

October 5th, 2011, Faculty Senate Minutes

1. Call to Order – Dr. Troy Bray 3:15

Present: Troy Bray, Brett Serviss, Catherine Leach, Shannon Clardy, Fred Worth, Martha Dale Cooley, Barbara Landrum, Kathie Buckman, Lea Ann Alexander, John Long, Teresa Holsclaw, Beverly Buys, David Etienne, Jana Jones, Megan Hickerson, Stephanie Barron, Connie Phelps, Tim Baghurst, Don Benton, Julia Correia, Johnny Campbell – Chief of University Police, Lenette Jones – Coordinator of Athletic Academic Success Program, Deborah Sesser – President of Staff Senate, Angela Bosewell (guest)

2. Discussion with Chief of University Police, Mr. Johnny Campbell

Mr. Campbell will present a video for Nov or Dec meeting. If a faculty member feels threatened, intimidated, or stressed, Mr. Campbell stresses that he has an open door policy and encourages discussion. If you contact personsofconcern@hsu.edu regarding a student, the message goes to whole committee. Students who create ongoing, disruptive behavior will not remain here.

A senator asked what happens in an instance when we have an emergency on campus and cell phones are not actually used. Mr. Campbell answered: There is a loud speaker for the quad. There is a person responsible for each building, as a secondary manner of notification.

A senator mentioned that McBrien had been locked down because of a dangerous situation, but no notification was sent out to the rest of campus. The senator asked how we let people know when something has happening. Mr. Campbell answered: RAVE alert and Blast email primarily. The police have an 8 man department. The campus needs to add emergency response. City police will support campus police for an emergency. Perhaps some type of alarm system for each building would be helpful. There are now videos on emergency preparedness on the website.

3. Discussion with Coordinator of Athletic Academic Success Program, Ms. Lenette Jones

Ms. Jones explained who is authorized to access student information according to the Buckley amendment and FERPA law. The packet she presented has detailed information about who is allowed to access student material. Students have grade and attendance forms to determine their tutoring and study hall needs. Faculty are advised not to sign a made up or blank form. Sign only the official paper. Lenette is our contact person between athletics and academic programs. Dr. Miles suggests emailing coaches when students are doing poorly (He mentioned what a great resources coaches can be in student performance). A senator requests that an email be sent out to faculty when grade reports are coming out so we can be prepared.

4. Discussion with Provost/VPAA, Dr. Vernon Miles

Dr. Miles recommends all faculty go see the half new Womack building now with working restrooms! But be careful because there is still construction work going on. The equipment is gone.

Dr. Miles addressed Summer school pay levels and class sizes. The pay will not change at present. Dr. Miles gave statistics on other universities on pay and class sizes. (we pay 6% of

annual salary per 3 hour course). It is difficult to make the payroll for some of the very small classes. No decision has yet been made about class sizes. Email Dr. Miles if you have suggestions in this area. The system of paying by percentage does not allow for addressing pay disparity for disparate class sizes.

A senator mentioned that it is more worthwhile to teach 2 courses in the summer. One course might typically be fairly high (survey type course) another might be small (grad course). The senator asked if there is a means of justifying the pay scale by the balance of students for the professor rather than by the course. The answer – the inequity is already in the system. Let's not increase the inequity, but try to prevent future inequity. Dr. Miles would like to raise base salary enough that faculty would be more interested in teaching only 1 summer course eventually or that their base salary is enough to alleviate the need for summer course.

A senator pointed out that canceling some classes might discourage students from taking other summer classes due to financial aid and time commitments.

Dr. Miles addressed Work off campus – A legislator is considering inquiring about the work faculty members do for money outside of their faculty appointments during the year. There is an extra income statement for state employees that is required to be filled out (state law). There is an Arkansas department of education form as well. The primary concern is whether or not outside work conflicts with the time commitment to teaching - the first priority.

