Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Tuesday, December 9th, 2014

11:00 a.m. – Room 315: Wingo Hall

**Attendance:**

College of Business: Kaye McKinzie (2015), Don Bradley (2016), Doug Voss (2017) (a)

College of Education: Shoudong Feng (2015), Jud Copeland (2016), Kevin Stoltz (2017)

College of Fine Arts and Communication: Garry Craig Powell (2015) (a) , Jane Dahlenburg (2016) (aa), Lynn Burley (2017)

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences: K.C. Poole (2015), Duston Morris (2016) , Mitchum Parker (2017)

College of Liberal Arts: Jacob Held (2015), Chris Craun (2016), John Parrack (2017) (a)

College of Natural Science and Mathematics: Rahul Mehta (2015) (George Bratton) (a), Ben Rowley (2016) , Lori Isom (2017) (aa)

At Large Senators: Debbie Bratton (2015), Art Lichtenstein (2015), Kim Eskola (2016), Amber Wilson (2016), Lisa Christman (2017) (aa), Lisa Ray (2017) (a)

Part-Time Senator: Deb Forssman Hill (2015)

1. Call to Order – By Senator Bradley
   1. Senator Bradley calls the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
   2. Will re-order the agenda to accommodate various people’s schedules.
2. Comments: President Courtway
   1. Reminder of the President’s reception tonight.
   2. Update: Modify board policy on tuition wager to include spouses for graduate school on the board’s agenda.
   3. No questions.
3. Comments: Faculty Senate President Bradley
   1. Hold comments until specific agenda items.
4. Comments: Provost Runge
   1. Enrollment Management Plan Draft
      1. Question: Senator Burley – How will faculty deal with increased enrollment
         1. Provost Runge: We’ve got to deal with these issues, that’s why we need feedback. A new ready draft will be available soon, once this is ready.
      2. Senator Craun: “Learning Communities” needs to be a part of this.
      3. Senator Bradley: Do we need to set requirements at the graduate level?
         1. Provost Runge: Yes, we’re working on that, it’s just not in the document.
      4. Senator Copeland: On page 10, is Hughes affiliated with any college?
         1. Provost Runge: No, it is not affiliated with an academic college.
   2. Questions:
      1. Senator Copeland: On Blackboard – This migration, this is the big one, we’re not going to have to do this again soon, right?
         1. Provost Runge: Correct.
      2. Senator Craun: On director positions, do you have an anticipated interview date?
         1. Provost Runge: Anticipate late January, February. You’ll be kept posted.
      3. Senator Rowley: Brief update on the status of concurrent enrollment?
         1. Provost Runge: Not changing anything. Waiting to hear back on the committee report from faculty senate. We are currently carrying on as we have been in the recent past. Not trying to boost these numbers or moving on associate’s degrees. At this time.
      4. Senator Burley: What happens with the resolution regarding searches we passed last meeting?
         1. Provost Runge: I’ll be discussing this with the president latter this week.
   3. International Enrollment
      1. Provost Runge: We are actively recruiting international students. We are also recruiting globally, not simply Mandarin speaking countries. With respect to Latin America: We do employ a recruiter in Latin America, Lara Bersano Calot in Argentina.
      2. Questions: Senator Copeland – Is WLAN involved in this?
         1. Provost Runge: Yes, there are people with WLAN that are involved with this. But these initiatives are out of international engagement.
      3. Questions: Senator Bradley recognizes Michael Yoder: Is ASU building a campus in Mexico?
         1. Provost Runge: The status of this is unclear.
5. Consideration of Minutes –November 11th, 2014
   1. Senator Copeland moves to accept, Senator Ray seconds
   2. Discussion: None
   3. Vote, unanimous approval of the minutes.

