close to the ASU Police Station close to the current Childhood Services building.

OLD BUSINESS

- Finance Committee Report

Motion was made to accept the report submitted by the Finance Committee at the last Senate meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Finance Committee Report

Motion was made that the report be disseminated to the Board of Trustees, the Executive Council, appropriate members of the AR state legislature and to the press. **Motion was passed unanimously with 1 abstention.**

- Campus (Employee Satisfaction) Survey

Motion was made that survey results be disseminated to the Board of Trustees, the Executive Council, appropriate members of the AR state legislature and to the press. **Motion was passed with 1 opposing vote.**

- Questions about new Student Health Center

Senator Wang asked if St. Bernard's involvement with the new Health Center would interfere with the current reproductive health options offered at the Wilson Health Center. Senator Walden offered to talk to Dr. Rick Stripling about the matter and report back at the next Senate meeting.

- US News and World Report –

Copy of a page from US News and World Report was passed out to Senators indicating that ASU had dropped from a Tier 2 school to a Tier 3 school in that publication's ratings.

- Funding for Honors Theses

Chair Bennett indicated that there are currently 10-15 Honors Theses written on the campus each year. Bennett spoke to the VPAA about availability of funds for these students to conduct their research. Currently there is no such funding. VPAA suggested that the money might have to be carved out of faculty funds. Funds currently come from individual faculty members or the faculty's department budget. Bennett stated that he felt that this was an issue that the Senate should pursue. Several senators expressed their dissatisfaction at claims that the university did not have money to make available to these students when the university had, for example, money to put football players up in hotel rooms for home games. Senator Grant asked if the Senate also wanted to support monies for graduate student research. Charge was given to Senators Bednarz and Grant to draft a resolution on this topic.

- Issue concerning ASU mascot

Senator Maynard brought up the issue of the ASU's required response to the NCAA regarding the use of a Native American as the mascot. Senator Maynard wanted to know who had been responsible for making the response to the NCAA. Bennett indicated that Dr. Wyatt had assembled a committee of individuals that he felt would best be able to respond. A report has been submitted to the NCAA. Discussion followed on the ramifications/appropriateness of having a member of a minority group as a mascot, particularly the perpetuation of stereotypes and discrimination against certain groups. Senator Maynard commented on the "arbitrariness" of the selection of the response committee, citing it as another example of the frequent pattern at ASU of ignoring or bypassing input from groups such as the Faculty Senate on matters of concern to these groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Thomas, Secretary