

Minutes
UCA Faculty Senate
Thursday, February 26, 2009
Wingo 315, 12:45 p.m.

President Boniecki called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. Present were Boniecki, Parrack, Seifert, Ray, Jones, Castner-Post, Lichtenstein, McCullough, Lance, Isom, Schaefer, Rospert, Johnson, Acre, Fletcher, Castro, Albritton, Runge, Bell, and Provost Grahn. Advised Absences: Powers, Wiedmaier, Mehta, Moore, and Hebert. Absent: Holden

I. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2009. (see Agenda Attachment 1)

Senator Lance moved to approve minutes with second by Senator Ray. Motion passed approving the minutes with no corrections.

II. President's Report.

A. Update on presidential search:

The committee met and discussed potential evaluation procedures. No action taken on any applicants (approximately 22) or nominees (approximately 9). Next meeting will be March 2.

B. Budget Advisory Committee:

Met this week and heard appeals from all units on campus regarding budget needs. The University is expecting \$2 million from the state. The BAC recommended (with support from SGA president) a 2% tuition increase. It was also recommended that the advertising budget be reduced from \$950,000 to \$350,000. Approximately \$670,000 is owed to Lu Hardin. A recommendation was also made to give classified staff a 3% cost of living increase (\$432,650.00). That leaves an "extra" \$2.5 million in the budget with \$7 million in requests from all campus units. Provost Grahn argued that we should budget to expenses. No actions were finalized. The BAC will meet again next Tuesday to hear from the provost and make final recommendations to the president.

Provost Grahn: Our base budget next year is \$75 million; anticipated expenditures are \$90 million (as recommended by the Deans). There will be some real challenges to decrease this approximately \$15 million deficit. Units all over campus (police department, physical plant) are also working under these tight budget constraints.

Question- Senator Johnson: How did we spend \$85 million if we didn't have it?

Response- Provost Grahn: Because the budget didn't include essential expenditures.

Question- Senator Isom: How can you budget if you don't budget to cost?

Response- Provost Grahn: Budgets of past years were somewhat fictional; they did not include all necessary costs. This pattern of budgeting and spending pre-dates the Hardin administration.

C. Faculty Handbook Committee:

1. Minutes (see Agenda Attachments 2 and 3).

2. Resolution: Temporary Suspension of the Distance Education/Extended Learning Advisory Committee (see Agenda Attachment 4).

The DE/ELAC was established when online courses were a “new and novel” thing. Now the Faculty Handbook Committee questions the current charge and membership of the DE/ELAC given the evolution and extent of online education at UCA.

Senator Parrack moved to approve the resolution with second by Senator Johnson.

Comment- Senator Johnson: Seems like tech issues could be handled by IT and academic policies and content could be handled by the regular channels.

Motion passed approving the resolution.

D. Committee Charge:

1. Academic Affairs: *Conduct a review of the charge and membership of the Distance Education/Extended Learning Advisor Committee and provide a recommendation to the Faculty Senate.*

Comment- Provost Grahn: \$83,200.00 needed to provide for stipends for the development of online education. In the future, I will assign money to Dean's to distribute to faculty developing online courses and programs, rather than stipends being approved by the DE/ELAC.

Comment- President Boniecki: Academic Affairs should consult with the Provost when following its charge.

III. Committee Reports.

A. Executive Committee:

1. Resolution: Online Student Evaluations of Faculty (see Agenda Attachment 5).

Senator Seifert moved to approve resolution with second from Senator Schaefer.

Question- Senator Fletcher: Is there anything in this resolution that would prohibit a faculty member from requiring that the student complete the evaluation?

Response- President Boniecki: No, and I will clarify that with J. Glenn.

Question- Senator Fletcher: What does “move diligently” mean?

Response- President Boniecki: We are leaving that up to J. Glenn but if this passes I assume it will happen this semester.

Question- Senator Castro: Are they going to run some type of small test group?

Response- President Boniecki: This has been done successfully already with the online courses.

Comment- Senator Runge: We should be careful that this doesn't become like “Rate My Professor.”

Response- President Boniecki: Yes, the interface is different; it is not up for public consumption, and there are no chili peppers.

Motion passed approving the resolution.

2. Resolution: Mandatory Academic Success Workshops for Students on Academic Probation or Suspension (see Agenda Attachment 6).

Senator Ray moved to approve resolution with second by Senator Johnson. Motion passed approving the resolution with 1 abstention.