Dr. Miles addressed the 120 hours requirement – act 747. There is some flexibility with the 3 hr elective in the general education curriculum. Most everyone believes we need to keep the 1 hr life fit elective; however, if it is eliminated from gen ed, the University Academic Council would vote once to change the number of hours for all degree programs. Subtracting hours elsewhere means that each department has to redo curriculum and the UAC will need to vote for each curriculum as it is prepared. No blanket, binding decision today was made today. Dr. Miles stressed the need for more solutions. Dr. Miles asked for ideas and a senate recommendation.

A senator mentioned that English, foreign language, and philosophy formed a committee to review the number of hours required and found conflicting numbers for the hours required. That department felt that core elective should not be cut because it is a viable means of obtaining minors.

A senator mentioned that some constituents do not want to cut from core elective, but really do not want to drop from major. A suggestion was made about dropping the second science requirement if a cut was made from core because many students take online astronomy. The senator's constituents believe that "cheating is rampant" within the course. A senator mentioned that this will put us behind Mississippi in education. Another senator mentioned that the 8 hours of science are required by state law. A senator mentioned that this trend seems to be a start of watering down of degree programs. A senator mentioned that the previous core revision was a huge process and left many with hard feelings. Leaving the elective was a point of compromise previously. A senator reminded us to rethink our prerequisites. Dr. Miles mentioned that 124 hours are currently required for the students to graduate from the university. If the major is not at the 120-hour level, it is possible to increase the major by the elective that is removed from the university core. A senator mentioned that 90-95% degrees in the university require less than 124 hours, but include free electives to reach the current 124 hr level. Dr. Miles said if we can get everything at 124 down to 120, we can buy time for accreditations and other issues before we get the larger programs to come down. A senator recommended making Henderson Seminar a 0 hour, required course. A senator suggests being

vocal to your senators, if you feel strongly about the education core.

Dr. Miles discussed course evaluations. He presented 3 ideas – 1st) go with online evaluations and allow faculty to opt into a paper evaluation, 2nd) perform evaluations in the fall on odd years and in the spring on even years, 3rd) perform evaluations for tenure track faculty only every semester. Tenured professors would have evaluations every other year. Dr. Miles asked Dr. Bray to assign the issue to a committee for evaluation with the help of David Epperhart and Dr. Miles (for current year, we will do paper evaluations). Since man power is the primary problem, the suggestion was made to employ students to do this work.

Dr. Miles states that the compensation study is no longer on hold. The committee is getting together soon, but a meeting has not yet been called. A senator asked if it is possible to consider the fact that our salaries have been frozen when going into tenure and promotion raises because it drastically affects long term earnings potential. Dr. Miles agrees that this is an important consideration.

A senator asked if webmasters could have publishing rights to their own departmental websites because simple changes have to wait quite some time to have approval by someone outside of the departments. Dr. Miles said he would raise the issue. A senator asked if the faculty senate webmaster can have access to a faculty senate webpage. Dr. Miles said he would ask. Previous webpage suggestions made by the senate were met with great acceptance. Dr. Miles intends to discuss these issues with Dr. Bray and Pres. Jones. A senator mentioned that the A-Z list on the Henderson webpage is still not in alphabetical order and that our alphabet has no x,y,z.

5. Approval of September Minutes and Minutes of Special Meeting (September 20th)
Motioned, second, Minutes approved.

6. President's Report

Report of October Visit with Interim President Bobby Jones

Mr. Jones reported that he will be meeting in Little Rock on Tuesday, Oct. 4, with other university presidents and chancellors to vote on the performance based funding formula that will be presented to Governor Beebe on October 15th. Additionally, Mr. Jones stated that the university is anticipating a healthcare cost increase in January and that the fringe benefits committee will be meeting to discuss and consider recommendations concerning this potential cost increase.

