Faculty Senate Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Thursday, October 23rd, 2014

12:45 p.m. – Room 315: Wingo Hall

**Attendance:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part-Time Senator: Deb Forssman Hill (2015)

1. Call to Order
   1. President Bradley calls the meeting to order: 12:45
   2. Handouts: Minutes from various committees for info purposes.
      1. Employee Benefits Advisory Committee
      2. Athletics Committee

1. Comments: President Courtway
   1. No Comments or Announcements
   2. Questions:
      1. Senator Powell: In the framework for the future you say a priority is to attract and retain top quality faculty. What measures are you taking to do so?
         1. President Courtway: contacting local businesses to let them know about what we do on campus. Try to then raise funds from those businesses in a new concerted effort: corporate and business partners program.
      2. Senator Burley, Follow-up: in the past we had faculty that were paid/funded by private interests, is that what you’re talking about?
         1. President Courtway: whatever they want to do to help. We need to consider all our options: Scholarships, undergrad research, faculty stipends…We need to get them committed, find the philanthropists and see where they want to invest.
      3. Senator Copeland: UCA Magazine. Nice to see this.
         1. President Courtway: 16,000 total turnkey cost. Next will be thicker, better, highlight faculty and depts. As well as student success stories.
      4. Senator Burley, Follow-up: I was so pleased to see that much of it was familiar. We are being well informed.
         1. Discussion ensues: Senators Copeland, Bradley, Burley, President Courtway.
      5. Senator Eskola: Nov. 11th for opening the HPER?
         1. President Courtway: Yes, expected. His guess: will open on the 11th but some things may not be fully finished.
      6. Senator Lichtenstein: Are we still officially “Front and Center” or are we going to migrate away from this?
         1. President Courtway: Yes, we are and we’ve thought about going back to Center of Learning or some such. We’re in discussions and will discuss with other interest groups.
   3. Plug for the fund raiser for the Arkansas Shakespeare Theater.
2. Comments: Provost Runge
   1. See Handout for Announcements (Attachment: Appendix A)
   2. Questions
      1. Senator Powell: Concerned about the next HLC visit: High level of administrators appointed without national searches. Is this an issue?
         1. Provost Runge: Don’t see it as a problem. Questions were asked at the focus visit but they didn’t list that as a concern. But can’t know what the next team will think about this.
         2. Senator Bradley: Senate executive committee is currently working on a resolution regarding national searches; it will be presented to the senate in the near future.
      2. Senator Copeland: On item 4 in the Provost’s handout, the alliance, is this state wide? Does it tie into item 3?
         1. Provost Runge, there are 4 or 5 other institutions, maybe more that are included in this. Not related to item number 3
      3. Provost Runge: Statements on faculty and funding: We are looking into endowed professorships. That will help with long term recruitment and retention of faculty.
   3. Report on Concurrent Enrollment
      1. See Handouts (Attachments Appendices B and C)
         1. We have had a significant reduction in concurrent enrollment. We are now at 374.
         2. Reiterates NACEP standards: These courses are to be as rigorous as courses taught by the sponsoring institution. We are accredited by NACEP to offer concurrent credit. If you adhere to these standards you are assuring all involved that the courses being offered are the same level of rigor, students are held to the same level of accountability, and you can be confident of similar learning outcomes. These instructors must have a master’s degree and 18 graduate credits in that discipline. Have to make site visits. The reason we have retracted is because we couldn’t monitor such a large program. Quality is a big concern. If we follow these guidelines we can do this well.
      2. Senator Voss: How large do we want to grow this program?
         1. Provost Runge: no target set, no limit set. It’s about how well we can manage this. We have on occasions told schools “no.” It may grow a bit, but it won’t become the size it was before, at least not without structural changes. It’s no longer free, need to generate funds to cover the expenses associated with this.
      3. Senator Isom: Is Senator Parker’s committee charged with looking into conferring associate degrees via concurrent enrollment? This is an issue. 17 year olds coming in with associate degrees and being juniors; we’ve got to ask about what is best for these kids.
