**ATTENDANCE:**

**College of Business:** David McCalman (2017), Kaye McKinzie (2018), Anthony McMullen (2019)

**College of Education:** Wendy Rickman (2017), Nancy P. Gallavan (2018), Jud Copeland (2019)

**College of Fine Arts and Communication:** Larry Dilday-aa (2017), Polly Walter (2018), Jane Dahlenburg (2019)

**College of Health and Behavioral Sciences:** Steve Forbush (2017), Denise Demers (2018), Duston Morris (2019)

**College of Liberal Arts:** John Parrack (2017), Taine Duncan (2018), Lynn Burley (2019)

**College of Natural Science and Mathematics:** Lori Isom-aa (2017), Rahul Mehta (2018), Jeff Padberg (2019)

**At Large Senators:** Lisa Christman (2017), Lisa Ray (2017), Phillip Spivey (2018), Julia Winden-Fey(2018), Kim Eskola (2019) and Becky Bogoslavsky-aa (2019)

**Part-Time Senator:** Lee Sanders (2017)

**Meeting called to order at 12:45 pm.**

**Information Items:**

1. Comments – Interim President Erstine – not available for meeting
2. Comments – Provost Runge – Dr. Boniecki in for Provost Runge
   1. President Davis will be on campus beginning January 23, 2017
      1. All divisions have prepared briefings for the President.
   2. Classes begin January 12, 2017.
   3. Senator Duncan – Who is on the transition team?
   4. According to the Board of Trustees minutes from the October 7th meeting, the members are:

Elizabeth Farris

Kelley Erstine

Kale Gober

Shelley Mehl

Art Gillaspy

Johnny Adams

1. Senator Winden-Fey – Do we have enrollment report for spring 2017?
2. Dr. Boniecki – total enrollment for spring has decreased by 86 students from this time last year. Enrollment report is on the FS webpage.
3. Comments – President McKinzie
   1. Asked and Answered – see handout on FS webpage
   2. Handbook updates – Dr. Rowley is working on timeline chapter by chapter and present them in that manner. April 12th will be the last time we can approve before the board’s May meeting
4. Academic Affairs
   1. Report on withdrawal policy (motion in action items)
5. Faculty Affairs I- Senator Copeland, Chair
   1. Notice for motion concerning Faculty Senate Constitution

b. CHARGE # 1 UPDATE: Faculty Affairs I is following the proposed timeline on the Proposal for change to the Senate Constitution.

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| --- |
| January 10, 2017:  Notice on Resolution for changes to Senate Constitution |
| January  26, 2017:  Senate discusses and votes on proposed Resolution |
| Mid-February 2017:  General Faculty Association vote on changes to constitution |
| February 23, 2017:  Senate addresses changes to bylaws, provided the constitutional amendments are approved. |

c. CHARGE # 3 UPDATE: Faculty Affairs I contacted Dr. Brad Teague on January 4, 2017 as a follow up to the Charge (see below). Dr. Teague is working on the Athletic Department Draft Report for the Senate. NOTE: The Draft Report will be presented by Dr. Teague and Dr. Bill Bandy during the February 23, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Charge # 3 as noted on August 29 2016

**Charge 3:** Provide liaisons to the Athletic Committee working with them (in conjunction with the UCA Athletic Director) to develop a reoccurring report to the faculty senate. Provide draft plan no later than the end of February 2017 and final plan at the first meeting in April 2017 to the Faculty Senate. At a minimum the report should include a financial review and academic report and be delivered to the Faculty Senate at least annually.

1. Faculty Affairs II – Senator Spivey, Chair
   1. Faculty Affairs II Committee will meet at the end of January 2017 to decide how best to address the following charge:
   2. Work with the Faculty Salary Review Committee (and others as deemed necessary) to review the salary for adjunct, part time and overload faculty in comparison with our peer, aspirant and Arkansas competitor institutions. By the first meeting of the Faculty Senate in March 2017, make recommendations (potentially a resolution) to the Faculty Senate as to our current policies and salaries for these types of teaching roles.
2. Financial Update – Secretary Eskola
   1. Account ending 400 - $3,514
   2. Account ending 041 - $12,776
   3. Veteran’s fund of $1,000 was not able to come out of FS account because the event was paid out of the foundation account. Senator Dilday is working on how we donate to Veteran’s Event.

