

Minutes
UCA Faculty Senate
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Wingo 315, 12:45 p.m.

President Boniecki called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Present were Boniecki, Parrack, Seifert, Ray, Jones, Castner-Post, Lichtenstein, McCullough, Lance, Isom, Schaefer, Rospert, Fletcher, Powers, Wiedmaier, Mehta, Moore, Hebert, Bell, and Provost Grahn. Advised Absences: Johnson, Albritton, Castro, and Acre. Absent: Runge and Holden

I. Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2009. (see Agenda Attachment 1)

Senator Ray moved to approve minutes with second by Senator Isom. Motion passed approving the minutes with no corrections.

II. President's Report.

A. At-large election results:

160 people voted but we need a run-off to obtain a majority. The top 3 candidates are Debbie Bratton, Don Jones, and Phillip Spivey.

B. Update on Presidential Search:

The Search Committee met yesterday in executive session. They narrowed the candidates down to ten. We will meet next Monday to narrow that down. Also Provost Grahn has applied for this position as of today so we are now at eleven.

C. Budget Advisory Committee:

Met last Tuesday to hear from the Provost regarding the state of the budget. There is going to be 3 million unexpected dollars, and there was debate as how to distribute/divide this money. Two-hundred thousand dollars went to physical plant; \$2.3 goes to academics; \$500K will go to classified staff raises (3% COL raise).

There was a vote in favor to disengage from concurrent enrollment as much as economically feasible. It is costing the University too much money and we can't afford it at this time. There is a Concurrent Enrollment ad hoc committee chaired by Francie Bolton. That committee will prepare a report and bring that to the Faculty Senate in April.

Comment- Provost Grahn: Concurrent enrollment costs between \$250-500K to run. Scholarships associated with this cost approximately \$1.1 million. This is no longer allowed by ADHE (or me). This will be booked as an expense through AOEP.

Scholarship spending- a motion was made to reduce scholarships across time to 15% of tuition and fees (as directed/recommended) by ADHE-Jim Purcell. Currently we are at 26% +/- 2.

Information Item- BOT meeting last Friday: The BOT looked at 2 action agenda items: they voted to end tuition fee waivers for BOTs and their families and they voted to end discretionary scholarships control through the presidential office.

Also Lu Hardin agreed to reduce his severance by approximately \$85K and the rest of the package will be paid out of private funds (probably UCA Foundation). The BAC will meet to determine where that \$670K will be distributed.

D. Faculty Handbook Committee (see Agenda Attachments 2 and 3):

No action last two meetings; just lots of discussion. See attached minutes.

E. Committee Charge:

1. Fringe Benefits Committee: Review and discuss whether UCA should contribute money to social security or an equivalent retirement account for part-time employees and make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate.

The cost of this is \$183K per year to the institution for this procedure.

III. Committee Reports.

A. Executive Committee:

1. Recommendation from Faculty Scholars Committee (see Agenda Attachments 4 and 5)

Guest: Alma Corley, chair of this committee provided a summary report (Attachment 4).

Senator Schaefer moved to reinstate the *Faculty Senate Scholar* Scholarship with second from Senator Ray. Motion passed approving the reinstatement of the *Faculty Senate Scholar* Scholarship which has been dormant for about five years.

2. Faculty Senate Resolution regarding Structured Questions for Student Evaluations of Faculty (not on agenda).

WHEREAS the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee (APAC) was charged by the Faculty Senate to propose specific structured questions to guide student comments consistent with the APAC student evaluation recommendations of 2007;

WHEREAS the APAC unanimously voted to recommend that the university move to more structured questions to guide student written comments student evaluations;

WHEREAS the APAC voted to recommend the following questions proposed by the Council of Deans:

1. What did you like most about this course?
2. How could this course be improved?
3. Would you recommend this course to a friend? Why, or why not?

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that UCA add the above questions to the student evaluations of faculty.

Senator Parrack moved to suspend rules to consider this resolution with second by Senator Bell. Motion passed suspending rules.

Senator Parrack moved to approved resolution with second by Senator Lance.

Comment- Senator Fletcher: These questions aren't anymore structured than what we use now.

Response- President Boniecki: The APAC Committee did meet again and approved these questions.

Comment- Senator Schaefer: These seem more like "consumer-based" customer service questions rather than academic questions.