Report of October visit with Lecia Franklin

Ms. Franklin reported that her office has been busy completing various ADHE reports that were due by Sept. 15th. In addition to these normal reports, copies of HSU contracts with the BbA Corp (HSU Bookstore), Aramark, and Pepsi were requested by the media. Ms. Franklin stated that meetings have begun in earnest with the architects on the new cafeteria. The original floor plans for the 21,000 sq. ft. facility included indoor seating for 600, as well as outdoor seating and a private banquet room. However, any cost increase or changes in the original plan may preclude the addition of the private banquet room. Additionally, there is hope that some funds will be made available for resurfacing and widening the Amy Jean Green Bridge. Ms. Franklin gave a quick tour of renovations in Womack. Punch list items have been identified and the contractor is

in the process of addressing these items. The elevator is in, but waiting inspection before it can become operational.

7. Dr. Miles requested that the senate form a position on how to resolve the 120 hr requirement. A motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules and address this topic. Suspension of rules passed by unanimous vote. A Motion and second were made to ask departments to assess the total number of hours in their degree requirements, determine whether or not removing the 3 hr elective from the liberal arts core would help to reach the requisite 120 hrs, and to report this information to Dr. Miles. The motion passed with no senators opposed.
8. Reports of Committees
 - a. Executive Committee
No report
 - b. Academics Committee
No report
 - c. Buildings and Grounds Committee

Three issues were brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate Buildings and Grounds Committee. Lecia Franklin, Interim VP of Finance responded to each issue.

1. *The squares on the walks between McBrien and the Quad flooded during a recent rain and the drain near Garrison was under the flowing stream. Several people asked why the brick walkway and the concrete walkways have not been restored or when they will be.*

Ms. Franklin has noticed this area and has spoken about it with Mr. Corley. He has discussed it with the Grounds Supervisor, but there has been no progress yet. Ms. Franklin and Andrea Pennington, Grounds Supervisor will meet soon to discuss not only this area but also other areas on campus in desperate need of attention.

2. *A custodian noted that an in-ground sprinkler on the South Lawn has been broken for quite some time and that water constantly seeps across the sidewalk. Someone has driven in that area, leaving a deep tire track.*

Ms. Franklin was not aware of this but will visit with Mr. Corley and Ms. Pennington about it. She suspects that there are other broken sprinkler heads, as well.

3. *The confusion over whether or not classes were to be cancelled during recent, widespread power outages led to referral of this issue to the B&G committee. One faculty member suggested that class cancellation be left to each faculty member's discretion so that those whose buildings are not affected may hold class as usual. Another person suggested that notifications of such outages indicate which areas are affected.*

Ms. Franklin will visit with the President when both are back in the office regarding this.

- d. Finance Committee
No report

e. Operations Committee

No report

f. Procedures Committee

i. Election Results – excellence committee report

Teachers College: Rochelle Moss (committee chair)

Peggy Woodall

Ronnie Monroe

Connie Phelps

Michael Hoover

Fine Arts: William Henshaw (chair)

Jana Jones

David Etienne

Bill Higgins

David Stoddard

Math and Science: Allison Harris (chair)

Tommy Finley

Vincent Dunlap

Meredith Wright

Lynette Smith

School of Business: Richard Miller (Chair)

Victor Claar

Nathan Campbell

Daniel Fritzroy

Wanda Harris

Liberal Arts: Pedro Lopes (Chair)

Charles Dunn

Allison Vetter

Aneeq Ahmad

Steve Carter

ii. Next election in October for senators rotating off

9. Old Business

- a. The general counsel presented revisions to the retirement plans in the previous meeting. This requires a handbook change. The issue was tabled. The senate needs to approve the handbook changes that were recommended; however, we would like to see if the revisions that were recommended during last meeting were made.

10. New Business

- a. University Assessment Plan – tabled until November, new version will come out before then.
- b. Faculty Senate Webmaster – table until permissions to edit a webpage are granted. (Operations committee is compiling proposed website changes – a fair number of changes yet to be made)
- c. The grievance policy and student evaluations were both sent to the Academics Committee for review.

11. Adjourn 5:18pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Clardy
Faculty Senate Secretary