Minutes

University of Central Arkansas Faculty Senate

Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

12:45 a.m. – Room 315: Wingo Hall

**Attendance:**

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

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

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

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences: K.C. Poole (2015), Duston Morris (2016), 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), Ben Rowley (2016), Lori Isom (2017)

At Large Senators: Debbie Bratton (2015), 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 – By Senator Bradley
   1. Call to order 12:45.
2. Comments: Faculty Senate President Bradley
   1. Spoke with president regarding HPER fee for faculty and staff spouses. Can’t change it, a fairness issue about who pays for it, namely, the students. It is their money. Plus, the HPRE fee is a deal considering the market and what else is available around UCA.
   2. Senator McKinzie, what about partners, domestic partners, non-spouses?
      1. Senator Bradley: That was not raised. It will be in subsequent meetings. Is this resolved in insurance?
      2. Provost Runge: I don’t believe it has been addressed. I think you need to be a legal dependent. HR would have the definitive answer to that.
      3. Senator McKinzie: and is this a state or federal issue? What standard are we using?
         1. Provost Runge: Defer to Graham Gillis.
         2. Senator Bradley: I’ll invite Gillis to the next meeting to address this.
   3. On concurrent enrollment: We’re making good progress on this issue.
   4. On attendance: Checked the athletic end. NCAA regulations demand that a student has to be excused and have a reasonable amount of time to complete their work. So long as we are a member of the NCAA this applies, regardless of any attendance policy we’d put in place.
      1. Senator Parker: How does this apply to courses that have work that needs to be done in person? Hands on learning. Senator McKinzie: or engagement activities with speakers brought in?
         1. Senator Bradley: Unclear. Will seek clarification.
3. Comments: President Courtway
   1. Unable to attend.
4. Comments: Provost Runge
   1. See Handout (Appendix A)
   2. Our FTEs and head count are continuing to grow. We are down in concurrent enrollment. What seems to be driving FTE is undergraduate students, not graduate students. This might be attributable to graduate on-line programs.
   3. Centralized planning is progressing. We are developing a matrix to allow people in the system to know what resources are available in each room. We’re also working with building admins to make sure we define those rooms accurately. This will also afford us a comprehensive inventory of tech across campus.
      1. Senator Parker: Will accessibility be a part of this for students with mobility or other such issues?
         1. Provost Runge: Yes, this will be addressed.
   4. Questions
      1. Senator Craun: On the FTE issue, if you’re correct in your assessment of how online cuts into our FTEs, is there a plan to monitor or offset that if UCA online is more successful?
         1. Provost Runge: We’re tracking it, but that’s what is making the development of economic models difficult. Also need to make sure that the numbers aren’t just reflecting a trading of face to face students with online. But in terms of other institutions the data shows the move is slight from face to face to on line.
      2. Senator McKinzie: Clarification: FTEs are set based on total hours, correct?
         1. Provost Runge: Yes. But even if we attract a lot of students into here that will work out okay. We can target those students who just need a few courses to finish up. The FTEs will reflect this so long as it adds up to a full time equivalent.
         2. Senator Bradley: There is concern that as more faculty teach on line they are not showing up on campus. They are teaching from abroad. Those faculty aren’t here for meetings, service, student interaction. At some point we should address this as we think about distance learning.
            1. Discussion ensues: Senators Parker, Morris, Copeland, Provost Runge.
5. Consideration of Minutes –January13th, 2014
   1. Move Senator Ray, Second, Senator Voss
   2. Changes/Corrections
   3. Vote: unanimous approval
6. Report from Committee on Committees: Senator Rowley
   1. Report: Still collecting names to put forward to replace vacated spots resulting from the shift of Linguistics.
7. Presentation on Lactation Station
   1. See handout. (Appendix B)
   2. Request for funding for lactation stations on campus.
      1. Senator McKinzie: Do we have an exact value for what you want? So what are you asking for at this time?
         1. Webster-Smith: Depends on the station. We are trying to share the costs across staff and SGA. We’re asking for 3,500?
      2. Senator Christman: There will be ongoing expenses for these. How will these be funded?
         1. Webster-Smith: We’re hoping for donations or ODC will cover this.
      3. Senator Bratton: Do we know how many people this will impact?
         1. Webster-Smith: Unclear. We had about 50 responses to our email, and 20 some came to the survey.
   3. Motion to suspend the rules: Move Senator Parker, Second Senator Lichtenstien
      1. Vote: unanimous
   4. Vote to fund at $3500.00, Move Senator Parker, second Senator Lichtenstein
      1. Discussion
         1. Senator Parrack: great first step. Need to continually consider these issues, including a maternity policy.
         2. Senator Isom: Friendly amendment for more than $3500.00? Say $5500.00? Enough for one more room.
         3. Senator Parker accepts friendly amendment. Second Senator Lichtenstein.
