

December 2009 Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Minutes 12-2-09

1.) The meeting was called to order by Dr. Clint Atchley, President, at 3:15.

Present: Clint Atchley, Stephanie Barron, Mitzi Bass, Claudia Beach, James Duke, Jane Dunn Kevin Durand, Linda Evans, Vickie Faust, Martin Halpern, Rhonda Harrington, Barbara Landrum, Catherine Leach, Pedro Lopes, Patti Miley, Don Peterson, Brett Service, Mike Taylor, Allison Vetter, Taiquera McNeely (SGA representative) Dusty Schmid (Staff Senate Representative) Teresa Porter (incoming Staff Senate President)

2.) Dr. Vernon Miles, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, discussed 1) Act 971 of the Arkansas Legislature which reads in part as follows: "The board, in collaboration with state-supported institutions of higher education, shall develop by institution uniform measurable exit standards for remedial courses that are comparable to the ACT or SAT equivalent required for college-level enrollment in credit courses to be implemented no later than the fall semester of 2010." 2) He gained much from the Chicago meeting concerning Peer Review and Core Training of the Higher Learning Commission. 3) Dr. Welsh will complete the formation of a Compensation Task Force in the near future; Dr. Miles will serve as chair.

3.) The minutes of the November 4, 2009, meeting were approved.

4.) Dr. Clint Atchley presented his report as follows:

President's Report

3 December 2009

Meeting with President Chuck Welch—

I met with Dr. Welch on 2 December 2009 to discuss the issues. I asked Dr. Welch about the status of the Senate recommendation for a fall break. SGA is working on a recommendation for their own for a fall break. They will be holding a forum on next Tuesday to discuss the issue. They will also be surveying other schools in the state to see what they do. Once all the information has been gathered and SGA makes their recommendation, Dr. Welch will decide what will work better for Henderson.

Dr. Welch is not expecting any more budget cuts this year. There is an upcoming conference call board meeting. The only item on the agenda is to restructure some bond money at a lower interest rate. This should free up around \$500,000. There are no anticipated hiring freezes for the coming year.

We have hired a company to work on the Huie, Mooney, and Womack roofs. So far there has been no leakage in Huie or Mooney. We can't replace/purchase ballasts for the globe lights on campus, so we're working on replacing all of these pole lights. We will utilize Sturgis money for this, and they should all be purchased by the end of the year.

The group appointed by Dr. Welch to implement the non-smoking on campus law will soon have its first meeting. The law goes into effect in 2010. The group is charged with developing our policy and strategies for communicating this policy to faculty, staff, and students. The law only affects smokers; it does not apply to smokeless tobacco.

The Strategic Planning Committee is on schedule to have the plan out by 1 Feb. for feedback and comments. The "final" document will be completed by 1 Apr.

We are on schedule to implement the new webpage.

We are still negotiating with Aramark about the new cafeteria. Dr. Welch anticipates that a plan will be in place in 4-6 weeks. The plan will not increase the University's debt service nor will it impact the cost of meals to the students.

5.) Reports of Committees

A. Executive:

Dr. Atchley presented the following report:

Report Concerning the Effectiveness of the Faculty Senate With Recommendations Executive Committee, Faculty Senate, 2009

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This year the Faculty Senate has worked with the administration to extend and promote our relationship of shared governance. Dr. Charles Welch and Dr. Vernon Miles have been very supportive of our endeavors, allowing easy access and a collegial atmosphere for open discussion of any topic. Dr. Miles as generously provided time to meet the Senate president and with the whole Senate at our regular meeting times each month. These efforts by both Dr. Welch and Dr. Miles have built a sense of trust between the Senate and the administration that we hope continues in the future in a non-adversarial manner.

Overall, the Senate has been proactive this year, tackling major issues as well as minor ones. We formed an ad hoc committee on promotion / tenure and salary study to address these major concerns.

Although some points have not been resolved, the Senate passed several resolutions concerning these issues. The Executive Committee urges the next Senate to continue this discussion.

The Faculty Senate, along with the Staff Senate, successfully lobbied to keep open the workout cent in Garrison for faculty and staff. We now have three treadmills, two ellipticals, one stationary bike as well as an all-purpose weight station and free weights for our use.