**Action Items:**

1. Minutes from the last meeting - Secretary Eskola
   1. Motion to approve the minutes by Senator McCalman
   2. Second by Senator Walter
   3. Correction: Guest item 8 letter D. Corrected in December 6, 2016 minutes
   4. Motion to approve minutes passes
2. Faculty Affairs I: procedural document changes – notice
   1. At the next meeting we will vote on the resolution from FA I for changes to the constitution. The resolution is on the FS webpage.
   2. Senator Forbush – there are truly 8 resolutions and not one. Each of these have their own discussions. It will be eight different resolutions and a little word smithing so that it say, “Whereas the FS recommends”.
   3. Senator Walter – So the faculty will vote on each resolution?
   4. Senator Forbush – yes.
   5. Senator Dahlenburg – When will the faculty vote on the resolutions?
   6. President McKinzie – it will depend on the FS. Hopefully this spring.
3. Academic Affairs: resolution on withdrawal policy
   1. Senator McMullen – The committee was charged with reviewing the current withdrawal policy. We looked at peer, aspirant, conference institutions and other Arkansas colleges and we were one of the few that has the WP/WF option. The committee universally agreed that most faculty at UCA do not like the WF. WF is undesirable. At the same time, some faculty found valuable if it was a student drop or if it was an administrative drop due to non-attendance. In our resolution, we felt like there needed to be a mechanism to identify the student drop or administrative drop.
   2. Senator Forbush – rewording the resolution. Whereas the FS recommends…. And then have three bullet points that state the resolved. See FS webpage for resolution.
   3. Senator McMullen – the only other thing that we will need to resolve is the withdraw dates. How did we come up with the 12 weeks of classes? Where did our current deadline fall in comparison? On average with other universities, the W deadline is 68 days from the start of classes. Ours was 71. We were in line with the W drop date. The 12th week of classes is about one week later than where it currently is but committee felt like this was a good compromise to ease into not having the WP/WF dates.
   4. Senator Winden-Fey – question about deadline. 16 week semester vs. 14 week semesters. We actually have 14 weeks when you take out the two days at the beginning and final exam week.
   5. President McKinzie – Registrar has guidelines that they have to follow to be in compliance.
   6. Senator McMullen – 12th week for the 16th week semester. We know we have summer school but we will let the Registrar
   7. Senator Burley moved to accept the resolution
   8. Second by Senator Christman
   9. Senator Dahlenburg – Was this just a decision by the committee or did you do a survey for faculty?
   10. Senator McMullen – we did not do a faculty survey but I asked our committee members to meet with faculty in their college and have the discussion. We also met with Veteran’s Affairs, Registrar and some other groups.
   11. Senator Gallavan – Can we have more explanation of why we would need the WA (Administrative Withdraw)?
   12. Senator Burley – There is currently administrative way to withdraw from the course. We need to know if the student was withdrawn by the faculty member or by the student.
   13. Senator Eskola – Isn’t the current WF meant to be assigned if a student is withdrawn for non-attendance?
   14. Dr. Boniecki – if you drop for non-attendance it should be a WF. Some have given a W by the Registrar because faculty did not feel comfortable giving a WF because it went against their GPA.
   15. Senator McMullen – Faculty can still award an F if they believe a student deserves an F.
   16. Senator Dahlenburg – if they have withdrawn then you cannot award a grade.
   17. Senator Parrack – in regards to the 5th whereas on the resolution…. Why does it need to be adjusted? This system has worked for 15 years.
   18. Senator Burley – A lot of students drop due to program requirements. Students may drop when they realize that will not get an A which is needed on a program.
   19. Senator Gallavan – I would like to make sure the WA is not on the transcript.
   20. Senator Winden-fey – What about students who are dropped for non-payment?

FS President McKinzie- if they are dropped before W period then they will get a W.

* 1. Senator Demers – Anything before the 12 weeks would be a W?
  2. Senator Burley – no you can still get an administrative withdraw
  3. Senator Forbush – there are always ways to work around it. If you know you are going to withdraw the student then you can talk with the student and have them withdraw themselves.
  4. Senator Duncan – Our actually policy right now is giving WF but it is the same work arounds.
  5. Senator Winden-fey – Students cannot drop developmental course work. We need the WA so that faculty have a mechanism for dropping students who do not attend.
  6. Senator Christman calls the question
  7. Question passes
  8. Motion passes
  9. Faculty Senate recommends to the provost the new resolution

**Guests**

1. Health and Wellness Committee Update – moved to February meeting
2. International Engagement – Jane Ann Williams – Associate Vice President
   1. Senator Forbush – Question about scholarships that were not awarded even though they were offered and accepted.
   2. Ms. Williams – Gave a summary about accredited pathway programs and scholarships for international students. There are mandated by federal guidelines, people who want to come to US have to go through a process.

F1 Visa are for degree seeking students. July 13th federal policy - ability to admit students. Created enough questions for them to come back with clarifications. Address what we have to date. We are no longer able to conditionally admit an international student except for those who have an accredited pathway program. Student admitted as intensive English or degree seeking. Pathway programs must be accredited. Two types of pathway programs.

Policies could not have come at a worse times because admission letters, visas and scholarship letters had already been distributed. UCA will follow federal guidelines so we will not put our program in jeopardy but we are trying to put students first. These new guidelines are affecting all institutions. UCA does not have a pathway program.

