

Faculty Senate
Minutes of November 19, 2004

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Proxy

Bill Rowe – President (Fine Arts)	P	
Debra Walden- Vice-Chair of the Senate	P	
John D. Hall – Secretary-Treasurer of the Faculty Association	P	
Bob Bennett – Immediate Past President	Absent	
Bill Humphrey –President Elect	P	
Margaret McClain – Secretary of the Senate	P	
Dennis White- Parliamentarian	P	

AGRICULTURE (1)

Bert Greenwalt	Absent	
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BUSINESS (3)

Gauri Guha	Absent	
Dan Marburger	P	
Jim Washam	Absent	

COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Osa Amienyi	P	
Jack Zibluk	P	

EDUCATION (5)

Cindy Albright	Absent	
Kris Biondolillo	P	
Dan Cline	P	
Amany Saleh	P	
Charlotte Skinner	P	

ENGINEERING (1)

Shivan Haran	P	
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FINE ARTS (3)

Tim Crist	Absent	
Allyson Gill	P	
Kelly Schaefer	P	Stacy Alley

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)

Win Bridges	P	
Mary Donaghy	P	

Ernesto Lombeida	Absent
William Maynard	P
Joe Sartorelli	P
Richard Wang	P

LIBRARY (1)

Myron Flugstad	Absent
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MILITARY SCIENCE (1)

LTC Larry P. Aikman	Absent
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NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (3)

Dick Freer	P	Loretta Brewer
Troy Thomas	Absent	
Debra Walden	Absent	

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS (4)

William Burns	P
David Gilmore	Absent
Jeff Jenness	Absent
Jie Miao	Absent

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Margaret McClain	P
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I. Minutes: The minutes of the November 5, 2004, meeting were tentatively approved until it was determined that none of the members had received the minutes due to problems with the Listserv. Ms. McClain said she would re-send them as soon as possible.

II. New Business: (presented out of order)

(A) ABI Director, Dr. Carol Cramer

To accommodate Dr. Carol Cramer of the ABI, her presentation was moved to the head of the agenda. Dr. Cramer had recently met with Bill Rowe and Bill Humphrey, who asked her to speak of the role of the ABI and its integration within the university community.

Dr. Cramer, who has been in her lab officially since September 1, 2004, began with an overview of the ABI. She explained that the ABI was born out of the State's settlement with big tobacco. She explained that the ABI's main role, according to the terms of the settlement, was research. The ABI operates under a budget separate from ASU's.

The ABI's research mandate is divided into four clusters. For example, the ABI conducts research into the interface of agriculture and medicine; genetic engineering aimed at creating proteins (plants as factories); metabolic engineering for food sciences, in which plants are used to create vitamins and other food substances at the molecular level; and the interface of agriculture and disease (e.g., smoking and diet implicated in diseases like diabetes).

Dr. Cramer continued by explaining that the ABI contains plenty of flex space for student access to equipment.

Another role of the ABI is to cooperate with the College of Education in order to foster an interest in biotechnology among high school, middle school, and elementary school students. One way her institute excites children is with the "Biotech in a Box" traveling exhibit.

The last part of the ABI's mandate, according to Cramer, is to spur economic development. In this component of the mandate, the ABI works with the College of Business to educate students and the public on how to start and operate a biotechnology business.

Dr. Cramer opened the floor for questions and comments.

Chairman Rowe suggested a tour of the ABI facility for faculty, and Dr. Cramer was most receptive to the idea.

Dr. Cline posed a question about the degree of integration between the ABI staff and the ASU faculty. Cramer said she was actively recruiting staff who could be assets to both the ABI and university departments. She addressed Dr. Cline's concern about the smooth integration of ABI staff into various departmental faculties by averring that her staff would not be held to multiple standards.

Dr. Bridges inquired about the tenure status of ABI staff, for example, whether they would receive automatic tenure. Cramer said that in the hiring process, everything was negotiable. She added that her intention was to ensure positive results for all parties involved.

Dr. Maynard commented on the assumption that the tobacco settlement monies would flow for between thirty and forty years. His understanding was that grants would offset a portion of ABI staff salaries. Cramer agreed with this assessment. She commented that ABI pays its own electric bills, and remits large sums to the Library and Facilities Management. As much as possible, ABI would not dip into ASU monies.

