

Faculty Senate Minutes 3 February 2010

President Catherine Leach called the meeting to order at 3:15.

The following members were present: Lea Ann Alexander, Rafael Bejarano, Troy Bray, Beverly Buys, Martha Dale Cooley, Kevin Durand, David Etienne, Linda Evans, Vickie Faust, Megan Hickerson, Paul Huo, Barbara Landrum, Catherine Leach, Pedro Lopes, Patty Miley, Basil Miller, Michael Miller, Don Peterson, Anna Smith, Celya Taylor, Allison Vetter, Patricia Weaver, and Fred Worth. Vernon Miles—Provost and Vice- President Academic Affairs, Teresa Porter— Staff Senate Representative, and Cari Elliott—*The Oracle* were also present. We did not have a representative from SGA present.

Dr. Vernon Miles, Provost/ VPAA, said the Compensation Task Force letters were sent out yesterday (Tuesday, February 2, 2010). Dr. Miles stated that the qualifications for sabbatical leave need to be clarified. A proposal is to be sent/pending.

Next, Dr. Miles discussed the request for a fall break. The SGA Panel, which had members of administration instead of faculty, as stated in *The Oracle*, held an open forum on the topic last fall. The forum was attended by approximately thirty (30) students, some staff, and some administrators. No one would refuse a fall break, but the question of whether or not we would have to return early in the summer to compensate for the time lost is a topic for further discussion. The question is, if we do want one, when should it be? Dr. Miles said it would not be good to extend the Thanksgiving break because of the proximity to semester exams and suggested it would be better to have a fall break around mid-terms. Dr. Miles also suggested that a Monday /Tuesday or a Thursday /Friday break for a long weekend might work, but stated the staff would not be off.

Undergraduate enrollment is up a little bit from January 2009, but graduate enrollment is down. Overall HSU is up 20-30 students.

ACT 971 of the Legislature would require each institution to develop a test similar to the ACT to require students to pass remedial courses. Director of Arkansas Department of Higher Education Jim Purcell mentioned the legislature's desire to standardize exams to correlate with ACT and the Compass; however, Dr. Miles stated that one problem with this idea is that it was a standardized test that put students in remedial classes to begin with. Another problem is that it takes the judgment of whether a student "passes" out of the hands of the professor. Act 971 will, hopefully, be repealed next year.

The average number of students' attending Arkansas colleges is up, but the average number of students' graduating is down according to the "Access to Success Report" Legislative website. A 2.50 GPA from different high schools may not be equivalent, but most universities view them as equal in their admission standards.

January minutes were approved as distributed.

President Catherine Leach's report of her meeting with Dr. Welch follows.

**Report of Visit with Dr. Welch February 1, 2010**

Dr. Welch and I discussed the FY2010 and FY2011 budgets. The bond defeasance produced more savings than recently reported, and no salary savings were used for the January budget cut. The state will present a revised revenue forecast in April. In order for Henderson to have as much information as possible when Henderson's FY2011 budget is adopted, the University has changed the Board of Trustees April 22<sup>nd</sup> budget workshop to May 13<sup>th</sup> and the April 30<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting to adopt the budget to May 21<sup>st</sup>. Contracts will not be issued until the budget is adopted. Welch stressed that the reason for delaying the adoption of the budget is to have as much information as possible and that faculty should not worry about whether this delay will affect their contract status. This change in the budget process is not related to personnel reductions. As stated earlier, there are no plans to reduce personnel. Also, the University will allow plenty of time to return contracts.

Dr. Welch and I also discussed the spring 2010 enrollment. Henderson has 3,287 students enrolled this semester. This is a decrease of 25 students from the spring 2009 semester. Part of the decrease is attributed to the cancellation of the Bosnian program. The good news is Henderson has an increase in undergraduate FTEs (full-time equivalents) and SSCH (student semester credit hours) over the 2009 numbers. Undergraduate FTEs are up 2.3% (from 2,599 to 2,659), graduate FTE is down 24.7% (from 295 to 222, mostly due to the Bosnian program), and total SSCH is up 0.8% (from 42,519 to 42,873). Residence hall occupancy is also up from the spring 2009. Our spring tuition and fee revenue exceeds the budgeted amounts.

