

Minutes
UCA Faculty Senate
Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Wingo 315, 12:45 p.m.

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

I. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2009. (see Agenda Attachment 1)

Senator Ray moved to approve minutes with second by Senator Seifert. Motion passed approving the minutes with the following corrections: 1) Alma Corley (rather than Conley) and 2) Jaime Zambrano (rather than Zambrono).

II. Academic Budget Summary from the Provost

Provost Grahn presented the most current DRAFT budget for Fiscal year 2010. Provost Grahn provided information and context regarding budgetary decisions. He reported that the budget is a work in progress and that he is diligently working towards establishing a balanced budget for fiscal year 2010.

III. President's Report.

A. Election results:

At-Large: Debbie Bratton
 Don Jones
Bus.: Summer Bartczak
Ed.: Jud Copeland
FA: Lynn Burley
HBS: K.C. Poole
LA: Phillip Spivey
NSM: George Bratton

B. Final Report from the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Committee (see Agenda Attachments 2 & 3):

Comment – Senator Runge: On page 2 of attachment 3, I would like to clarify my opinion that adjunct faculty do not diminish the quality of education but instead we play a significant and important role on campus.

C. Faculty Handbook Committee

1. Minutes (see Agenda Attachments 4 - 6)

2. Resolution: Budget Advisory Committee (see Agenda Attachment 7)

Senator Seifert moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Budget Advisory Committee.

Question – Senator Castro: Why were some positions eliminated?

Response – President Boniecki: The committee was re-structured in an attempt to eliminate conflicts of interest and to provide for fair and balanced representation.

The motion was seconded by Senator Ray and the motion passed unanimously approving the change.

3. Resolution: Faculty Handbook Committee (see Agenda Attachment 8)

Senator Johnson moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Faculty Handbook

Committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Castro and the motion passed unanimously approving the change.

4. Resolution: Tenure and Promotion of Honors College Faculty (see Agenda Attachment 9)

Senator Johnson moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Tenure and Promotion of Honors College Faculty. The motion was seconded.

Much discussion ensued regarding the need for honors faculty to continue to have contact (i.e., teach a course) in the appropriate discipline-specific department. Several senators proposed that this should be strongly encouraged and should be put in writing rather than just implied. A motion was made by Senator Powers to change the wording to reflect this need for continued departmental service. The motion was seconded by Senator Castro.

Senator Johnson made a motion to table this resolution until the Faculty Handbook Committee could resolve this wording issue. The motion was seconded by Senator Parrack. The motion passed to table this issue with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

5. Resolution: Appointment to the Graduate Faculty (see Agenda Attachment 10)

Senator Johnson made a motion to table this resolution until the Graduate Council could meet and contribute to a more fully developed resolution. The motion was seconded by Senator Ray. The motion passed to table this resolution with 2 votes against.

Dr. Elaine McNeice distributed information regarding the process of graduate faculty appointment. The Graduate Council has been working on this issue for two years. Senator Wiedmaier noted that standards put forth by HLC and other accrediting organizations, such as NCATE, have to be followed, and the guidelines for graduate faculty appointment help meet those standards. The Graduate Council plans to have a final copy of the guidelines soon.

6. Resolution: Award Committees (see Agenda Attachment 11)

Senator Schaefer moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Award Committees. The motion was seconded by Senator Castro and the motion passed unanimously approving the change.

7. Resolution: General Education Council (see Agenda Attachment 12)

Senator Holden moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the General Education Council. The motion was seconded by Senator Seifert.

Senator Wiedmaier stated that faculty in the College of Education do not teach general education courses, and that those faculty in the College of Education that are the most suited for membership on the council are not typically tenure-track.

Senator Schaefer suggested that the comma following "library director" be removed.

Following discussion, the motion passed approving the change with 1 vote against.

8. Resolution: Department Tenure and Promotion Committee (see Agenda Attachment 13)

Senator Castro moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Department Tenure and Promotion Committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Castner-Post. Senator Castner-Post moved to amend the motion with a change to the wording of the last sentence. Senator Mehta seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend and the original motion passed unanimously.

9. Resolution: Extension of the Probationary Period (see Agenda Attachment 14)

Senator Castro moved to approve the resolution to accept the changes recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee to the Faculty Handbook regarding the Extension of the Probationary Period. The motion was seconded by Senator Jones and the motion passed unanimously approving the change.

III. Committee Reports.

A. Executive Committee: No report.

B. Committee on Committees: No report.

C. Academic Affairs:

1. Resolution: Student Honor Code (see Agenda Attachment 15)

Senator Albritton moved to approve the resolution of the Student Honor Code (which will be forwarded to SGA). The motion was seconded by Senator Schaefer. Minor wording changes were requested following discussion. The motion passed unanimously approving the resolution with the wording changes.

D. Faculty Affairs I: No report.

E. Faculty Affairs II: No report.

IV. Announcements and Concerns.

A. Faculty Concerns and announcements.

1. Senator Moore presented the following faculty concern:

The appropriations bill for 2009-2010 has a line item of 1.5 million dollars for travel. Our department chairs have told us the provost has said there will be no state money used for travel. The administration is going against the will of the legislature. Interestingly, in a recent Arkansas Democrat Gazette article, the athletic director has said that the athletic department is receiving 1.5 million dollars in auxiliary funds – the same amount appropriated for travel. I would like to remind the administration that education, not entertainment, is the mission of the university. I would like to see the administration fund crucial academic needs as the legislature intended, instead of finding other questionable uses for the money.

Response – Provost Grahn: That is not an accurate reflection of what I said in conversation with the deans. Please remember that the budget for next year has not been finalized and is still a work in progress. Travel has not been eliminated from the draft budget; although it has been cut back in order to protect instructional lines. Tough choices will simply have to be made in this current fiscal environment.

2. Senator Johnson: A potential topic for the required faculty/staff training seminars next year might be a session addressing campus safety and security issues.

B. Next Meeting: April 23, 2009 at 12:45 p.m.

V. Adjournment: Senator Holden moved to adjourn meeting with second by Senator Mehta. Motion passed approving adjournment at 2:35 p.m.