         1. Senator Bradley: Not yet. We need to first begin with what these courses look like, before we talk about the courses offered and degrees.
         2. Provost Runge: There is a continued discussion about the associate’s degrees. Conway High would like to do this, Greenbrier is doing this with UALR. The state is supportive of this idea. This trend is occurring other places as well, for example, Virginia, Oregon.
         3. Further discussion ensues: Provost Runge, Senators Wilson, Isom.
      4. Senator Craun: Been doing this for 7 years. We are required to offer these teachers professional development every year. These NACEP requirements aren’t new, it’s just a matter of if we are doing it. You do have a lot of instructor turnover. Concern: these agreements need to clearly indicate that departments and UCA control these programs and have oversight.
         1. Provost Runge: Few high schools in AR are going to be able to meet these requirements.
      5. Senator Burley: Who is responsible for oversight?
         1. Provost Runge: There is a coordinator for this program, our point person. They oversee coordinating with chairs, departments, NACEP, schools. Some things will fall on the chairs such as course evaluation. But actual reporting is handled through the coordinator.
      6. Senator Parrack: Looks like a loss of revenue so why are we doing this other than because everyone else is?
         1. Provost Runge: It is a good avenue for high achieving students who want to pursue college credit. It is also a recruiting tool. We get about 35 percent of our concurrent students, they do matriculate through here. Anecdotal evidence suggests concurrent enrollment will help with enrollment. We are also looking at retention and graduation rates for students that come in with concurrent enrollment. Generating these numbers is difficult. But graduation rates for our concurrent students (6 year) are significantly higher than other students. Obvious correlations, which is why it is hard to make a comparison. But we are trying to generate numbers and a report.
      7. Senator Copeland: Do we get a report from the Provost on Aug 1st about concurrent enrollment programs?
         * 1. Provost: Not sure
      8. Senator Voss: The numbers look nice but how many of the 35 percent would’ve come here anyways?
         * 1. Provost Runge: it is hard to determine but we are looking into that.
      9. Senator Parker: We’ve had loss of students to other universities. How many have we lost, is it significant?
         * 1. Provost Runge: Dealt with on a school by school basis. Overall we haven’t lost in terms of sheer numbers, but for some schools it has been a lot. School by school we want to know why the numbers of a school goes down. But big picture we haven’t gone down.
      10. Senator Parker: Given concerns about loss of revenue and increased workload, is a there a line in the sand where we will say it is no longer worth doing this. Are there boundaries across which we will not cross?
          * 1. Provost Runge: Not fair to say lost revenue. We’re talking about actual expense. If we start doing associate’s degrees there may be lost revenue. Lost revenue is really found in lack of retention. We need to retain more. If these students come in and stay we may be talking about increased revenue. Is there a line in the sand? No that conversation has not occurred.
          1. Senator Parrack: So you don’t consider the scholarship expense for concurrent to be a direct expense:
             1. Provost Runge: It’s an on the book expense but it is not a direct cost, a payout. We need to officially scholarship the rest of the 10 dollar fee, so on the books it goes towards our cap. But it’s not a cash layout. And we don’t pay concurrent instructors.
          2. Senator Bradley: This is not a level playing field. UALR and UCA are accredited. But Tech chose not to be accredited. They don’t need to maintain these standards. Also, politically speaking, this is a cheap way for parents to get credit. There is a lot of political pressure from Little Rock to promote this.
3. Consideration of Minutes – October 14th, 2014
   1. Motion Ray, second, Copeland
      1. Correction: Re: IV.a.i.4 in the minutes for 10-14-2014, Provost Runge has offered corrected numbers regarding faculty and faculty administrator raises. In his response to faculty concerns from 10-08-2014 Provost Runge stated that faculty received an average of a 4.44% salary increase and faculty administrators in the Provost’s office received an average 3.94% salary increase. However, after taking into account those faculty who received only the 2% COLA increase he corrected the faculty number to 3.07% down from 4.44%. In addition, after taking into account all categories of faculty administrators and their relevant increases he revised that number to 5.15% up from the previous 3.94%. This correction will also be noted in the minutes for 10-14-2014 with a parenthetical remark to reference these minutes for the updated and accurate numbers.