1. Report from Committee on Committees: Senator Rowley
   1. Brief discussion of intentions for upcoming semester but no report.
   2. Discussion ensues: Senators Burley, Copeland, Wilson, Bradley, and Rowley.
2. Comments from Dr. Michael S. Yoder, SEED Committee on UCA Recycling
   1. Senator Parker: E-Cycling initiative for personal electronics on campus? Can we set it up? Senators McKinzie and Eskola note as well the importance of this and student led projects that provide such services.
3. Comments from Senator Amber Wilson on faculty complaints on athletes missing too many classes
   1. Senator Wilson: Concern on the behalf of student welfare: Student athletes missing classes at crucial points in the semester. Not necessarily about the number of courses, but the placement of these absences, namely, at the end of the semester.This is finals season as well as basketball season. So want to bring this issue to light and begin a conversation on the timing as well as the amount of absences.
      1. Compliance response: Associate Athletic Director Natalie Schock: We do try to keep our athletes in class as much as possible. Our basketball team is improved this year. We’ve played a lot of games on the road this year. We can’t get people to come to us; we have to go to them. For some of these we get supplements for going to play at other schools, so we have to travel to play those games. But these schedules are signed off by Dr. Teague. This schedule was approved taking into consideration all the concerns about our basketball program.
         1. Question: Concerning the men’s basketball team specifically – what steps are we currently taking to get ourselves off of probation for this team.
            1. Response: We have NCAA penalties. We’re not eligible for post season this year or next. Also in relation to probation, we’re only allowed 16 hours a week for practice, not 20 hours. We did recruit better student athletes for this group. Submitted an improvement plan to the NCAA. We no longer recruit at-risk student athletes in basketball. We are confident we can get off probation by next year. We are requesting we get a waiver for the penalty to not be able to play in the post season for 2015-2016.
         2. Senator Eskola – Seeing this in the first person, this team and the basketball staff are really being diligent about this.
         3. Senator Parker: Coaches are doing a superb job here. But in general with athletes, you have to be in class for some courses. You can’t make up content. This applies to all athletes. They may miss too much to make up content. Is their inability to participate hindering their success and perhaps even directing them away from areas of study that demand that type of dedication?
            1. Schock: This is how athletics functions nationwide. Student athletes will be on the road, they will have to travel.
         4. Senator Burley: Everyone seems to be doing their best from the athletics side. What responsibilities do faculty have, what help can faculty get/give with respect to these student athletes?
            1. Schock: We have tutoring on campus, it’s what is available to all students. Spring championships are going to occur during finals. We’re trying to set up proctoring services, and other resources to accommodate student need.
         5. Senator Eskola: Sometimes what faculty can do is advise student athletes to take more difficult courses off season.
         6. Senator Poole: We record a lot of audio/visual. Maybe they can do this to make up material.
         7. Senator McKinzie: Throughout the semester we get requests to update grades and attendance. How are these used? What do you need in these reports to help you out?
            1. Response: We need to see if they are at risk. Once we know that we immediately address that with the student, coaches…We tend not to look closely at positive reports. But what we need is for everyone to be consistent with these and err on the side of risk so we can address problems as they arise before they become a significant problem.
         8. Comment from Provost Runge: We always get complaints about athletes registering early. They need to be able to do this to best organize their schedules to minimize lost time.
4. Discussion on Letter Sent from Jen Talbot dealing with three-year limits for lecturers
   1. Senator Copeland: The idea of three years for visiting, could they be reviewed for another three years?
      1. Senator Bradley: The idea behind this is to force people into tenure track and permanent positions. We don’t want to keep people around for extended periods of time on one year or temporary positions. We have been converting some of these to permanent positions.
      2. Provost Runge: We’ve moved people with more than 7 years off visiting into permanent lines. August 2014 is the first time the three year limit hit once in effect. Some people this last academic year were not renewed due to this limit. But there have been cases of conversions. Visiting lines have been pulled and tenure track lines approved. Deans have been asked to conduct inventories for their full time visitors and recommendations regarding who should be moved to permanent lines. We don’t want to rely too heavily on visiting faculty, but you don’t want to get rid of the flexibility that it affords, for example, if enrollment declines you need flexibility in terms of staff. We are looking at all visiting positions and waiting for recommendations from deans.