Dr. Welch also gave me some statistics for fall 2010: There is a 57% increase in full admissions, a 28% increase in freshmen pending, a 68% increase in transfer pending, and a 45% increase in total freshman applications. Welch stated he is encouraged by these numbers. In order to translate admissions/applications into actual enrollment numbers, Admissions will send each department chair a list of those admitted who declared a major in that area. Departments are encouraged to contact these potential students.

Welch stated that it appears current students with a 2.50 GPA and at least 12 hours will be eligible for lottery scholarships. The amount of the scholarship may not be the same amount as for incoming freshmen. In addition, every student receiving a lottery scholarship is required to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid). As of last week, Henderson's financial aid office had received 344 FAFSA applications. This time last year we had received 44 FAFSAs. The number of Henderson students receiving lottery scholarships will have to be reported to the state. All lottery scholarship recipients must sign a form that authorizes the release of financial aid information to the state. The student may opt out, but the form must be signed indicating he/she opts out. Welch noted that the lottery scholarship dollars will lessen the amount students have to borrow to attend college, but the University will receive the same amount of money. It will just be in the form of lottery scholarships. The way to increase revenue is to increase enrollment.

**Committee Reports:**

1. Academic Committee – no report.

2. Buildings and Grounds--Chair Lea Ann Alexander met with Bobby Jones on February 1 to discuss a few items remaining from last year's Buildings and Grounds committee.

#### Signage

- The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been invited to look at the proposed new site for the Testing Center sign at Caplinger.
- As a test, a new "Stop for Pedestrians" sign has been embedded in concrete on Henderson Street. If knocked down, it should pop back up.

#### Lighting

- Every light pole on campus is going to be replaced, with the exception of parking lot lighting. The new light poles, which have been ordered, are similar to the ones at the Nursing building. Private funds from the Sturgis Foundation are being used for this purpose. These funds are given to the University *only* for buildings and grounds purposes.

#### Sidewalks

- Nothing has been done yet about the slick, pebbled sidewalk in front of Caddo; we will follow up on this. Mr. Corley suggests that a new sidewalk may be necessary.

#### Parking/Parking Lots

- The University will re-stripe some parking spaces this summer in response to complaints about the size of driving lanes and parking spaces, particularly at the Garrison Center and RFA lots. To resize parking areas will likely result in a reduction in the number of available spots.
- Complaints have been made regarding lack of visibility when pulling out from Brown Street (behind the library) onto Henderson. One possibility is to improve visibility by removing the parking spots immediately to the left and right of Brown Street. Mr. Jones invites our input on this matter.
- The University has an accepted offer on the house with green trim across from RFA. This area, along with property immediately behind it, will be used for parking.

#### Miscellaneous

- This summer, the Arboretum will be moved to the area across from the old tennis courts.
- A new entrance, the construction of a brick façade to hide Maintenance from the highway, and purchase of other properties are in the planning stages.

Please send comments and concerns about buildings and grounds issues to any member of the committee: Lea Ann Alexander, Rafael Bejarano, Martha Dale Cooley, Vickie Faust, Rhonda Harrington, Don Peterson, and Teresa Porter (Staff Senate Representative).

3. Finance-- will meet this week.
4. Procedures-- no report.
5. Operations—Chair Fred Worth reported they are looking at the Handbook and will have suggestions.

Old Business:

1. The President noted that Committee Assignments are attached to the agenda for this month.
2. Online evaluations have many senators concerned with the low number of responses. This was referred to the Academics Committee, and they will meet with David Epperhart, director of Computer and Communication Services, for a solution to increase responses.
3. When asked, the *Oracle* representative stated that pop up reminders for evaluation appeared on Reddie Connect and suggested they appear on Angel also.

New Business

1. President Leach appointed Kevin Durand parliamentarian.
2. A request from a Higher Learning Commission subcommittee to review the grade appeals process was referred to the Academics committee.

Faculty Senate was adjourned at 4:14 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha Dale Cooley*

Faculty Senate Secretary