Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 12:45 p.m.

**Attendance:**

College of Business: Jim Downey (2014), Kaye McKinzie (2015), Don Bradley (2016)

College of Education: Shoudong Feng (2014), a-Alicia Cotabish (2015), Jud Copeland (2016)

College of Fine Arts and Communication: Lanette Grate (2014), Garry Craig Powell (2015), Christian Carichner (2016)

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences: Melissa Shock (2014), K.C. Poole (2015), Alexandra Marshall (2016)

College of Liberal Arts: Clayton Crockett (2014), Jacob Held (2015), aa-Chris Craun (2016)

College of Natural Science and Mathematics: Charles Watson (2014), Rahul Mehta (2015), Ben Rowley (2016)

At Large Senators: Brian Bolter (2014), Doug Isanhart (2014), Debbie Bratton (2015), Art Lichtenstein (2015), Kim Eskola (2016), Amber Wilson (2016)

Part-Time: Deb Forssman Hill (2014)

1. Call to Order
2. Comments: President Tom Courtway
   1. Reports he is happy to be back after missing a few meetings for university purposes.
   2. T.J. Johnston has been hired as the director of special university projects/community affairs. He will be responsible for overseeing all phases of the planning and development of the Donaghey corridor project as well as working with officials of the City of Conway on the project. He is very knowledgeable and has lots of connections will make him a valuable asset to this university.
   3. With regards to the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting (Friday, February 21, 2014), we are on the road and have a good plan for the expansion of Lewis Science Center. The board knows that this is what is needed. There will be a proposed increase of the Facilities Fee by $3.50/credit hour (currently $9.00/credit hour, so that will make it $12.50/credit hour). The theoretical move in date for LSC would be January 2017. Three phase renovation of current building is anticipated.
   4. Everyone is being very mindful of the need for a cost of living adjustment as the budget is being considered.
   5. The Board of Trustees will consider a 4.5% room and board increase for next year.
   6. The Board of Trustees will consider a change to the Student Activities Board (SAB) fee at their upcoming meeting (Friday, February 21, 2014). The history of the fee and the new breakdown of the fee is as follows: *Prior to fall 2013, the Student Activities Board (SAB) fee was $8.00 per semester. The fee was enacted to provide funding for speakers, entertainers and social activities for the student body. In spring 2013, the SAB and the SGA asked that the fee be increased from $8.00 per semester to $24.00 per semester. Rather than increase it that much all at once, an understanding was reached that the SAB fee would be increased over two years, and it would also go from a per semester fee to a per credit hour fee. So, in May of 2013, the Board of Trustees converted the fee from a “per semester” to a “per hour” fee. $8.00 per semester would have been $0.53 per credit hour, so it was increased to $1.06 per credit hour for AY 13-14. What will be before the Board in May of this year is the second part of the increase, from $1.06 per credit hour to $1.59 per credit hour for AY 14-15. It will be part of the action item setting tuition and fees for AY 14-15. For a student taking 15 hours this is $7.95 per semester, or $15.90 per year.*
   7. Question from Senator Carichner about the prioritization of new buildings and renovation. Lewis Science Center is the priority (new addition plus renovation). Next is Nursing/Communication Science Disorders building (hopefully, with private money). The Council of Deans voted unanimously to make Lewis Science Center the first priority.
   8. Question from Senator Forssman Hill about President Courtway's opinion on the alternate social security plan vs. contributions to Social Security for part-time faculty issue. Senator Forssman Hill offered various concerns related to each option.
3. Comments: Provost Steve Runge
   1. Provost, Becky Rasnick, Laura Young, and Laura Gardiner all participated in a meeting with Greenbrier School District administrative officials, to discuss the option of re-instituting our concurrent credit offerings with them. The concurrent credit classes would eventually culminate in an Associate of Arts degree from UCA. These classes would have all of the academic rigor of regular UCA classes. Implementation would be Fall 2014. Another school is interested in this for Fall 2015. State law says these classes must be taught by someone with a master’s degree plus 18 hours in that discipline. Some classes will be taught by UCA Faculty, but others will not. Tuition for concurrent is $10/credit hour. This is a revenue loss to begin with, but the hope is that we see revenue increase when these students graduate (actualize) and become UCA regular students. Greenbrier is ok with UCA oversight and administration. Decisions about curriculum will be made at the department level at UCA. Approval and disapproval of curriculum and instructors for courses will be done by the individual departments. The big advantage of concurrent credit offerings is to recruitment. Students will not just get a piece of paper, they will have the knowledge and skill set to back that up.
      1. Several senators expressed many reservations about this process and mentioned problems experienced in this area in the past. Concerns about the quality of instruction and learning experiences that these students will receive. How will this reflect on the university and the quality of education that students receive?
   2. Some space moves are being discussed around campus in order to streamline units and ensure that students are able to get all of their needs met in one place. Want to have more of a “one-stop shopping” experience. No decisions have been made, but a list is being formulated and discussed.
   3. Chief Technology Officer will have two candidates on campus soon (finalizing references today).
   4. Graduate Dean candidate interviews begin today. There are three candidates.
   5. College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Dean candidates will start on campus interviews at the beginning of March.
   6. College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Dean candidates will also start on campus interviews at the beginning of March.
   7. Board of Trustees members Brad Lacy and Victor Green have been making visits to Academic Affairs. Four visits are required each year. These are going well.
   8. Nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards (Public Service; Research, Scholarship, and Creativity; and Teaching Excellence) are currently being accepted. Nominations close on Monday, February 24, 2014. The awards ceremony will be Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 1:40pm.
   9. Working on making progress towards the transfer articulation agreements with ASU-Beebe. Jeff Pitchford is working with Theodore Kalthoff, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, on this project.
   10. Campus talk Thursday, February 13, 1:40pm, Student Center Ballroom.
   11. The university will be implementing a new applicant tracking system (software by People Admin) to allow for digital record keeping during the application process. Training will be provided on Thursday, February 27, 2014, in the Brewer Hegeman Conference Center rooms 111 and 113. The available training times will be 8:15am to 10:15am, 10:30am to 12:30pm, and 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
   12. Question from Senator Bolter about the 34 visiting positions…when will the searches start on those. Provost-just now gathering information and recommendations from colleges and departments. Will be looking at that information and making recommendations soon.
4. Consideration for Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2014
   1. Postponed until the next meeting. Possible changes will be emailed to Senators.
5. Report from Committee on Committees: Senator Don Bradley and Consideration of Alternate Proposal for Formation of Student Success and Retention Council
   1. Proposal from Committee on Committees:

