

**Minutes**  
UCA Faculty Senate  
Thursday, August 21, 2008  
Wingo 315, 12:45 p.m.

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

I. Address by President Hardin. President Hardin was unable to attend because he is still recovering from his recent surgery. His address has been postponed until September 9.

II. Approval of Minutes.

A. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2008. Senator Mehta moved for approval of minutes with second by Senator Ray. Motion passed approving the minutes.

B. Approval of Minutes for April 29, 2008. Correction: Meeting time should say 11:00 a.m. not 11:00 p.m. Senator Ray moved for approval of minutes with correction with a second by Senator Mehta. Motion passed approving the minutes with corrections.

III. President's Report.

A. Introduction of Lance Grahn, Provost and Dean of Faculty. Dr. Grahn reports that he remains delighted to be here. He stated that his focus will be on our core mission of *academics* and that he looks forward to working with faculty.

B. Update: Honor's Discussion Panel. Plans are underway to form a discussion panel to address the Honors Faculty Policy. About half of the discussion panel has been elected. Those colleges without representatives should hold elections quickly. The panel needs to meet by the deadline of October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Faculty was given until June 30<sup>th</sup> to submit responses regarding the Sunset Clause/Honors Faculty Policies; however, the deadline was extended to August 31<sup>st</sup> because only 1 response was received. Approval to formally extend the deadline was moved by Senator Lance with second by Senator Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Update: New Faculty Mace. This issue has been forwarded to the Public Art Committee (Gayle Seymour, Chair). No action will be taken until a report is received from the Public Art Committee.

D. Minutes from the Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee. A resolution to cut retirees' benefits was approved at a Board of Trustees meeting held on June 17, 2008. Neither the Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee nor the faculty was consulted on this matter. Since the announcement (we all received a letter in the mail) the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee have been addressing ongoing concerns regarding these cuts. Supplemental insurance for current retirees was being cut. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Fringe Benefits Advisory committee requested that that benefit (\$73.00/month until age 70) be reinstated. The Board of Trustees approved a request on July 25, 2008 to give a lump sum payout to the current retirees. Both committees will continue to monitor this situation

and verify that the current retirees receive this payout. The Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee also will be looking at reinstating other benefits and will also assess the situation for future retirees. As a side note, the cost of health insurance isn't going up (0% increase) this year. Senator Lance stated that yet again the health insurance benefit was not sent out for a public bid.

E. Address to Board of Trustees. Dr. Boniecki addressed the UCA Board of Trustees on July 25, 2008. You can view that address on the Faculty Senate Website:  
[http://www.uca.edu/org/facultysenate/Documents/Address\\_to\\_Board\\_July\\_25.pdf](http://www.uca.edu/org/facultysenate/Documents/Address_to_Board_July_25.pdf)

#### IV. Executive Committee Report.

A. Parliamentarian Charles Seifert discussed the by-laws and reminded us about the basic rules and procedures for meetings. Robert's Rules of order are utilized during the meetings for efficiency and effectiveness. Senator Seifert distributed a handout of common motions and their rankings. He highlighted the following rules. (1) A senator may speak only when recognized by the chair (President Boniecki). (2) Debate begins when the chair states a motion or resolution. (3) No senator may speak twice on the issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken. (4) All remarks are directed to the chair. They must be courteous and avoid all personalities. Never allude to others by name, especially when referring to opinions or concerns of constituents. Never refer to motives of others. (5) The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations. When they are presented to the Senate and the question is stated, debate begins and changes occur.

Motion for approval to suspend rules of order was made by Senator Parrack with second by Senator Powers. Motion to suspend rules passed. Senator Parrack then moved that Senator Schaffer be appointed to the HLC task force with a second by Senator Lance. Motion passed approving the appointment.

