Meeting Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Tuesday, November 14, 2013

**Attendance:**

College of Business: Jim Downey (2014), 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), Garry Craig Powell (2015), Christian Carichner (2016)

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences: Melissa Shock (2014), K.C. Poole (2015), aa-Alexandra Marshall (2016)

College of Liberal Arts: Clayton Crockett (2014), Phillip Spivey/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. Thank you for all of your preparation and hard work for the Higher Learning Commission site visit.
   2. Architects and engineers are working on a plan for Lewis Science Center. This will be presented at the December 13, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting. Greek Village update-bonding will take place in December 2013, break ground in April 2014, and ready for occupancy in 2015. Discussions are ongoing about the future of Donaghey Avenue near campus.
3. Comments: Provost Runge
   1. The HLC visit focused specifically on strategic planning and continuous improvement. Had a very positive exit meeting, with all participants upbeat. Doctorate of Nursing Practice—this review team member stated that we were well positioned with regard to beginning the program. Everyone should feel good about where we are.
   2. SBAC meetings—Academic Affairs requesting a little over $2 million (requests listed below in priority order)
      1. Salary increases for adjustments to cover promotion and advancement.
      2. Increase funds for M&O and travel, student success programs, information technology, etc.
      3. Adding Faculty and Staff positions based on planned enrollment growth and support of programs of distinction.
      4. Adding academic advisors to the academic colleges (important for retention).
      5. Funding to explore the feasibility of establishing a School of Optometry.
   3. Forming a task force to look at the possibility of a centralized room scheduling system (will need special software). This could possibly take effect in Fall 2014.
   4. Academic Calendar changes for 2014-2015—proposing moving the Fall Semester start from Thursday to Monday—this recommendation will go before the Board of Trustees in the December meeting.
   5. Admissions Update—The number of applications is up from last year. The number of accepted students is up from last year. There will be a Bear Facts Day is this Saturday, November 16, 2013.
   6. Looking at a grant proposal to do some renovations in McCastlain Hall.
   7. Spring course update—additional classes are needed in FYS and Lab Sciences.
   8. Congratulations to Dr. Mary Garnica who was named the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year by Arkansas Nurses Association.
   9. $15,000 has been put in the Graduate School for the Student Research Fund.
   10. Damien Echols-visiting artist presented a very interesting lecture. This is a great example of academic freedom.
   11. Launching a search for Assistant/Associate Dean of the Honors College. The administrative appointment will be in the Honors College but their academic appointment will be in a disciplinary department.
4. Minutes: October 24, 2013
   1. Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Copeland, second by Senator Mehta.
   2. Passed unanimously.
5. Report: New Advisor Questions; Dr. Wendy Lucas, Associate Provost for Assessment and Enrollment Support (Please see attached report).
   1. Good advising makes a huge difference in retention.
   2. Want to begin collecting information, student feedback, and evaluation about advisors. Collection of data will allow us to make informed decisions.
   3. Senator Castro presented a draft of an academic advisor evaluation form.
   4. Motion to table the discussion by Senator Bradley, second by Senator Copeland
      1. 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.
6. Report: Faculty Issues for Human Resources: Dr. Graham Gillis, Associate VP for Human Resources and Risk Management
   1. Concerning the increase in number of mandatory training classes—these are required by the federal government.
   2. This online training software tracks and keeps up with who has completed, who has not completed, and the various steps/stages of progress can be tracked.
   3. These are federal government mandates. They must be completed by May 2014.
   4. Title IX and Minors in the Workplace may not have to be each year (more information about the frequency of how often this must be done will be forthcoming).
   5. Sexual Harassment and Diversity training must be done annually.
7. Faculty Concerns
   1. Senator Crockett submitted the following constituent concern:
      1. *Some faculty in our college (LA) have asked questions and raised concerns about the investiture of President Courtway. The people who spoke to us are not opposed to the President or the investiture per se, but they are asking about the process in terms of how and when the decision was made to change his status from interim to permanent, and to what extent Faculty Senate participated in or was informed about this process, especially since the Faculty Senate was directly involved in the discussion to extend President Courtway’s interim status to three years, and a Faculty Senate sub-committee was formed last year to make recommendations about revising the search procedures for a presidential search.*

*Faculty have requested a clear and concise explanation concerning this decision so we are asking the leadership of the Senate because we are unable to provide one. This lack of clarity about this situation raises questions about the reality of shared governance at UCA, the nature of communication between the administration and the faculty, as well as ongoing concerns about the conversion of administrative positions from interim to permanent status without conducting a search.*

1. Announcements
   1. No meeting on Thursday, November 28, 2013 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
   2. Next meeting will be Thursday, December 12, at 2:00pm. This will be the only December faculty senate meeting due to the holiday break.
2. Adjournment
   1. Motion to adjourn by Senator Copeland, second by Senator Bradley.