   2. Senator Parker: If we remove this requirement or give too great a flexibility we may become again too reliant on these positions, and this can be prone to abuse, to not hiring tenure track or permanent positions.
   3. Recognize Dr. Carey Smitherman to discuss the email concern submitted by Jen Talbot. The writing department did have a lot of visiting faculty when this rule was being developed. These faculty did feel they were permanent and had a false sense of security. As a result of the three year rule the writing program has noticed some issues. We have to offer a great deal of sections of 1310 and 1320, the first year writing programs. So we are almost always in need of new faculty. We have at this time 5 visiting positions in writing, as we converted two into a singular tenure track line. But we will still need to subsidize with adjuncts. Altering this rule won’t solve these problems. And we don’t want to go back to indefinite temporary positions like we had in the past. We are having trouble recruiting people due to pay and the three year rule.
      1. Provost Runge: The writing department is unique insofar as it had developed a program with the three year rule to bring people in as visitors as a stepping stone for people in that discipline. That contributed to the proliferation of visitors since it was programmatic to writing.
      2. Dr. Smitherman: What we noticed is we weren’t recruiting high end faculty that were thinking of it that way.
      3. Senator Poole: Question about what “visitor” means.
         1. Provost Runge: One year contracts renewable up to a maximum of three years.
         2. Senator Bradley: And if you want to keep these people permanently, the chair and dean can ask to convert this position to a lecturer position. It might not happen, but it is an avenue open to all.
      4. Senator Craun: Because we require these courses, they are core, we need to find the money to put full time lines in place to staff them. If these are foundational we need to staff them.
         1. Provost Runge: Yes, that’s easy to say. We’re at over 85 percent of student hours taught by full time faculty at UCA. We do well in this regard. Writing is an extreme example. They have too many visitors accumulated over time.
      5. Senator Burley: We had 13 visiting people when this rule was put in motion. We have made progress. We knew it would be difficult and painful. And it’s not just about full time faculty. We are already lecturer heavy, not tenure lines in the department.
      6. Senator Craun: To clarify, writing is making strides. I think we need more tenure lines. We need to prioritize writing.
      7. Provost Runge: A faster way to solve this would be to reprioritize our list of faculty hiring. The requests always come in millions over budget. That’s our opportunity to prioritize where our hiring moneys go. We could institutionally decide to do that.
      8. Senator McKinzie: Need to consider number of permanent compared to student credit hours. That will help us understand need.
5. Report from Faculty Affairs I Committee
   1. Working, No Report
6. Report from Faculty Affairs II Committee
   1. No report
7. Report from Academic Affairs Committee
   1. Waiting on information, No report.
8. Announcements
   1. None
9. Faculty Concerns (***The concerns below reflect the position of the faculty member who submitted them. All concerns are anonymous. They are included verbatim if sent ahead of time or electronically. (Verbatim comments are italicized.) Comments are paraphrased if presented by a faculty senate member without being accompanied by a written version. The comments below do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any faculty senate member, department, college, or university official. The comments herein presented are unedited. The faculty senate or its agents cannot attest to the veracity of claims made under the “Faculty Concerns” section of the Faculty Senate minutes.***)
   1. Submitted to Senator Rowley: ***I do have one issue I would appreciate you bringing up at the meeting- the new HPER Center.  While the center is all shiny and nice, my complaint is that it should not have opened prior to being completed.  Construction was obviously not complete, from the exterior landscaping to some of the inside facilities- particularly the men's shower/locker room at the pool.  Specifically, the locker area was cordoned off, the lockers were only partially constructed, and there was locker/cabinet parts laying on the built-in benches waiting for installation.  As a result there was no place to put your clothes while swimming, the only bench to sit on while changing clothes was wet, there were no curtains in the showers to block the water from wetting the benches in the shower area that might have been used, and the entire shower room floor was wet.  I'm not sure how it will be when curtains are installed in the showers, but the floor tiles they installed in the shower/locker room are very slippery when wet and are just waiting for someone to slip and be injured.***

***I'm not sure what can be done about the HPER center, but perhaps raising this issue with the administration might prevent future construction projects, i.e. the CNSM building expansion, from being opened prematurely just to satisfy a pre-set completion date.  Thanks in advance for raising this issue with the senate if you get a chance.***

* 1. Senator Parker: Set up auto notification when students change majors. Access to some adobe programs for creation of forms. Ability to do more electronic signatures.

1. Adjournment
   1. Senator Wilson moves to adjourn, Senator Craun seconds .

* Next Meeting January 13th, 2015.