         4. Lichtenstein: Give Dr. Webster the whole $5500.00. Just give her the money. Call the question.
            1. Unanimous to call the question.
      2. Vote on the $5500.00 proposal for lactation stations for institutional diversity.
         1. Unanimous in favor
8. Presentation Campus Outdoor Pursuits and Activities by Anthony Fillippino
   1. See handout (Appendix C)
   2. In addition to resources, we’re discussing offering informational, educational and training events.
   3. Questions
      1. Seantro Parker: Do you offer equipment and training on orienteering, geo-caching, or some such?
         1. We’ll look into this in the future.
      2. Senator Craun: Dovetail into ROTC and orienteering courses? Also question about paddling. It would also be nice if there were a couple of closed kayaks. SUPs, stand up paddle boards…
         1. We went with basic stuff to begin with. We’ll be getting input and we will expand as we move forward to offer other equipment.
      3. Senator Eskola: Can you reserve equipment?
         1. Not at this time. The reservation option in the computer system in in Beta testing. But we are looking to offer this in the future.
9. Discussion on Faculty Senate Cocoa-Cola money
   1. Senator Morris sent in a proposal (Appendix D)
      1. $1000 scholarship to a student from each college for excellent students.
      2. Discussion ensues: Senators Eskola, McKinzie, Ray, Craun, Parrack, Bratton, Voss, Dahlenburg, Provost Runge.
         1. Senator Wilson: We seem to want to revise Morris’s proposal so we should think about the details and what we want to seriously propose. We should have a more detailed, better crafted proposal.
         2. Senator Bradley: Charge Senator Morris to craft this proposal.
         3. Provost Runge: There are state scholarships to which we can give. Doing this will address Senator Wilson’s concerns. You can donate this to one of those scholarships.
         4. Senator McKinzie: Recommend that Senator Morris come back with a list of state scholarships that would fit this model and we can address that proposals at our next meeting.
   2. Senator Lichtenstein’s proposal/suggestion: Given concern over faculty salary why not just give people money and let them do with it what they want. Have a lottery for faculty under a certain salary cap.
      1. Senator Wilson: In favor of this because it is money the faculty get that is unrestricted. We rarely get this money, and although the students are great they have other avenues. Shouldn’t we do something for the faculty with this money?
      2. Senator Eskola: I’m in favor of this. But could you give us a more detailed proposal. What’s the salary cap, how many should we offer…?
      3. Senator Parker: Can we help fund faculty excellence awards?
      4. Senator Voss: what about renovating the chapel?
   3. Senator Powell: Ethical concerns about using Coke money, since it comes from Coke. Has reservations that we profit from the sale of these products. Maybe we should use this money to educate people about health.
   4. Senator McKinzie: Like Senator Parker’s idea. Give it back to faculty.
      1. Provost Runge: faculty excellence awards already come with monetary awards but they are smaller than UALR.
   5. Senator Isom: The university should raise those award values. It shouldn’t fluctuate.
   6. Senator Rowley: Send proposals to the exec committee no later than February 1st so it can be distributed.
10. Report from Faculty Affairs I Committee
    1. Update: Need more time. Have met with Dean R. Scott of the Honors College.
11. Report from Faculty Affairs II Committee
    1. Update: Are currently working up a resolution for consideration by the faculty senate.
12. Report from Academic Affairs Committee
    1. Update: working on the attendance policy issue. Hope to have a survey ready to send out shortly.
13. Announcements
    1. Senator Rowley: Want to discuss with each of you the senate in the near future.
    2. Senator Eskola: 89 of our athletes were added to Southland conference’s academic honor role, we’re second in the conference.
    3. Senator Bradley: I submitted my retirement letter. I will be retiring in December of 2015. We’ll need someone to take over for me on handbook for spring of 2016.
14. Faculty Concerns (***The concerns below reflect the position of the faculty member who submitted them. All concerns are anonymous. They are included verbatim if sent ahead of time or electronically. (Verbatim comments are italicized.) Comments are paraphrased if presented by a faculty senate member without being accompanied by a written version. The comments below do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any faculty senate member, department, college, or university official. The comments herein presented are unedited. The faculty senate or its agents cannot attest to the veracity of claims made under the “Faculty Concerns” section of the Faculty Senate minutes.***)
    1. Powell (see handout: Appendix D)
    2. It is shameful that we celebrate Robert E. Lee’s birthday on the same day we celebrate civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr.
    3. Presented by Senator Craun: Additional bookstore concern – History faculty are concerned that students aren’t getting books until weeks in the semester and in our World History courses this is quite problematic since students have to read, do exercises…
    4. Senator Parker: To reiterate – concern that we can only and have to buy from this bookstore. Seems unfair to our students, a forced monopoly
       1. Senator Morris: Can’t advocate purchase from other sources. How can we advise students who need to know where to get books.
       2. (Bradley turns over to Rowley)
       3. The exec committee needs to address this. Provost Runge will contact Kurt Boniecki. We should also bring TJ or someone here.