The Council will be chaired by the Associate Provost for Assessment and Enrollment Support. Committee Membership: Faculty Senate President or their designated faculty representative, Staff Senate President, SGA President, Director of Diversity, Director of Counseling Center, Director of Housing and Residence Life, Director of Academic Advising Center, Director of Student Financial Aid, Director of Office of Student Success, Director of UCA Core (this is substitution for the Faculty Senate Vice President), 3 Faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate. The Provost will be an ex-officio member. It has been recommended to drop the Director of Institutional Research from the composition of the committee, in the interest of keeping the number of members low. Of course the Director of Institutional Research will provide a lifeline of crucial data and information to the committee, but the consensus of the committee was that this could be on an as-needed basis and in a less formal role. (NOTE: We did not specifically discuss this in the meeting, but it seems a likely possibility that this could be an ex-officio position?). This brings the total number of voting faculty members on the committee to 5 (out of 14 members). This recommendation was passed unanimously (4-0).

* 1. Minor changes offered by the Provost’s Office
     1. Chair to be Associate Provost for Academic Services and Student Success instead of Associate Provost for Assessment and Enrollment Support.
     2. Add Vice President of Senate back in (for purposes of continuity on the committee). Take away one at large representative (still keeps total number of faculty at 5). This puts the number of faculty on the committee at 5 out of 15
     3. Add Director of Institutional Research.
     4. Friendly amendment by Senator Bolter that the at large faculty members on the committee be for three year appointments. Also for the committee to report concurrently to the Faculty Senate on a yearly basis, in the same manner as other Faculty Senate committees.
  2. Motion to accept amended version presented by Provost by Senator Bradley, second by Senator Downey.
     1. Discussion by Senator Bolter, Senator Downey, and Senator Copeland, Senator Shock, Senator Held, Provost Runge, and Laura Young.
     2. Senator Bradley—Only recommends the change of chair position. Senator Bradley withdraws his motion to accept the amended version of the committee.
  3. Senator Rowley makes motion for the composition of the Student Success and Retention Council to be as follows: Chair--Associate Provost for Academic Services and Student Success. Members: Faculty Senate President, Staff Senate President, SGA President, Director of Diversity, Director of the Counseling Center, Director of Housing and Residence Life, Director of the Advising Center, Director of Student Financial Aid, Director of the Office of Student Success, Director of the UCA Core, 2 at-large faculty, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, Director of Institutional Research. Provost will be ex-officio. The at large faculty members will serve for a three year term.
     + 1. 13 in favor, 8 against, 1 abstain. Motion passes.
  4. Chair of Committee on committees submitted a list of committees that have not been heard from this year. These include: Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, Distance Education/Extended Learning Advisory Committee, Faculty Hearing Committee, Health and Wellness Promotion Committee, Honors Council, Public Appearances Committee, and Student Grievance Committee.
     1. Motion proposed to make a recommendation to drop these committees if have not heard from them by 30 days from publication of the minutes from the February 11, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting by Senator Bradley, Second Senator Isanhart.
     2. Discussion by Senator Downey, Senator Bolter, Senator McKinzie, Senator Carichner.
     3. 21 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion passes.

