

Faculty Senate Minutes
7 May 2014

Senators Present: Lea Ann Alexander, Ajay Aggarwal, Steven Becraft, James Duke, Carolyn Eoff, Janice O'Donnell, Emily Gerhold, Greg Gibson, John Greene, Megan Hickerson, Jana Jones, Patricia Loy, Lonnie McDonald, Holly Morado, Ingo Schranz, Brett Serviss, Suzanne Tartamella, Patrick Wempe, Penny Whelchel, Peggy Woodall, Allison Vetter (for Malcolm Rigsby), Fred Worth

Senators Absent: Dan Fitzroy, Travis Langley, Richard Miller, Richard Schmid, R. C. Smith

Others Present: Jacob Mills, Maralyn Sommer

1. Call to Order: President Fred Worth 3:15.
2. Discussion with Interim Provost/VPAA, Dr. Maralyn Sommer
 - a. Dr. Sommer noted that she had no specific items for discussion; she did make some comments about Henderson and her impending retirement; she noted that Henderson is a great institution with a great amount of potential, particularly in light of the new strategic plan; she leaves with mixed emotions—she is happy to step aside and allow the new provost to take over but will miss the many great people; she noted that she looked forward to seeing many of the senators at her upcoming retirement reception.
 - b. Dr. Sommer asked if any senators had questions; there were none.
 - c. Finally, Dr. Sommer mentioned that there will be 200+ graduates at each ceremony on Friday.
3. Approval of April 2014 Minutes by Acclamation
4. President's Report
 - a. Report of Meeting with President, Dr. Glen Jones
 - i. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board of Trustees meeting will take place at the end of May.
 - ii. The Shared Governance Task Force will meet late this week (F 9 May).
 - iii. President Jones agreed with President Worth's concerns about summer school (more reliable scheduling for faculty and students); President Jones said a better effort should be made to advertise summer classes.
 - iv. It is one thing to come up with a Strategic Plan—the goal is to put this plan into practice. Our goal is to “identify issues” and seek to resolve them.
 - v. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) is seeking to help society see the value of an education as more than just job training; the organization is looking at a potential collaboration with Henderson; more information will be forthcoming.
 - vi. We expect to receive the results from the *Chronicle* survey fairly soon; the results should help provide a path forward vis-à-vis quality-of-life/morale issues.

- b. Report of Meeting with Interim Provost/VPAA, Dr. Maralyn Sommer
 - i. The strategic planning documents are now available on the web; faculty are asked to review them and send comments to the appropriate subcommittee chairs.
 - ii. Revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* approved during the February and March meetings are being forwarded to the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Report of meeting with Mr. Bobby Jones
 - i. The meeting regarding the budget will take place on 8 May.
5. Reports of Committees
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Proposed Guidelines for Committee Meetings: President Worth discussed the confusion that had occurred in a particular committee earlier this term; the primary root of the confusion came in the committee's decision to meet electronically; President Worth noted that the Executive Committee is working on a list of guidelines for committee meetings that should be in place by fall.
 - b. Academics Committee – No Report
 - c. Buildings and Grounds Committee – No Formal Report
 - i. Note was made of the fact that the majority of the wheelchair accessibility buttons in the Education Building are non-functional; the committee chair reported that she would take this issue forward to Mr. Bobby Jones.
 - d. Finance Committee
 - i. The committee chair discussed ways in which faculty members could have a look at the overall budget; the committee had discussed how faculty have input vis-à-vis the budget process; some discussion ensued about whether or not it is the *faculty's* responsibility to look at/vet the budget; the suggestion of an independent auditor was mentioned; President Jones' shifting of responsibility for salaries to the strategic plan was noted as "acceptable."
 - 1. A senator noted that while the auditor is a good idea, to whom will the auditor report? The senator further noted that we should look at the report of the entire holdings of the university and not simply the budget—it is important for transparency to have full accounting.
 - 2. Another senator mentioned that President Welch had made this information available in the past.
 - 3. A senator followed up on the point (1) above by asking if it would be possible to use this scenario to ensure that money is allocated towards faculty.
 - 4. A senator noted that a true statistician would be needed to accurately examine the data.
 - 5. Another senator furthered this point: we need a specialist/advocate for fairness; the senator also noted a recent article discussing the rising cost of college—mostly due to student services.
 - 6. A senator noted that administrative salaries continue to rise.
 - 7. A senator mentioned that the president's response to the salary letter was unacceptable.
 - 8. A senator mentioned that in the past, the Senate had asked that salaries come first in the budget; perhaps that request should be reiterated.

9. A senator suggested the use of “baseline budgeting” as a means of eliminating extraneous programs.
 10. A senator observed that while President Jones has indicated salaries are a priority in the Strategic Plan, this still creates a delay.
 11. A senator suggested that the Senate recommend to the appropriate strategic planning subcommittee the hiring of a consultant; the idea should be submitted as a *strategy* to be incorporated in the Strategic Plan.
 12. A senator noted a problem with strategic planning vis-à-vis salaries: why study something that has already been studied? The senator also raised a question about use of the Garrison Center.
 13. President Worth asked the Senate if they would be willing to endorse a strategy (cf. 11 above).
 14. A senator reiterated support for submitting a strategy and indicated this would be a way of broaching the subject from yet another angle.
 15. A senator emphasized that the faculty should have input on the body chosen to study salaries and expressed a desire to press the president to form a committee—and exhibit more transparency; another senator voiced his/her agreement with the need for transparency.
 16. A senator asked about the Labor Day vigil discussed during the April meeting; another senator responded that he/she was not sure what to do with the idea—no one has approached him/her about it.
 17. President Worth expressed his desire for Senate endorsement of a statement to the strategic planning committee.
 18. The following statement was suggested: *“Faculty Senate recommends that the university engage an independent auditor to examine the university budget in order to identify ways in which funds may be reallocated to cover pressing university needs, particularly the improvement of faculty salaries.”*
 19. The Senate then voted on the statement; it passed unanimously.
- e. Operations Committee – No Report
 - f. Procedures Committee:
 - i. The chair reported the results of the Faculty Hearing Committee election. (see addendum)
6. Old Business
- a. Faculty Excellence Awards: Guidelines are being developed because committees form and disband each year; one option is a letter that the President of the Senate sends to committee chairs; suggestions are encouraged (and can be sent to Lea Ann Alexander); the goal is to ensure that committees are operating well and fairly.
7. New Business
- a. E-Cigarette Proposal
 - i. President Worth brought forth a proposal (see addendum) from Dr. Lewis Shepherd’s office concerning the use of e-cigarettes on campus. President Worth noted that the policy stemmed from a recent problem in McBrien Hall.