Senator Forbush – Are we exploring how to become a pathway?

Ms. Williams – yes we are exploring the process for getting an accredited pathway program at UCA. We will be giving information next week with an update.

Senator Forbush – Student has legal remedies because UCA would not be holding up their end of the contract.

Ms. Williams – we are having discussions about that now.

1. UCA Police Department – John Mergie and Chris Bentley
   1. Spoke about campus safety and what the UCA PD stance is on guns on campus.
   2. Summary
      1. UCA PD would like as few guns on campus as possible.
      2. Current law provides that faculty and staff with concealed weapon license can carry but must leave weapon in their car. Students and visitors cannot carry or have in their cars and/or dorm rooms.
      3. UCA PD offers active shooter training for your building. Contact Lt. Moore if you would like to set this up.
      4. Every faculty and staff should have a can of wasps spray in their office. Worse than pepper spray.
      5. If you suspect that a student is carrying a weapon or has intentions to harm themselves, other students or faculty and staff, you should contact UCA PD and they will come and discreetly talk with the individual.
      6. Faculty and staff can also complete a Behavioral Intervention Report (BIR) that will go the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) and they will investigate the report and act on it if necessary. http://www.ucapd.org/
      7. In an emergency call 911. 450-3111 is the number for UCA PD. If you call from a cell phone to 911, it will go to the county but let them know you are at UCA.
      8. Building Emergency plan – every building has an EAP. Become familiar with your building emergency procedures.
      9. Encourage students/faculty/staff to call UCA PD if they need an escort from any building on campus to their cars or dorm especially if it is at night and/or they feel unsafe. 501-450-3111.

**Other:**

1. Committee Updates – VP Duncan
   1. No committee updates
2. Faculty announcements and concerns
   1. Senator Walter – Stanley Russ passed away recently.
   2. Senator Parrack – Constituent concern about the Bachelor of General Studies. Addressed in the FS President Asked and Answered document.
      1. *“I hate to start off the new year by making trouble for you, but at our last department meeting in the fall, [our chair] told us that there is a new degree being developed, called the Bachelor of General Studies, and that this new degree originated in and is being shepherded by the Provost’s Office. He went on to tell us that the courses that will be a part of this new degree will also be decided by administrators. This seems to me to be wrong.*

*It has always been my impression that degrees are decided upon by specific faculties of specific colleges, which, I always assumed, was the reason that faculty are called to rise to confer, symbolically, their consent to the awarding of degrees in their colleges. Of course, this makes perfect sense. Degrees are empty abstractions without some academic content, and academic content can only be provided by specific faculties in specific colleges, and these faculties are directly responsible for the requirements and quality of the degrees they award.*

*The proposed Bachelor of General Studies degree, as I understand it, does not originate with any faculty at all but in an administrative office. In fact, not only does the degree not originate with a faculty, the faculty are to be told what this free-floating degree will consist of, though they have no part in it.*

*This seems to me contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the Faculty Handbook, not to mention common sense. I understand that administrators feel tremendous pressure to find as many ways as they can to make or save money, but the fact that administrators are often in this position is one reason the determination of academic matters lies with the faculty. At the risk of seeming obvious, universities should not be in the business of selling degrees, no matter how they may dress up that selling, and faculty are in the best position to, and morally should, resist any attempt to compromise basic academic principle for the expediency of the moment. If we allow a degree to be devised by administrators for essentially administrative purposes, we will have abdicated our most basic justification to be faculty at all and run the risk of becoming simply workers in a diploma mill.*

*Some people may regard my position as hopelessly removed from the meat-hook realities of higher education, but I don’t think it is. If universities are going to offer courses of study, which I assume, perhaps naively, is their purpose, then those courses of study have to be determined by those who are conducting them. Isn’t this right? To allow administrators at any level to determine degrees or majors independently of the best judgment of the faculty not only inverts the only sensible way of going about things, it can’t help but lead to a kind of corruption. Any degree that is developed for any reason other than academic reasons is not and cannot be an academic degree. It is something else, perhaps a way to rekindle an interest in returning to UCA in students who have drifted away, or, perhaps, a way to improve the numbers by which universities live. The intentions behind such a degree may be good. But, it will not be an academic degree, and our pretending that it is makes it, at least in part, fraudulent.*

*Since this degree seems to transgress the responsibilities and authority assigned to the faculty by the Faculty Handbook and sets a dangerous precedent, I was hoping that you could bring this matter to the Faculty Senate for action. My impression is that this project is in its early stages, so it is a good time to call it into question. Above all, though, I think that we need to be clear about what it is we are supposed to be doing as faculty, and I think that we ought to resist encroachments, not on some imagined prestige or privilege, but on the very integrity of what we do. Thank you for having the patience to read all this.”*

1. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.