

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
5 March 2021
Minutes

PRESENT:

Scott Anderson, Than Boves, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Rodney Carmack, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Addie Fleming, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Annette Hux, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, William Maynard, Jeff McLaughlin, Suzanne Melescue, Paul Minor, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Vincent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Robert Robinette, William Rowe, Richard Segall, Amany Saleh, Marcus Tribbett, Amanda Wheeler, Wayne Wilkinson,

Guests: Tom Moore, Karen Wheeler

Guest speakers: Henry Torres

Chair Donna Caldwell called the meeting to order and noted a quorum (21) was achieved.

The Order of the Day was moved for approval (Andrea Brown moved; Marcus Tribbett seconded).
Motion approved.

Approval of minutes from February 19, 2021

Marcus Tribbett moved to approve the minutes as distributed; Addie Fleming seconded; the motion was approved.

Guests

IT Update from Henri Torres

- COVID issues were a primary focus for the last year
- Mock disaster plans in place provided some insurance against a negative impact
- Up to 35000 devices connect to the wi-fi on campus a day
- Classroom and non-traditional spaces were transformed into educational spaces with appropriate tech set ups for teaching both in person and hybrid
- Worked with NYIT to help with COVID vaccine operations
- A-State Online Services continues to grow and ITS is providing tools to support those programs, students, and faculty.
- Digital storage needs are important considerations now and for future needs
- ITS security issues are getting worse; hackers are finding clever ways to entice involvement with emails; we have many layers of security but still issues occur. If an email looks questionable, avoid opening it; if you think you (or someone else) has been impacted then contact ITS immediately.
- The ASU System is moving to all using the same Banner system which should make transferring between system schools more seamless for students and should provide some cost savings.

A question was raised about LMS system changing. Other campuses in the system have converted to Canvas. We will remain with Blackboard for the present. The transition to Blackboard Ultra will begin this summer but no one will be required to change. Training and transition will be available with support provided through the Faculty Center. AOS may move in January.

The Xerox contract ends in February 2022. We are looking at other options than Xerox after that contract. We moved from a 1:1 ratio of employees to printers with 1600 to down to 420 printers. We will not go back to everyone having their own printer; there may be options for adding some printers. We may bring maintenance back in house.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Constitution and Bylaws : Amanda Mohler reported work continues. She and Donna Caldwell are meeting with Dr. Utter concerning some questions that have been raised. She hopes the committee will have its work finished before the end of the semester.

SGOC Proposal 202110-02 Admissions Policies

Senate comments were sent back to the Task Force; a final draft from Task Force is due March 10. The draft will be sent out to Senate on March 12; final up/down vote will be March 19. There was no further discussion on this proposal.

New Business

Nominations for President Elect

Nominations to Donna Caldwell 4/1 to present to the Senate 4/2, with a vote by 4/19. She stated some individuals have expressed interest in serving. She will ask those nominated to provide verbal or written statement. She will work with Henri Torres to do a vote e via email.

Donna stated there are three more meetings and asked for suggestions for speakers or topics for the Senate. A request was made to ask Dr. Speights to provide an update on COVID

No other new business was brought forward.

Motion to adjourn was made by Marcus Tribbett, seconded by Rodney Carmack; meeting adjourned at 3:41.

Respectfully submitted by Joanna Grymes