

Minutes
UCA Faculty Senate
Thursday, December 11, 2008
Wingo 315, 2:00 p.m.

President Boniecki called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Present were Boniecki, Parrack, Seifert, Ray, Jones, Castner-Post, Lichtenstein, McCullough, Powers, Wiedmaier, Lance, Isom, Schaefer, Mehta, Rospert, Johnson, Acre, Holden, Moore, Bell, and Provost Grahn. Advised Absences: Fletcher and Castro.

I. Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2008. (see Agenda Attachment 1)

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

II. Guest: Arkansas Senator Gilbert Baker.

Senator Baker talked about many issues including:

His history (22 years) on UCA Faculty and his goal to foster a statewide approach to higher education

The Legislative Session and Budget:

Believes we will not suffer at all because of the steps UCA and Tom Courtway have made to change the situation.

Funding: The economy is bad all over the US, but in AR there is an increase in Higher Education (16 million in A &B)

UCA lost \$4-5 million in last year's budget cuts (B category)
UCA could still receive this money if revenues continue to be good

Some hope out there...Senator Baker is continuously optimistic

Put in place administrative salary caps; more oversight from Department of Higher Ed

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: Any sense about the new appointment to the BOT?

Response- Senator Baker: That is handled by the Governor. Faculty need to make their opinions known. Whoever it is should give Tom Courtway the support he needs to keep UCA on track

Comment- Senator Johnson: What are your thoughts on concurrent enrollment? Is there anything else coming at us?

Response: Senator Baker: There are a variety of opinions regarding this in the legislature, especially as it relates to graduation and retention. I don't think it should be an enrollment driver. Quality- Faculty should have final say.

Comment- Senator Johnson: What about transferability other than core curriculum?

Response- Senator Baker: I don't hear anything past just core curriculum.

Comment- President Boniecki: How is concurrent enrollment funded? Senator Purcell says it brings in no money to UCA, so aside from quality, what is the cost-benefit to the University? Would separate funding be an option?

Response-Senator Baker: Part of funding is based on enrollment and head count so it is included.

Comment- President Boniecki: Yes, but ours was cut.

Response- Senator Baker: Yes, the formula is never fully funded. It cannot be an enrollment driver for funding. The formula is our friend because at the end of the day it does fund where the student is.

Comment- Senator Johnson: Explain the "B" category.

Response- Senator Baker: Top priority is always K-12. They have no "B" funding. Most of Higher Ed is in the "B" category. I will serve as chairman of the Joint Budget Committee; we have a \$300 million surplus in AR.

Comment- Senator Parrack: Should the Higher Ed Coordinating Board have more control/input in the funding?

Response- Senator Baker: Right now it really rest with the Presidents and Chancellors to come up with an agreement about how the money should be divided (based on formula and restoration of funds cut). The HECB has a more oversight role of institutions' basic financial dealings.

Comment- Senator Powers: Healthcare and Information Technology- Could we consider a statewide healthcare system? Why aren't we connected to the huge broadband in the I-40 connection? Why don't we have a digital library where all state institutions have access to all resources?

Response- Senator Baker: All that goes back to the way AR is set up. We don't have a statewide system. Thanks for your input. Those are good suggestions.

Comment- Senator Albritton: Can you talk to us about the 10% tied to retention rates?

Response- Senator Baker: Shouldn't be any potential cuts but probably recommendations won't be funded in this budget context.

Comment- Senator Baker: As a Follow-up to Task Force report on Remediation- Chances of folks who have to take these courses graduating is very slim. We do spend a lot of money in remediation.

Comment- Senator Albritton: I'm concerned that concurrent enrollment may be limiting the career success of students.

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: As a public institution, over the last 5 years can you help me understand why we weren't audited or if there was oversight? Why didn't anyone intervene before now?

Response- Senator Baker: Part of the situation has to do with autonomy and the fact that institutions have their sources of funding (besides from the state). You are being audited right now.

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: I would hope that we can set up a system where this doesn't happen again.

Response- Senator Baker: Yes, we need more Higher Ed Coordinating Board oversight and more transparency.

Comment- Senator Moore: There is a rumor that legislative auditors were handpicked.

Response- Senator Baker: I haven't heard that; probably not true. They will simply provide a report.

Comment- President Boniecki: Can you talk to us about the Grocery Tax?

Response- Senator Baker: The Governor has proposed another penny off which would leave 1 and 7/8^{ths}. I do support this.

Comment- President Boniecki: How do you see this affecting Higher Ed?

Response- Senator Baker: I think the Governor has a very conservative budget forecast. I think the cut will pass.

Comment- Senator Baker: Scholarships? There is a cap for each institution. UCA historically been very generous but Courtway is working to stay within the caps.

Comment- President Boniecki: The Cap is set at 30% ENG right now

Response- Senator Baker: Yes, that is probably coming down. Lottery money will be added on top of current revenues.

Comment- Senator Parrack: I would hope that discretionary scholarships would be included in the cap.

Response- Senator Baker: Yes, but I do think Presidents should have some discretion based on student need.

Comment- Senator Isom: In Georgia, every penny of the lottery went to Higher Ed. Every student with a "B" average could go free.

Response- Senator Baker: We already have the "Challenge" scholarship that is similar to the GA Hope scholarship. We just need more funding.

Comment- President Boniecki: Talk about limits of administrative salaries?

Response- Senator Baker: A transparent approach and oversight are required. We already have appropriation levels set.