Question- Senator Lance: Do we have any evidence that attendance translates into academic success?

Response- B. Eubanks (guest): No, but we have kept up with attendance.

Comment- President Boniecki: We will pass that along; a tracking system would be good.

Response- B. Eubanks: We have approximately 1600 students on probation and about 25% attend these sessions.

Question- Senator Isom: Is there any way to go back and look at the data you do have to determine if this is effective and compare what's been done vs. what we are proposing?

Response- B. Eubanks: Yes, we could do that at least for the last 2 years (4 semesters).

Comment- President Boniecki: Hopefully this will be a positive experience for these students.

Question- Senator Lance: How will you manage the increase in numbers?

Response- B. Eubanks: We are investigating a variety of mediums including fairs and online courses.

Comment- Provost Grahm: We may have to add a fee to cover the costs of additional advisors. We are raising the expectations at UCA for academic success and we are also expecting that students pay tuition.

Comment- Provost Grahm: Be aware that administrative removal from class will happen on March 2 for non-payment. Faculty should be prepared to ask students to leave class. Students have been given ample opportunity, through student accounts, letters, e-mail, and phone calls, to make even the most minimal payment towards their account.

3. Recommendation from the Library Committee: Library Fee (see Agenda Attachment 7).

Comment- President Boniecki: SGA is considering this at the level of \$5-7.

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: There are two overall recommendations out there right now, one from us and one from the student group. The student group resolution also includes staff (24-7), cleaning crew, more electrical outlets, private study corrals, furniture, etc. The students did an extensive survey. The Faculty resolution is solely for

resources for teaching and research (i.e. the Web of Science, J Stone). So these two proposals are a little different.

Renee Le Beau-Ford from the library is here to answer any questions.

Question- President Boniecki: How did you come up with \$9.00?

Response- Senator Lichtenstein: This was discussed extensively. This comes out to about \$1.1 million per semester which is desperately needed to keep up with our peer institutions.

Comment- R. Le Beau-Ford (guest): We are about \$500,000 below UALR in expenditures. We are probably \$600-700,000 below expenditures for where we should be to meet basic needs. Students start to get discouraged because we don't have good resources.

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: The Book budget has increased by less than 5% since 1993; cost has gone up by at least 35%. We hate to ask for another fee but this is our reality. We would be happy for the institution to actually support the library. Ideally the fee/resolution would cover ideas from both these recommendations.

Comment- President Boniecki: This also came up at BAC. There is a definite concern that fees go where they are supposed to go. The students are very concerned about this.

Comment- President Boniecki: The Executive Committee will work with the SGA to develop a resolution that meets all constituencies' needs.

Comment- Senator Johnson: Under President Farris's tenure (1982ish) we did fund the library at 4.5% of the institution's budget.

- B. Committee on Committees: No report.
- C. Academic Affairs: We heard from SGA regarding the Honor code. We made comments and have sent it back to SGA. We are awaiting further communication. We hope to have a resolution next meeting.
- D. Faculty Affairs I: Online voting for Faculty Senate issues. A couple of issues regarding the database and archiving and counting votes; forward comments to Ed Powers.
- E. Faculty Affairs II: We have gathered all data on the pageant issue and will have a resolution for the next meeting.

IV. Announcements and Concerns.

- A. Faculty Concerns and announcements.
 - 1. Faculty Senate Elections: Two at-large positions are open and elections will be held next week. Elections will be held next Friday, March 6. We need volunteers for 8 a.m. - 4p.m. to man the elections. Early voting can take place at the circulation desk on Wednesday and Thursday.
 - 2. Nilu Runge: Is R. Fleming coming to the meeting?

Response- President Boniecki: The Executive Committee is still discussing this.

3. Senator Johnson presented the following faculty concern regarding Presidential Discretionary Scholarships:

I would like to have the Faculty Senate issue a statement that the Board of Trustees should not have been allowed to negotiate a buyout for President Hardin because of the board's conflict of interest. As the Democrat Gazette has written, many board members asked L.H. to grant discretionary scholarships. L.H. granted these favors with public money. It appears that in return for these favors, the board gave L.H. nearly a million dollar buyout. The board should not have put itself into a situation where there is such a blatant conflict of interest, a situation where people can so easily question the board's motives.

Response- President Boniecki: The Executive Committee will consider this.

- B. Next Meeting: March 10, 2009 at 12:45 p.m.

- V. Adjournment: Senator Bell moved to adjourn meeting with second by Senator Lance. Motion passed approving adjournment.