Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Thursday, February 27, 2014

**Attendance:**

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

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

College of Fine Arts and Communication: Lanette Grate (2014), aa-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), 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 Courtway
   1. No official report—The Board of Trustees last Friday went well.
   2. Question by Senator Bolter to ask that prior to implementation of a new concurrent enrollment agreement with Greenbrier High School, could a proposal be brought to the Faculty Senate for us to give input and vote upon. President Courtway stated that he would bring this to the Senate.
   3. Senator Bradley asked for an update on the budget situation with regards to the state legislature. President Courtway responds that there really has not been any change.
   4. Senator Copeland question, what is the current status of starting classes on Monday for the Fall 2015 semester. President Courtway responds that Monday start will begin fall 2016. Fall 2015 will be a Thursday start. President Courtway deferred further discussion of this topic to the Provost, who has included it as an informational item in his report.
3. Comments: Provost Runge
   1. Update on discussions about concurrent credit (and option of the associates degree) with Greenbrier High School (also addressing the previous question posed by Senator Bolter). Have been meeting with all of the department chairs and deans in the areas that would be affected by this. Departments will have approval of the course content and instructors. The classes must be taught by master’s degree holders and have 18 additional hours of graduate work. They are currently working with Greenbrier High School to see what classes can work and evaluating all aspects of such a program. The departments and the faculty own the curriculum. The discussion on these topic s are ongoing.
   2. Academic Calendar—Thursday start will go through summer 2015. We are looking at moving to a Monday start for 2016, but are considering various logistical issues. This will add three instructional days to the semester and will give us complete weeks which can make scheduling easier. The calendar committee will be reconsidering this soon. Question by Senator Rowley--are we looking at the possibility of combining Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break to provide more continuous instruction days without interruptions and breaks? Reply by Provost Runge--this is a possibility, but there are a lot different opinions among students and faculty members on the topic, so we will have to further investigate and discuss to ensure all parties are heard.
   3. The Board of Trustees approved the $3.50 increase in the facilities fee for new construction for Lewis Science Center. Target move in date is January 2017.
   4. The Board of Trustees approved the two step process of raising the admission standards (begins fall 2015).
   5. The Chief Technology Officer search has successfully concluded. Dr. Christopher Davis has been hired. He will begin June 1, 2014.
   6. Leaders of the World Conference will be held on campus March 3-7, 2014. This will feature leaders from all over Latin America who will be speaking and making presentations.
   7. The College of Health and Behavioral Sciences search committee will be interviewing four candidates.
   8. The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics will be interviewing three candidates.
   9. Dean of the Graduate School search committee has completed tow interviews with one more to take place next week. Grad finished 2 1 next week
   10. Four candidates are currently being interviewed for the Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advising position
   11. University College Director--has had 1 candidate interview and two additional candidates will be interviewed soon.
   12. Veterans Education Administration visit is coming up on March 3-5, 2014.
4. Minutes January 23
   1. Motion to approve changes offered by the Provost’s Office by Senator Copeland, second by Senator Mehta.
   2. Discussion by Senator Bolter, Senator Crockett, Senator Bratton.
   3. In favor-0, opposed-21, abstain-0.
   4. Motion fails.
   5. Motion to approve the remainder of the minutes as submitted (with name spelling corrections) by Senator Copeland, second by Senator Craun.
   6. In favor-20, opposed-1, abstain-0.
   7. Motion passes.
5. Minutes February 11
   1. Motion to approve minutes (as amended) by Senator Bradley, second by Senator Bolter.
   2. In favor-20, opposed-0, abstain-1.
   3. Motion passes.
6. Report from Committee On Committees: Senator Bradley
   1. Faculty Representatives to Student Success and Retention Council
      1. Dr. Nancy Gallavan – College of Education.
      2. Dr. Scott Nadler – College of Business.
      3. Motion to approve Senator Bradley, Second by Eskola.
      4. Discussion-Senator Rowley, Senator Copeland, Senator Bradley, Senator Bratton, Senator Eskola.
      5. In favor-20, opposed-0, abstain-1.
   2. Update on inactive committees
      1. Provosts office is reviewing some of these.
   3. Senator Bradley discussed the issue of absences by athletes (brought forth by the Athletic Committee). Senator Isanhart—we have to treat all students the same. Senator Copeland—Some of this could be addressed with increased distance learning options. Provost Runge—We currently have no attendance policy (attendance is determined by the individual instructors) and this is something that will be examined in the future. Senator Craun—This is more of a scheduling issue, not about the individual athletes. Senator Eskola agrees. Senator Bradley suggests sending this to one of the Faculty Senate sub-committees for further discussion.
   4. Report: Proposal for Health and Wellness Committee – Senator Eskola
      1. This committee is in danger of being deleted, but feels that it is needed and necessary. Offers some comments on composition and charge. Please send any thoughts/comments to Senator Eskola.
7. Consideration of proposal from Faculty Handbook Committee regarding composition of UCA Common Core Curriculum Council