- ii. A senator noted the dangers of the harmful chemicals in e-cigarettes (as provided in a recent *Arkansas Online* article); the senator also noted several other journal studies.
 - iii. A senator moved for an endorsement of the policy.
 - iv. A senator questioned the efficacy of the enforcement of the policy; the senator noted that the current smoking policy is not necessarily being enforced.
 - v. President Worth asked for a resolution in support of the policy; the resolution passed.
- b. Statement of Appreciation regarding Dr. Maralyn Sommer, Interim Provost/VPAA
- i. President Worth brought forth a statement on the occasion of Maralyn Sommer's retirement (see addendum) for the Senate's review.
 - ii. Significant discussion ensued; several senators suggested changes to the phrasing of the statement; changes were made.
 - iii. Some discussion took place regarding whether the statement was being made on behalf of the *faculty* or the *Faculty Senate*; clarification was made that the statement would come from the *Senate*, not the faculty at-large.
 - iv. A vote was held; the motion passed.
- c. Commencement
- i. A senator asked (on behalf of a constituent) if the Senate would consider rotating the times for graduation; some discussion ensued.
 - ii. Another senator expressed the desire to hold one commencement.
 - iii. President Worth noted that such had been the case in the past; however, weather was often the issue when commencement was held at the football stadium.
 - iv. A senator noted that the new administration might be open to changes in the way commencement is conducted.

8. Adjourn 4:20

Respectfully Submitted,
P. Gregory Gibson
Faculty Senate Secretary

Addendum I

Procedures Committee Report

May 7, 2014

The Procedures Committee recently wrapped up the 2014 Faculty Hearing Committee elections and appointed the new members and alternates serving a three year term commencing on July 1, 2014. The new members and alternates are as follows:

2014 Faculty Hearing Committee Election Results

Ellis College – Fine Arts:

Michael Miller

Phillip Schroeder (alternate)

Ellis College – Liberal Arts:

Angela Boswell

Travis Langley (alternate)

Ellis College – Math & Sciences:

Carolyn Eoff

Sally Crain (alternate)

School of Business:

Ajay Aggarwal

Jonathan Moss (alternate)

Teacher College, Henderson:

Jim Shuff

Christine Smart (alternate)

These names we submitted to the Committee on Committees, which maintains the committee membership list.

Addendum II

Section 18. Use of Tobacco Products and Electronic Cigarettes Prohibited

The University is a smoke-free campus in accordance with the Arkansas Campus Clean Air Act of 2009 (A.C.A. 6-60-801 et seq.). The use of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or other instruments that emit vapor or smoke is prohibited everywhere on campus and in any vehicle owned or leased by the University. This prohibition includes but is not limited to athletic facilities, university residence halls and individual residence hall rooms.

The advertising, sales or distribution of free samples of any tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or other instruments that emit vapor or smoke are prohibited on University property.

Violations of this policy are subject to monetary fines as set out in state law. Violations of this policy by students are also subject to discipline through the University's student code of conduct. Violations of this policy by staff are also subject to discipline pursuant to the Staff Handbook. Violations of this policy by faculty are also subject to discipline pursuant to the Faculty Handbook. Violations of this policy within the University's residence halls are also subject to discipline pursuant to the Residence Life Handbook.

Resources are available to help students, faculty, and staff overcome addiction to tobacco products through the Office of Human Resources and Student Health Services.

Addendum III

Faculty Senate Statement of Appreciation on the Occasion of Dr. Maralyn Sommer's Retirement

The Henderson State University Faculty Senate expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Maralyn Sommer on the occasion of her retirement from Henderson State University. During her twenty-four years of dedicated service to the university, she has served as bassoon instructor, music department chair, Ellis College associate dean and dean, and interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

During those years of dedicated service, she was instrumental in the development of the Bachelor of General Studies program, helped the music department obtain funds for the Bösendorfer grand piano, and has most recently served for two years as the interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Sommer's service as faculty member and administrator has been marked by dedication, selflessness, and passion. She has shown her dedication by always seeking to do what she believed to be best for her department, her college, and her university. She has demonstrated her selflessness through her creation and implementation of and commitment to the President's Concert. She has demonstrated her passion in every aspect of her service to the Reddie community: passion for her music, passion for the music department, passion for Ellis College, and passion for Henderson State University.

The Faculty Senate thanks Dr. Sommer for her leadership, loyalty, and faithfulness; tireless and meritorious service; strong sense of responsibility; and unwavering and uncompromising commitment to quality.

The Faculty Senate wishes Dr. Sommer the best during her well-deserved retirement.