

March 2, 2011 Faculty Senate Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Troy Bray at 3:15pm.
Present: Troy Bray, Brett Serviss, Catherine Leach, Martha Dale Cooley, Fred Worth, John Long, Jana Jones, Haroon Khan, Rhonda Harrington, Teresa Holsclaw, Patricia Weaver, Stephanie Barron, Lea Ann Alexander, Heidi Vix, Barbara Landrum, Richard Schmid, Basil Miller, Shannon Clardy, Beverly Buys, Tommy Finley, Connie Phelps, Carrie Barber, Ed Conrad, Allison Vetter, Staff Senate President Deborah Sesser, Student Representative Tiffany Baker
2. Dr. Vernon Miles, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs discussed
 - a. This is an active session for legislation – 756 bills in the house and 700 in the senate. 1 bill in particular is seeking to limit the amount of remediation offered at the collegiate level.
 - b. NCATE visit is March 12-16
 - c. As part of the HLC study, a survey on volunteerism is due March 11
 - d. In preparation for the criterion V forum, 119 pages have been prepared listing what we give back to the community.
 - e. 8:30-9:30am, March 3rd, there is a reception for the new trustee Mike Myers.
 - f. In the process for resolving academic grievances and concerns, Dr. Miles would like to see the resolution remain close to the faculty member and department involved. This issue will be addressed by the Academics Committee.
3. The minutes for February's meeting were approved.
4. President's Report – Troy Bray:

Report of Visit with Dr. Welch
(February 25, 2011)

In response to a few requests I received, I asked Dr. Welch about the 10:00 p.m. announcement to cancel classes due to the recent inclement weather. He explained the timing of this announcement was due, in part, to conflicting reports on road conditions and inconsistent weather forecasts. Dr. Welch went on to explain just how many factors enter into such a decision and how many parties are involved in this process.

Additionally, Dr. Welch and I discussed the wide variety of bills being currently introduced in this legislative session. Several of these bills will have a direct impact upon the funding of higher education, such as the tax cuts on the groceries, used cars, and manufactures' utilities. However, other bills have the potential to affect the university in additional areas such curriculum, student transfers, and remediation. Dr. Welch has asked us to join with him in keeping a close watch for any bills that we feel have the potential to adversely affect our university and to contact him with specific concerns about the proposed legislation.

Report of Visit with Bobby Jones

(February 22, 2011)

Mr. Jones had nothing new to report since last month's report. Everything is continuing on schedule with no major problems or new developments to report.

5. Reports of Committee:

a. Executive Committee:

There is a concern among faculty regarding the academic dishonesty policy. There is no central location to amass data on student cheating. The policy should be reviewed by the Academics Committee and should involve the SGA, since students are directly impacted. A senator suggested a "driving school" approach to plagiarism wherein an offense of plagiarism would merit a short course in avoiding plagiarism, so a second offense could not be defended as ignorance.

b. Academics Committee:

Fred Worth has been elected as committee chair.

c. Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Carrie Barber has been elected as committee chair.

Concerns were voiced about the elevator in Evans Hall. The lift is unsafe and unreliable. Mr. Bobby Jones has been asked to look into this.

Suggestions to the committee included addressing "Lake Evans" – the parking lot behind Evans hall, crosswalk stripes and a "Slow" sign at Henderson and 12th, the destruction of grounds caused by maintenance workers driving on sidewalks, the dip at the entrance to the parking lot next to Barkman, the lack of light on the east side of Caplinger, and the bricking of the garden planters that seems to have stopped mid-project. Since the HLC site team visit will be next February, we would like our campus to look its best.

d. Finance Committee:

Basil Miller is the committee chair.

The budget committee has decided that additional revenue from increased enrollment will be divided among the university vice presidents who will determine how the money is to be spent.

e. Operations Committee:

Ed Conrad has been elected committee chair.

Faculty and staff recommendations for the website are being compiled by the operations committee. An initial packet of suggestions was presented. Additional concerns were voiced, including the placement of the Ed Specialist Degree and the unprofessional language used on the site. The operations committee will compile additional concerns and send these to Senate President Troy Bray. Dr. Bray will address these concerns with Dr. Miles.

f. Procedures Committee:

Jana Jones has been elected chair.

Faculty Hearing Committee elections are nearing.

6. Old Business: No old business.

7. New Business:
 - a. Jana Jones was appointed as the senate representative to the Behavioral Management Committee.
 - b. On behalf of the Sabbatical Leave Review Committee, changes were presented for the sabbatical leave application. A motion to accept the changes was made and seconded. The motion passed.
 - c. An Institutional Review Board has been appointed to address the use of human subjects in research. Allison Vetter and Aneeq Ahmad co-chair the committee. There is no official IRB in place currently and this committee has been tasked with establishing protocols pursuant to federal regulations. The use of animals in research has not been addressed.
8. The Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Clardy
Faculty Senate Secretary