Cramer said that she was responsible for spending the tobacco settlement funds allotted to the ABI; not commingling them with ASU monies; and preventing any misappropriations.

Senator Guha inquired about grant proposals that were solicited from his department. Cramer said she wanted to reinstitute them, but perhaps not for another year and a half. The holdup is that each person proposing a grant would have to have some startup money.

Dennis White suggested that the ABI could hold some grant-writing workshops so that the faculty at large could benefit from the ABI's expertise. Cramer was very enthusiastic about this recommendation since she had a person on her staff who knew the ropes of "strategic grantsmanship." Beth Hood, who spent a year at the NSF, is thoroughly familiar with government grants.

Dan Cline asked how ABI staff members were hired, and in particular, whether any written hiring guidelines existed. Dr. Cramer answered that written policies were being developed at the strategic level. At this time the policies consisted of a "memorandum of understanding," which spelled out the role that ABI staff members were expected to play in their respective ASU departments.

Dr. Cline expressed some concern that the status of faculty should be in the hands of faculty. He wanted to know what role the departmental faculty would play in determining the status of ABI people assigned to the departments. Cramer replied that she saw ABI as a catalyst for university-wide research and emphasized that the relationship between faculty and ABI staff had to be a positive one. Otherwise, neither the ABI nor ASU would reap any benefits.

Dr. Zibluk wanted to know if the ABI staff would be expected to do any teaching, or just be confined to research. Dr. Cramer answered that one hundred percent of the ABI staff would teach in the projected Ph.D. program if the program were approved. She said that while her staff's main role was research, any teaching would be primarily at the graduate level. She stressed that she wanted ABI to have only positive impacts on other departments.

Dr. Hall was interested in knowing exactly how much the ABI was costing ASU. Cramer told the Faculty Senate that the cost was next to nothing. She assured the meeting that the auditing by Dr. McDaniel's office was rigorous.

Cramer closed her remarks by inviting faculty to email her at ccramer@astate.edu with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

(B) Dr. Louis Semrau, Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Craighead County

To accommodate Dr. Semrau, his presentation was moved up in the agenda.

Dr. Semrau's purpose was to solicit the faculty's assistance in publicizing the availability of a scholarship for single parents attending entry-level training, including enrollment at ASU, in Craighead County. The deadline for the stipend

of \$500.00 per regular semester and \$250.00 per summer term is November 30. Dr. Semrau provided an informational brochure and informed the meeting that an application form was available at his organization's website at www.aspsf.org. Students could also call 935-8610 (extension 102) for assistance with the application process in Craighead County.

Margaret McClain asked Dr. Semrau if he would be willing to address an FYE class for Non-Traditional Students next term, and he was receptive. She predicted that most of her students would probably qualify for the SPSF stipend.

Semrau's secondary purpose was to inform the faculty that he was actively soliciting funds so that the organization could continue to provide scholarships to single parents who are also students attending classes in Craighead County. He gave the demographics of the students served by the SPSF; ten of eleven are women, and nine out of ten are ASU students.

III. Old Business:

A. Committee Reports:

- i. **NCAA Certification**—The ASU Faculty Senate voted to join COIA and send representatives to the January 6-7 conference. Since the Faculty Senate would have trouble paying the 250-dollar donation, ASU was invited to attend free of charge.
- ii. **Budget Shortfall Committee**—Debra Walden reported that letters had been sent to the Deans and Dr. Susan Allen, soliciting specific information on the exact amount of the shortfall.
- iii. **Handbook Committee**—Bill Humphrey reported that parts of the Handbook would meet the December deadline.
- iv. **Parking**—The Committee reported that the median on University West had been extended and new speed bumps had been installed.

B. Mission Statement:

Dr. Maynard had sent the proposed mission statement to the Listserv for comments. Dr. Sartorelli commented that the statement was a good basis for a final mission statement, but that it needed more work.

C. Summer School

Dr. Marburger reported that he and his associates had had a productive meeting with Dr. Allen. He believes that at the end of the meeting, Dr. Allen was convinced by the economists' arguments against making any drastic changes in the way summer school has been staffed for many years.

Reducing the number of courses offered in the summer is not economically sound, according to Marburger. For example, if a course is added, operating expenses do not rise; the secretary is paid the same; utility bills are the same,

and so forth. At the same time, the added per credit tuition fees generated by an added class constitute increased revenues. He stated that the break-even point occurs at 10 students per class.