III. President's Report.

A. Information Items:

1. Nilu Runge will serve as the senator for part-time faculty.
2. No reports on Presidential search.

Comment - Provost Grahm: The UCA Board of Trustees is trying to determine the members of the selection committee.

3. Stats regarding admissions standards. We are in the process of gathering this and will report in January.
4. University Safety Committee and Larry Lawrence have looked at issue regarding sidewalks on Farris. He thought it was a good idea but would cost \$45K. That money is not available right now.
5. Budget cuts: We have requested a summary of these from T. Courtway and L. Grahm.
6. President Courtway will be at our next meeting to talk about the budget.

B. Committee Charges:

1. Faculty Affairs I: Develop effective and secure procedures for online voting in Faculty Senate elections.

Ed Powers will work with IT to get this implemented.

2. Health and Wellness Promotion Committee; Discuss the costs and benefits of implementing a campus wide smoking ban at UCA and make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate.

They will start to discuss at their meeting in February.

IV. Committee Reports.

A. Executive Committee:

1. Resolution: Change to Faculty Senate by-laws. (see Agenda Attachment 2)

Senator Ray moved to approve change with second by Senator Lance. Motion passed approving the change.

2. Resolution: One-time reduction in Faculty Senate budget. (see Agenda Attachment 3)

Senator Bell moved to approve reduction with second by Senator Holden. Motion passed approving the reduction.

B. Committee on Committees:

1. Announcement: Meredith Kemper and Jerry Mimms agreed to represent faculty on President Courtway's ad hoc committee to review UCA's response system following the campus shootings.

2. Nominations for Faculty Senate appointments to university committees

Faculty Scholars: Amber Castor (term will expire in 2010)

Concurrent Enrollment Advisory (CEd position): Marilyn Friga

Senator Parrack moved to approve nominations with second by Senator Jones. Motion passed approving nominations.

C. Academic Affairs:

1. Resolution: Response to Task Force on Remediation, Retention, & Graduation (see Agenda Attachment 4)

Senator Albritton moved to approve resolution with second by Senator Lichtenstein. Motion passed approving the resolution.

D. Faculty Affairs I:

1. Resolution: Revision of Budget Advisory Committee (see Agenda Attachment 5)

Senator Lance moved to approve resolution with second by Senator Mehta

Comment - Senator Moore: When will the BAC look at the budget?

Response - Senator Powers: It is only advisory in nature but we can question.

Comment - Senator Moore: Would it be better to meet before the Budget is planned?

Response - Senator Powers: We will meet one time per month so there will be ongoing recommendations.

Motion passed approving the resolution.

Comment - President Boniecki: This will now go to the Faculty Handbook Committee and we will take this to President Courtway. Also we will run it by staff senate and SGA as well.

Comment - Provost. Grahn: I hope that this will eventually be proactive rather than reactive. I think the BAC will have a voice for the 09-10 Budget. I have asked deans for an operational budget and a preferred budget.

Comment - Senator Powers: Have you looked at the Faculty Development Resolution from last year?

Response - Provost Grahn: Yes, we would like to get there.

Comment- Senator Lichtenstein: One of my concerns is that I am doing more with less, but I'm still not getting ahead. It would be nice if we could get the rewards/savings back to make a better program.

Response- Provost Grahn: Yes, carry-over would be very helpful so that you can plan strategically for big projects.

E. Faculty Affairs II: No report

IV. Announcements and Concerns.

A. Faculty Concerns and announcements.

1. Senator Rospert read the following correspondence from a constituent regarding the Miss UCA Beauty Pageant.

I would like to express my concerns about the annual Miss University of Central Arkansas "scholarship" (beauty) pageant. I find it difficult to believe that today, in 2008, we still have such activities on our campus. But I realize that we will have this until all such pageants become a thing of the past. It is even more disconcerting, however, that we at UCA offer substantial scholarship dollars for this event. This year, for example, the prize money is around \$13,000 for the winner (over \$2,000 each for runners up).

I am primarily upset that we still require the "bathing suit" portion of the "competition", which requires our students to take off most of their clothes in order to qualify for the prize money. Even more alarming is the archaic requirement that they wear flesh-colored high-heel pumps while wearing their bikinis (one girl was allowed to wear a one-piece a few years ago, because her body type was not considered appropriate for a two-piece). Bikinis and pumps are not typical beachwear, as a "bathing suit competition" would suggest. Pumps, however, do appear with bikinis when the sex appeal of the woman (or girl) is emphasized (such as in "girlie" magazines and calendars--borderline soft porn).

Is this the message we want to send our students? Is this the message UCA wants to send our community? I think it is time we reconsider the format of this event and the messages it sends.

Due to support it gets from very influential individuals, I don't see how we can expect to eliminate this embarrassing activity from our campus. My recommendation to the Faculty Senate is that we demand that at least the bathing suit element be dropped from the proceedings. Under no circumstances should we stand for the display of students' flesh in exchange for money, especially when such display is directly affiliated by name with the University of Central Arkansas.

Comment- Senator Parrack: What is the source of funding for the pageant?

2. Senator Johnson: Do you have any information for the handbook committee?

Comment - President Boniecki: They will be very busy and will probably meet every week.

B. Next Meeting: January 22, 2009 at 12:45 p.m.

V. Adjournment: President Boniecki moved to adjourn meeting with second by Senator Ray. Motion passed approving adjournment at 3:37 p.m.