

**Faculty Senate Meeting February 19, 2021**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees:** Scott Anderson, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Rodney Carmack, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Mary Donaghy, Addie Fleming, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Katie Hill, Amy Hyman, Donghoon Kim, Cheryl Knight, Joseph Loar, Jeff McLaughlin, Loretta McGregor, Suzanne Melescue, Paul Minor, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Vicent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Robert Robinette, Amany Saleh, Ed Salo, Richard Segall, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson

**Proxy Attendees:** N/A

**Absentees:** Than Boves, Joe Ford, Hans Hacker, Annette Hux, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Bill Maynard, William Rowe, Paul Sikkell and Karen Yanowitz

**Meeting Called to Order:** Donna Caldwell established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Donna Caldwell

**Order of the Day:** Motion to accept made by Katie Hill, Arianne Pait seconded, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** motion made to approve February 5, 2021 minutes by Marcus Tribbett, seconded by John Hershberger, motion carried.

**Guest Speaker:**

*Will McLean – SGOC Admissions Proposal*

This proposal has been in the process for a couple of months. McLean provided a slide presentation. Task force charged to consider admissions criteria that meets the needs of today's diverse body of learners who, if given a chance, could be successful at A-State.

Rationale: ACT/SAT is a potential barrier to access. ACT scores disproportionately impact minorities and those with lower SES. Institutional data shows that HS GPA is the best predictor of graduation. Need to be competitive with AR institutions. Need to simplify process including terminology. Need for a comprehensive support program for academically at risk students. Barriers exist for adult learners.

ACT average composite score for 2020 in AR is 21.2 if taken more than once. 16.3 if only taken once – cost of taking multiple times can be an issue

Recommendations:

1. Establish one baseline admissions criteria for all traditional admissions. Set cut score for admissions. Cumulative HS GPA 3.0 or 19 on ACT or ranked in top 20% of graduating class. All admits under 3.0 or needing remediation will be in 4-year support program. Appeals Committee – existing university appeals committee remains available to denied students. Cut score - GPA 2.0 or ACT 17
2. Create a nontraditional admissions criteria for adult learners. For those who do not have test scores available: a. must hold a HS diploma, b. have not been in HS in 5 years or more, and c. have never enrolled as a student at Astate.
3. Develop comprehensive support program- move from 1 year to 4 years. Assigned academic coaches. Require support lab for first 4 semesters. Embed career and leadership development.

Optional summer-bridge and living learning residential experience. Create advisory board to monitor outcomes

Clarification- Cut score - GPA 2.0 or ACT 17 only goes into effect if both are present.

How to finance the Support Systems- proposal going through to prepare if the proposal passes and more students come to Astate that need additional services.

Financing the support systems – Provost has made a commitment that if the students come in they will be provided the needed resources. The committee is not privy to specifics in this area.

Relationship of a R2 university and admissions – different criteria

Motion to discuss by Tim Oliver, seconded by Addie Fleming, motion carried.

1. Ask the task force to consider how the proposal impacts financial aid and scholarship scholarships
2. Loretta McGregor provided the tracking mechanism for the proposal. Discussion does not have to happen today, it can come from various constituent groups.
3. Donna Caldwell will need everyone's comments by March 1, Faculty Senate will discuss any changes at the FS meeting on March 5, and on March 19 FS will vote.

Marcus Tribbett moved to close the discussion, Ed Salo seconded, motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

*Committee Reports: N/A*

### *SGOC Proposals – Vote Up or Down*

2020FA:03 Faculty Achievement Awards – Ed Salo moved to vote with no discussion Arianne Pait seconded, motion carried. Proposal passed (30 yes, 0 no and 1 abstained).

2021FA:01 Academic Integrity Policy- John Hershberger moved to open discussion, Marcus Tribbett seconded, motion carried. What happens if the sanction causes the student to not pass the course and the process goes into the next semester? The faculty member can impose the sanction. The only thing that halts the sanction from going into effect is if the student appeals it. If an appeal is issued then the proposal goes into effect. The proposal includes a timeline that is more reasonable. However, the proposal reads that no sanction will go into effect until determined by the committee- concerns that this will slow down the process. Question also posed for 5 or 7 week courses- instructor would still issue a grade of F if grades are due before the appeal process (if initiated) begins. Concerns about mandatory reporting – can hurt some students. Concern of bureaucracy over pedagogy. Centralization could provide students with an opportunity to be heard by a larger group than that of their department and/or college. Faculty still retain the right to deal with these issues on their own. Rebuttals or dissents can be written. Paul Minor moved to vote, seconded by Andrea Brown, motion carried. Proposal passed 46% (14 yes, 12 no, and 3 abstained).

### **New Business:**

Standing Committee Reports: N/A

### **Other Business:**

Open Forum: N/A

### **Adjourn:**

Motion made by Arianne Pait to adjourn the meeting, the meeting adjourn at 4:48 pm.