Response- President Boniecki: Noted.

Comment- Senator Isom: Seems like these questions need to be more directed towards "learning" rather than this.

Comment- Senator Fletcher: We dealt with this is September 2008; these questions seem to be in conflict with what we recommended then.

Comment- Senator Parrack: Perhaps this matter needs to be tabled and studied further.

Much discussion ensued. Senator Parrack moved to table issue with second by Senator Isom. Motion passed approving the tabling of this issue (2 against; 17 for).

B. Committee on Committees:

1. Nomination: Jaime Zambrano (CLA) to replace a vacated position on the Graduate Council. Term expires 2011.

Senator Lichtenstein motioned to approve nomination with second by Senator Jones. Motion passed approving nomination.

- C. Academic Affairs: SGA contacted us about the academic misconduct policy. The logistics of how this is to be implemented is being addressed.

- D. Faculty Affairs I: No report.

- E. Faculty Affairs II: We are working on a resolution and are checking on some legal issues with Jack Gillean. We hope to have something next meeting.

IV. Announcements and Concerns.

A. Faculty Concerns and announcements.

1. College elections to be held Friday, April 3. The following senators are responsible for conducting the elections.

College of Business Administration- Bell and Moore

College of Education- Albritton and Hebert

College of Liberal Arts- Castro and Parrack

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics- Seifert and Isom

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences- K. McCullough and Fletcher

President Boniecki will contact deans; need one person from each college.

2. Senator Schaefer presented the following faculty concern :

I call upon the UCA Faculty Senate vigorously to address the continued disparity between athletic and academic spending. When Lu Hardin sent a memo to faculty and staff to announce the move to NCAA Division I, he assured us in writing that the change would not cost UCA anything at all but would be accomplished using the existing athletic program's budget. Rather, he protested, the move would generate new revenue for the university. It is now clear that Lu was lying, either to us or to himself. Not only has the athletic budget grown at a rate far out of proportion to the academic budget to keep athletics afloat, precipitating the departure of Provost Gabe Esteban. This year, when every other division on campus has suffered crippling budget cuts, the athletic budget has not only remained untouched, but has enjoyed the infusion of new money as the board transfers to athletics the profits from the book store and food services. Likewise, while faculty salaries are frozen and some administrators volunteer to take pay cuts, our already munificently paid coaches received raises.

The national news media report daily the cost cutting measures in athletics on other campuses as colleges and universities struggle to survive the recession. For example, Western Washington University is shutting down its winning football program, sacrificing the jewel in its crown in order to keep its other athletic programs afloat. Thus, it makes all the less sense in the current economic climate that only at UCA are academics being cut in order to buttress athletics.

On the eve of our 10-year reaccreditation examination by North Central, the current board policy is folly, for the only way that UCA can justify the serious damage done to our academic programs is by demonstrating that athletics has suffered even more grievously. How else can UCA explain the decline of real money for the development of our library collections in the face of a dramatic increase in enrollment? Or the admission of students with ACT verbal scores of 6 or 7 simply to satisfy the NCAA's required minimum enrollment on a Division I campus? (Perhaps board members do not understand that UCA is accredited by North Central, not the NCAA). Likewise, in the wake of the scandals associated with Lu Hardin's self-indulgent excesses, it is political suicide for UCA to be publicly exposed as decimating academics to support athletics. When so many people in the state are suffering from the economic turndown, the last thing that UCA needs

is a series of headlines reporting the inability of our athletic program to cut costs and the refusal of coaches to share hardships that everyone else been called upon to suffer. The latter gives the coaches the appearance of being paid mercenaries rather than loyal members of the UCA team.

3. Senator Seifert: Faculty concern regarding the lack of foresight regarding infrastructure funding (technology, library, deferred maintenance), lack of support for grants and research, and staggering teaching loads.
4. Senator Lichtenstein- Update on library fee: Met with SGA last night. I don't know the final vote from last night.
5. Senator Isom: Expressed appreciation of Provost Grahn; wanted to commend his passion for academics.

B. Next Meeting: April 14, 2009 at 12:45 p.m.

V. Adjournment: Senator Lance moved to adjourn meeting with second by Senator Mehta. Motion passed approving adjournment at 1:50 p.m.