(The FS adopted the Common Core Curriculum Council last spring; implementation was deferred due to timeline constraints. The Handbook Committee has made a suggestion for an alternate council structure. The FS must consider the suggestion forwarded by the Handbook Committee. The originally adopted council and the alternate proposals are attached to the agenda. Vote of the Senate is final.)

1. President Watson provided a brief overview of the history of this proposal (summarized in parentheses above and included on the agenda).
2. Motion to adopt the recommendation amendments from the Faculty Handbook Committee by Senator Bolter, second by Senator Held.
3. Discussion: Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee, Dr. Kevin Browne, offered further clarification and discussion about the difference between the proposal passed by Faculty Senate last spring and the amendments offered by the Faculty Handbook Committee. It is the Faculty Senate’s decision which will prevail. Provost Runge—this was not an easy process. We have some things that need to be clarified in the Handbook. Senator Eskola spoke against accepting the amendments from the handbook committee. This is about equal representation. Senator Crocket—Could the Director of UCA core make some comments on this? Senator Copeland—The Faculty Handbook Committee has overstepped its bounds. College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Education, and College of Business are not being fairly represented in the amendments that are being offered. Senator Bradley—spoke against accepting the proposed amendments. Senator Crockett—we need to have representation from people who are actually teaching CORE courses. What is the best way to get the representation that we need? Dr. Browne—these positions need to be elected, so there is not a lot of time. Senator Eskola—we need more time to consider this. Dr. Joanna Castner-Post, Director of UCA Core—it is very important that we have the proper representation, but we currently have 15 members and we could end up with 26 members. Such a large group will have some logistical problems with regards to discussions during meetings.
4. In favor-4, opposed-16, 1-abstain.
5. Motion fails.
6. Consideration of proposals for use of Senate “Coke” funds for 2014-2015
   1. **Will be considered at the March 11, 2014 meeting**
7. Committee Reports
   1. Part-Time Staff – KC Poole--Survey for part-time faculty should deploy next week.
   2. Electronic Delivered Courses – Chris Craun--*The sub-committee on On-line instruction has prepared a rough draft of their recommendations and have scheduled a meeting with Assoc. Provost Boniecki and Provost Runge. The plan is still in place to have our recommendations submitted by the April Meeting.*
8. Concerns
   1. Senator Eskola presented a constituent concern—*Constituent's in the CHBS would like to express their frustration with the timing of the advisor training session. Faculty have requested that if they are going to be evaluated on their advising skills that they be provided with advisor training and responsibilities, however, faculty are frustrated with the timing and requirement of advising sessions. Faculty received an e-mail the last week of February "requiring" them to attend two advisor training sessions. Their frustration mainly is about the time that the session are offered. First, they have basically 1-2 weeks notice of these training sessions and only about 4 weeks to do both of them. Second, when they are expected to participate in these advising sessions, most advisors are already advising students. The suggestion was made to have advising sessions at the beginning of the semester well before advising begins and that faculty be given more notice about training sessions then just a couple of weeks.*
   2. Senator Crockett presented a constituent concern— *The proposal to allow students to earn an associate's degree in high school from high-school teachers strikes me as yet another measure to replace college-level instruction with shallow certification. Let UALR bow down to this golden calf. It will get the students it deserves. As a fellow faculty member has put it, between concurrent enrollment and remedial instruction, we're now teaching college at the high-school level and high school at the college level.*
   3. Senator Mehta—Would it be possible to have our Senators properly recognized on the webpage? There seem to be some errors.
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment
    1. Motion to adjourn made by Senator Rowley, second by Senator Copeland.