Presented by Senator Lichtenstein:

*Dear Senator,*

*RE: Textbook Broker Concern*

*What does our current contract with Textbook Brokers say regarding the level of customer service they are required to provide? This semester I have found their level of customer service to be unsatisfactory, and it was difficult ascertain which employee could assist me.*

*Four years ago Torreyson Library began our TextBook Reserve Program. The objective of this program is supplemental access, not a replacement for student’s purchasing textbooks. For example, financial aid resources may not have been received, the bookstore may run out of copies, or they may be waiting on Amazon purchased books to ship, etc. In previous semesters the bookstore has been especially helpful in assisting me with the process. They have provided me with the master textbook list weeks before the semester begins. They also notify me when inventories run low. I then purchase the text ensuring access for students until the bookstore receives more copies. This program has become very useful and popular among students and teaching faculty.*

*Beginning in December I attempted to contact the bookstore multiple times. After repeated phone calls and emails I did not receive the Master Textbook list until Tuesday, the 6th. After selecting which titles from the Master List to include in our purchases I forwarded the list of 39 textbooks to Textbook Brokers on the 7th at 6:30pm. Claiming they were too busy to pull our 39 books, we did not receive our selected textbooks until Saturday the 10th at 4:00pm. Because each book is considered State property they must be properly processed and cataloged before students have access, which may take a day or so. Thus, students did not have access to these titles until the 12th and 13th, or one week into classes.*

*I would like to recommend that Textbook Brokers work more closely with the Torreyson Library, Faculty and Students to ensure a faster and smoother turn around each semester. Our Textbook Reserve Program is not intended to subtract from Textbook Brokers sales, but to assist students and faculty with textbook access at the beginning of each semester.*

Presented by Senator Wilson:

*I wish to express my displeasure with Blackboard, particularly Blackboard Support.  Since moving the support off campus, things simply do not work well with the system (for example, the opening comments I type into Discussions don't appear when opening a given Discussion), but the support people are worthless.  Then, they send me a "ticket" via email to my email address that I'm supposed to open to get their solution, but it doesn't recognize my password.    
  
I just want to go on record as a frustrated user of Blackboard who has contacted the BB support four times now, and only once were they able to solve my problem. I would urge the University to go back to having someone on site, such that I can drop in on that person, log into my courses, ask questions, and have that specialist show me what to do.  I am spending way too much time troubleshooting and/or coming up with workarounds that are less than desirable.*

*Thank you.*

Presented by Senator Held:

*I am embarrassed and offended that our University cross lists the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial day with the Robert E. Lee observance day.*

1. Adjournment

Senator Copeland, second Senator Mehta.