1. Discussion of Proposals for Projects to be Funded by “Coke” Money—**Tabled until Thursday, February 27, 2014 Meeting**
   1. Presentation of Library Proposals – Senator Wilson
   2. Presentation of Research Grant Proposal – Senator Rowley
   3. Presentation for Campus-Wide Distribution – Senator Eskola
   4. Other Options from Floor
   5. Prioritization and Vote
2. Consideration of Proposal to Amend Faculty Senate By-Laws – Senator Amber Wilson (see attachment)
   1. Motion to pass the proposed changes by Senator Wilson, Second by Senator Bolter.
      1. Passed unanimously
3. Reports: Standing Committees
   1. K.C. Poole—Our committee will meet Thursday and will have substantial report next meeting
   2. Chris Craun—is out sick today, but committee has been working. Will have a full report next meeting.
   3. Brian Bolter—Our committee has not met because there is nothing our committee can do about these issues. They are being addressed by other entities.
4. Faculty Concerns
   1. Senator Powell presented a constituent concern:

*Greetings, Senators--*

*I read with interest the two proposals for spending the $25K given to the Faculty Senate out of pouring rights revenue.*

*I'm for neither of the proposals because I believe both research support and library resources should exist as their own line-item in our academic budget. It is my opinion that if we don't have enough to cover these costs, we need to push for increases in the academic budget and not try to use a glassful of one-time pouring rights money to inch up the level of academic support from these two particular wells.*

*If the senate is looking for ideas about ways to spend the money that benefits a large percentage of faculty, I'd like to suggest exploring support for shared governance in the form of small stipends paid for committee service.*

*For one thing, the Faculty Senate itself exists to maintain shared governance. Thus, for the senate to support the role of faculty in the workings of the university seems an appropriately logical choice for disbursing the money given to this body.*

*In thinking about how this might work, the senate could use the list of existing university committees and perhaps create categories for the level of time and effort a committee demands. (These categories could be developed from survey data, e.g., how often a committee meets, what kinds of reports a committee produces, etc.)*

*For instance, I'm on two committees right now, one of which meets every single week and one which meets--maybe--once a year. Clearly, committee service is not equal. So categories for committees would make sense.*

*Once categories had been established, then faculty committee members would be eligible for a certain amount of money (depending, of course, on the category) to be spent on something work-related: travel, teaching materials, research, etc.*

*It could be that not all faculty would even want money for their committee work--I would be hesitant to "pay" myself from the committee that meets maybe once a year. But for the heavy-investment one I've committed to, yes, I would love for that committee work to make me eligible for some travel funds because that particular committee requires a great deal of work.*

*I'm not saying setting this up would be easy--there are lots of variables involved--but it's worth considering, I think, because not only might it support shared governance, it could promote it as well.*

*Please feel free to share this idea with others (though as I'm sure you're aware, communications to senators are to remain anonymous).*

* 1. Senator Copeland—I hope that we can begin the process of committee assignments earlier this coming year, so that we can stay on top of the workload involved.
  2. Senator Forssman Hill presented a constituent concern:

*Hello--The Senate has a great opportunity here that doesn't happen very often--how to spend $25,000 to benefit faculty. Seems the trick is to decide what kind of thing would benefit the most faculty in a way that we see that benefit.*

*That money can easily go to supplement those things that the university isn't providing enough of--travel money, research money, library subscriptions, sabbaticals, money for computers, technology or equipment and the like. All worthy causes, but I don't like the idea of the Senate adding money to pots that should be filled up by other funds. And as one time money, that doesn't get us very far.*

*What about thinking of projects that are of a one time nature that we don't get money for anyway? Maybe even ask faculty for ideas for that kind of thing and form the inevitable committee that would choose the worthiest project(s)? Here's a couple of ideas:*