   2. Vote to approve with corrections.
      1. Unanimous approval.
4. Discussion and Vote on Faculty Affairs I Resolution
   1. Resolution to increase part-time pay per 3-credit hour course from 2600 to 3300 beginning fall 2015. (See attached Appendix D)
      1. Motion to accept, Senator Isom, second Senator Ray
      2. Discussion
         1. Senator Dahlenburg: Procedural question, after senate makes this resolution what happens?
         2. Senator Wilson: We support this so it is symbolic as it goes forward. We are only a recommending body.
         3. Senator Burley: This goes to the president and he knows what we’re thinking. Gives it weight.
         4. Senator Parrack: Why is there no specific amount in the first part?
            1. Senator Burley: It’s in the second part.
         5. Discussion on friendly amendments: Senators Christman, McKinzie, Held, Lichtenstein, Isom, Craun, Burley, Provost Runge.
      3. Vote: all in favor, passes unanimously
5. Discussion and Vote on Unaffiliated Resolution
   1. Motion to take off the table, Senator Wilson, Senator Eskola seconds. (See attached Appendix E)
      1. Discussion:
         1. Senator Wilson: Friendly amendment, tighten up language. Senator Burley, seconds.
   2. Vote: all in favor, 1 abstention. Passes.
6. Report from Faculty Affairs I Committee
   1. No report at this time.
7. Report from Faculty Affairs II Committee
   1. No report at this time
8. Report from Academic Affairs Committee
   1. No report at this time.
9. Announcements
   1. Senator Eskola: fun 5K run on Monday Nov. 10th at 5 pm in front of Estes stadium. Hyping the HPER opening. Let interested students know or email for details.
   2. Senator Parker: for 2013 for practice content knowledge exams our ed programs are beating state and national levels.
   3. Senator Parrack: Arkansas Shakespeare Theater membership party at home of Board member Lacey.
   4. Senator Powell: Benefit concert for Toad Suck review at Bear’s Den Nov. 1st Saturday where Slings and Arrows will be playing, 5 dollar cover.
10. Faculty Concerns
    1. Senator Burley: Concern at CFAC meeting: How is merit pay determined? Whether or not DPACs should be part of this discussion.
    2. Senator Eskola: Is there a list for advisors on transfer credit beyond the transferable credit?
       1. Provost Runge: we are building that data set and it will include everything.
    3. Senator Christman: Academic units without tenured faculty have no DPACs.
    4. Senator Parker: Our buildings where our community guests come, Farris center specifically, look terrible. We need to give these places minimal facelifts to update them and make them more attractive.
    5. Senator Isom: contacted by a couple of faculty members. The yearly request we get to exclude students from our classes who haven’t met financial duties. These faculty however don’t see themselves as enforcers for finance. These circles shouldn’t overlap. A member is being asked to tell a student who is doing well to stop attending class.
       1. Provost Runge: We went through a period of time about 10 years ago where we didn’t enforce and we had 8 million in unpaid fees. The majority of students who get removed do go and pay. This won’t change. In addition, they have been contacted through other avenues as well. There are ways to handle this responsibly and tactfully by faculty.
       2. Senator Eskola: Can we clean up email so students know what is important. It would help with information communication.
       3. Senator Poole: Could there be a form letter to hand out instead of having to do a face to face engagement with the student?
    6. Senator Held: In relation to the recent email I sent out in my role as Director of the UCA Core – There is no longer an official, regularly maintained or updated one page lower division core check sheet. A one page check sheet is no longer feasible given the construction of the lower division core, nor is it desirable. The ubulletin is the authoritative and the only official document regarding the requirements for satisfaction of the lower division core. There are some check sheets circulating, they are unofficial, probably inaccurate, and so you’d do well to not rely on them. Please refer to the ubulletin when advising students. It is clear, accurate, readily available, and printable. Follow this link: <http://uca.edu/gened/checksheet/> to get to this page: <http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/general-policies-information/uca-core#sec02>

There is no longer an official one page check sheet, anything you are using that looks like that is unofficial and potentially inaccurate. Please refer to the ubulletin.

1. Adjournment
   1. Half moves, second half seconded.