The Academic Committee addressed some major issues this year, issues such as admissions standards, remediation, and retention as well as research expectations for faculty, teaching loads, equity, online courses and online evaluations. The Senate passed resolutions regarding some of these issues; however, these issues will not be resolved easily. They are important issues for the future of Henderson State University, and we must keep the dialogue about these issues alive. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Martin Halpern, chair, and the rest of the committee for your diligence in pursuing these matters.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has worked tirelessly on a long list of needed repairs and additions, and we are happy to report nearly all of these issues have been resolved. Just to name a few improvements, we have new lights and poles around campus with more on the way. Emergency doors and automatic doors have been fixed, replaced, or installed. Sidewalks have been repaired. Dr. Brett Serviss and his committee should be commended for a job well done.

Recommendations to the next Faculty Senate

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate 2009 recommends that future Senates continue the commitment to shared university-wide governance. We hope that future Senates will continue to work with the administration to encourage the important collaboration that will be necessary to bring about significant and far-reaching change to the University.

The Finance Committee as well as other members of the Senate continue to be involved with the University Budget Committee during these dire economic times, and the Executive Committee urges the next Senate to keep a close eye on finances to monitor spending and cuts.

The 2009 Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate has been honored to serve the University this past year. I would like to offer my personal thanks to my colleagues on the committee—Catherine Leach, Patti Miley, Mitzi Bass, Brett Serviss, Paul Huo, and Kevin Durand—who worked tirelessly and offered sage advice when it was needed. It has indeed been a privilege to work with you. And to the entire Senate, we thank you all for your trust and confidence.

B. Academics-no report

C. Buildings and Grounds-no report

D. Finance:

Finance Committee Report

University Budget Committee

5 Nov. 2009

VP Jones discussed the forum held by Dr. Welch on the state of the HSU budget cuts. These cuts are due to the Educational Excellence Trust Fund (EETF) decrease of ~2% (\$41,766.00) and a general revenue decrease of 2.04% (\$383,327.00). Adding to this is a tuition shortfall of \$61,592.00.

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Total shortfall of: \$486,685.00.

Savings areas are:

- Property Insurance \$91,500.00
- Student Housing \$143,541.00
- Food Service \$18,962.00
- Health Insurance \$89,000.00
- Utilities \$68,681.00
- Salary Contingency \$75,000.00 (adjunct)

Total savings realized: \$486,684.00.

Based on these figures there are no personnel or unit budget changes anticipated.

VP Jones did state, should revenue continue to decrease another round of cuts could come as soon as January 2010 but he did not have a crystal ball to tell the future.

Jim Duke

Faculty Senate Finance Committee Chair

E. Procedures:

Excellence Awards Committees for 2010

Math/ Science: Brenda Trigg, chair; Brett Serviss, Ingo Schranz, Jimmie Harper, Jules Mollere

Teachers College: Michael Kelly, chair; Bernie Hellums, Lonnie McDonald, Dana Horn, Don Peterson

Fine Arts: Claudia Beach, chair; David Stoddard, Eula Thomas, Bill Higgins, Jesse Leyva

Liberal Arts: Angela Boswell, chair; Clint Atchley, Henry Perez, Martin James, Don Wells

School of Business: Wanda Harris, chair; Paul Huo, Wendi Boyles, Kathie Buckman, Jonathan Moss

6.) Old Business

A. Dr. Atchley appointed Catherine Leach as the Faculty Senate representative to the Compensation and Equity Task Force that Dr. Welch is convening.

B. Vickie Faust has agreed to serve as the Faculty Senate representative to the Threat Assessment Committee which Chad Fielding has formed.

C. The November 4 Academic Committee report concerning the Board of Trustees' policy on royalties from faculty-authored texts assigned to students by the faculty author was brought "off the table" for further discussion. It was moved and seconded that President Atchley appointed an ad hoc committee to further discuss this issue. The motion passed. Atchley appointed the current Academics Committee as the ad hoc committee. Dr. Halpern, chair, of the Academics Committee will convene the ad hoc committee.

7.) New Business

A. Catherine Leach, in coming Faculty Senate president, will call the first meeting of the 2010 Faculty Senate on Wednesday, January 20th at 3:15 in the Caba Room.

B. The motion was made and seconded to commend Dr. Clint Atchley for his excellent year of service as president of the Faculty Senate. The motion passed with exuberant applause.

8.) The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitzi Bass

Faculty Senate Secretary