*1. Some kind of campus project that isn't under consideration right now but would benefit many of us and not cost a lot. I'm thinking of the lack of anywhere outside on campus to comfortably sit and do some work, eat lunch, or socialize without getting fried by the sun. We have that wonderful spot outside of Starbucks, but there is no shade and your skin can literally melt into the bench seats they get so hot. There are three stone tables on the west side of Burdick that are out of the sun until the afternoon and five tables outside of the student center that are mostly in the sun all day. Everything else is a random bench here and there, like the courtyard outside of Irby. But again, not in the shade anywhere.*

*2. What about providing money for interested faculty to go to conferences that (in my college at least) are not covered under our travel funding rules (we have to be presenting) and are not discipline specific? I'm thinking about the kinds of conferences the AAC&U host such as one on educational equality, one on gen ed and assessment, one on diversity and student learning. Or going to the state or national AAUP conference. Or those sponsored by Women in Higher Education such as Women in Education Leadership. Or the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education or the American Council on Higher Education. You get the idea. These are the kinds of conferences I think many of us would like to go to but we can get no funding for them from any entity on campus. In order to make it beneficial for more faculty, any faculty who would get funding to go to something like this (through some Senate Committee decision) would then be required to give a presentation about what they learned--like the IDC does.*

*I'm sure given the chance, faculty could come up with a few more ideas of this nature and the Senate could make a decision. I know these two ideas involve some work, even a lot of work, but it seems to me you guys have an opportunity to something a bit more than add some money to existing pots.*

* 1. Senator Eskola presented a constituent concern-- *Faculty in the CHBS are concerned that if student evaluations are being used for faculty advancement and promotion that the university is not taking measures to ensure student responses. The faculty have been asked to remind, encourage and even give bonus points to student who submit their instructor evaluation. It was suggested that "why can't the university put a pop-up reminder that student have to click out of to get to their MyUCA screen and continues to pop-up until evaluations are done?" " Can a hold be placed on their account until instructor evaluations are completed?" Just some suggestions but many are concerned about this.*
  2. Senator Held presented a constituent concern— *"It seems degrading/demeaning to refer to our female athletes as "Sugar Bears." Why not simply have men's and women's teams, both being the "Bears?" It seems as a culture we're past the tradition of giving female athlete diminutive titles, like "Sugar Bears."*
  3. Response by Senator Isanhart-- *I believe there are but 2 UCA women's athletic teams currently using the nick-name Sugar Bears, those being volleyball and basketball. Both coaches have asked the players if they wanted the name changed. Players agreed to leave as Sugar Bears.*
  4. Senator Carichner

*Use of Pouring Rights Revenue to Provide Recruitment Stipends  
  
It was stated at a faculty senate meeting some months ago that any future raises or COLA’s need to be considered alongside recruitment and retention of UCA students.  With dwindling state resources and the stagnation of private resources, the slices of the pie continue to get smaller for all interested parties and therefore, aside from tuition increases, one of the few real sources of revenue would be recruitment and retention of students.  It has also recently been stated that there is a goal to increase the enrollment of the university.  So, I propose the following:  
  
Establish a committee of Faculty Senators that will allocate “recruitment grants” to faculty that apply.  
  
Awards can be used for resources and travel, not to exceed $500 per request.    
  
Faculty requesting grant money must use the resources to get directly in front of prospective students (first time freshman, transfer, non-traditional, graduate, etc). Further guidelines may need to be established.  
  
Additional ideas: Faculty have students they contact fill out “interested student cards” that if the student does indeed enroll, the Faculty could be awarded something small…$25,  Bear Bucks, UCA swag, etc.  
  
What this proposal encourages is for faculty to take an active role in the recruitment of great students the university wants and needs.  I feel that when faculty connect directly with the prospective students, there’s a much better chance of that student attending the university.    
  
Obviously the timeline of this is pretty urgent, if it were to be approved.*

* 1. Senator Wilson—The College Faculty Senate elections will now be held online on March 7, 2014. I will be contacting the senators currently serving in the 2nd year of their senate term, to help me double check the list of faculty and email addresses that I received from the Provost’s office. A call for nominations will be forthcoming and a trial run will be implemented before the actual election. The At-large elections will be held Friday, April 4, 2014.
  2. President Watson—The executive committee has been the informal body working on how to spend the coca-cola money. If senators would like to have input on this, please let the president know.

1. Announcements
2. Adjournment
   1. Motion made by Senator Downey, second by Senator Marshall.