B. Meetings with President Hardin. See the Timeline (Attachment 4). Both the Executive Committee and President Boniecki met with President Hardin on several occasions this summer. The purpose and results of these meetings are stated in the timeline.  
<http://www.uca.edu/org/facultysenate/agenda/08-09/Agenda%20August%2021%202008.pdf>

C. Meetings with Vice Presidents Anderson, Gillean, & McLendon. See the Minutes of the Meeting with the VPs (Attachment 5). The Executive Committee met with Vice Presidents Anderson, Gillean, & McLendon to determine the fact surrounding the memo given to the Board of Trustees on May 2, 2008. The VPs have reviewed these minutes and any necessary changes have been made to ensure that the VPs perspective is accurately reflected. See Attachment 5.  
<http://www.uca.edu/org/facultysenate/agenda/08-09/Agenda%20August%2021%202008.pdf>

D. Committee Assignments. The 2008-2009 Faculty Senate Subcommittee Assignments are as follows:

Executive Committee: Kurt Boniecki (President), John Parrack (President-elect), Kim McCullough (Secretary), Chuck Seifert (Parliamentarian)

Committee on Committees: John Parrack (Chair), Jim Bell (CBA), Terri Hebert (CEd), Cathy Acre (CHBS), Don Jones (CLA)

Academic Affairs: Shelly Albritton (CEd; Chair), Joanna Castner Post (CFAC), James Fletcher (CHBS), Wendy Castro (CLA), Art Lichtenstein (LIB)

Faculty Affairs I: Ed Powers (CLA; Chair) Clint Johnson (CBA), Cheryl Wiedmaier (CEd), Robert Holden (CFAC), Dee Lance (CHBS), Rahul Mehta (CNSM)

Faculty Affairs II: Lori Isom (CNSM; Chair), Lisa Ray (CHBS), Mike Moore (CBA), Jennifer Rospert (CFAC), Mike Schaefer (CLA)

E. Committee Charges.

*Committee on Committees: The General Education Council requests that an ex-officio, non-voting representative from the Torreyson Library faculty, appointed by the Library director, be added to the membership of the Council.*

*Academic Affairs: Prepare a mission statement in response to the proposal, which may be considered at the next session of the Arkansas General Assembly, that ten percent of university funding be based on retention rates.*

*Faculty Affairs I: Review the facts regarding President Hardin's deferred compensation requests to the Board of Trustees on March 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2008, and based on these facts, present a recommendation and/or resolution on what action, if any, the Faculty Senate should take.*

*Faculty Affairs II: Prepare a recommendation or resolution addressing the request that faculty be allowed to go up for tenure and promotion earlier than currently allowed by the Faculty Handbook. Note: The Faculty Handbook committee has already made a statement- they didn't agree unless time and rank credit was negotiated in contract.*

V. Announcements and Concerns.

A. Reminder: College meetings with faculty senators, August 26<sup>th</sup>, x-period. Senators at Large will also meet with constituents to document concerns.

B. Reminder: General faculty meeting, August 28<sup>th</sup>, x-period. Senator Lance suggested that the Faculty Senate sit together during meeting. President Boniecki will reserve a block of seats.

C. Meeting on August 28, 2008 cancelled. This meeting, August 21, is technically a special meeting; not a rule, just historical.

D. Next Meeting: September 9, 2008.

E. Faculty Concerns and Announcements.

A. Lichtenstein: Thanked President Boniecki for his leadership this summer.

D. Lance: Retired faculty members don't have email accounts so they are unable receive notices about benefits or insurance vendors being on campus.

J. Castner-Post: Wanted to understand budgets. Increase in enrollments and fees, but no increase in departmental budgets. Where's the money?

E. Powers: Many CLA faculty members have contacted him regarding this summer's events. Senator Powers reports that his constituents are disgusted and they believe the situation is unacceptable. He also reported that no support was shown for President Hardin from the constituents that had contacted him.

J. Parrack: Faculty members have contacted him regarding allegations of courtesy grade changes and preferential hiring from the President's office.

L. Isom: Concerns about minimum GPA for athletes. Although it follows NCAA rules couldn't we have/require higher minimum GPAs for our student athletes? Also, questions about how the move to Division I A benefits UCA (specifically academics). She also reported that she had heard from some of her College constituents regarding this summer's events. Adjectives such as "Reprehensible" and "disgusting" were used. She also reported allegations concerning interference with scholarships and preferential housing assignments from the President's office.

C. Johnson: Presented an article from the AR Democrat Gazette, "12 colleges sitting out high school program. "Senator Johnson noted that UCA had participated in something called the Arkansas Early College High School program. This program allows high students to earn college credits through distance learning. That program has now come under scrutiny amid an investigation into grade-inflation allegations. Senator Johnson wanted to know who or what committee had initially approved UCA's participation in this program.