Marburger pointed out that scaling back summer school would be a step backward. Classes and students make ASU a university. Even if ASU budgets no money for summer school, taxes and overhead will still have to be paid while classrooms remain empty.

There was some discussion of the reduction in the number of summer camps being held at ASU.

Dr. McDaniel contributed ASU's position on summer school, namely, that while faculty salaries have risen, the summer school budget has not. For many years, a specific budget has been allocated for summer school. Last summer, stated McDaniel, no money from summer school went into reserves. He reminded the faculty that Summer II is on the following year's budget. McDaniel said that his office was closely studying the ratio of revenue to students for each department. For example, he stated that one college was responsible for 23% of salary expenditures last summer, but only 10% of enrollment.

Dr. Zibluk expressed some concern about the suggestion that junior faculty would be used to staff summer classes in a money-saving move by the University.

Chairman Rowe reminded the meeting that ASU was a magnet for a huge number of area public school teachers who relied on ASU to offer them summer credits. He also expressed concern that changing ASU from a twelve-month to a nine-month institution showed a lack of entrepreneurial spirit; he postulated that ASU as a nine-month institution would suffer in productivity.

Dennis White posed a question about what would happen if summer classes were discontinued altogether.

Dr. Marburger reiterated his earlier assertion that offering fewer classes would not reduce expenses. Instead, each of the courses offered would become even more expensive. "Financially, we're shooting ourselves in the foot," he added in reference to the proposed reduction in summer course offerings.

D. CLT:

It was agreed that Win Bridges' previous motion of support for the CLT lab and Dr. William Allen had been passed as a recommendation. Dr. Bridges said he wanted to introduce a resolution to that same effect; it was agreed that the

motion would be tabled until the next meeting. Win Bridges agreed to submit the formal wording of his motion to the Senate Secretary for inclusion in the minutes so that all faculty would have a chance to peruse the motion before voting on it.

The motion is hereby included:

“WHEREAS teaching by Web is one of the significant ‘waves of the future’ and is a major component in curriculum at ASU, in that we currently offer an average of 40 web courses, and will be adding more, and

WHEREAS Dr. William Allen is the essential person, the ‘backbone’ of teaching by Web at Arkansas State University through the CLT department, offering hands-on instruction, and

through continued support, particularly by remaining on the ‘cutting edge’ of new products and services, keeping us up-to- date through continued one-on-one instruction, and by offering seminars in the summers for Web Instructors, and

WHEREAS Bryan Ulmer, his assistant, is knowledgeable of the operation of the CLT department, offering support when Dr. Allen has more people there than he can personally assist, and that Bryan is there when Dr. Allen, fulfilling his multiple commitments in the CLT department, administrative meetings, and as an Art Professor cannot be present in the CLT department to meet the needs of Web Instructors, to answer questions, and give hands-on solutions to Web teaching problems, and

WHEREAS Bryan is professional, personable, and always eager to assist anyone who comes through the CLT doors, or by phone, and has assumed the position of first recourse for Blackboard and Turnitin problems and issues, and

WHEREAS Bryan's presence will be especially critical as the University continues to assist faculty in using Turnitin, and as we enter the year-long migration from Blackboard 5 to Blackboard 6.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Arkansas State University go on record as giving full support for the CLT department, our complete confidence in Dr. William Allen as Director of CLT, and our support for his faithful assistant, Bryan Ulmer.”

E. Faculty Senate Budget:

Chairman Rowe reported on some disparities between the SGA budget and the Faculty Senate budget. He cited the following items in the SGA budget:

Total SGA Budget: \$73,000 (Total Faculty Senate Budget: \$1800)

SGA Salaries: \$19,000 (SGA President-\$5,000; Secretary--\$2,300)

Public Relations: \$5,000; Activities: \$17,500

Elections: \$2,000; Minority Office: \$1,900

Other expenses for travel, parliamentarian, etc.

Rowe hopes to have a proposed Faculty Senate budget ready sometime in December. He plans to request half of the SGA budget.

F. Faculty Housing:

The Faculty Senate will reconstitute the Faculty Housing Committee.

G. Town Hall Meeting:

Plans are being made to hold a Town Hall meeting about the present crisis at ASU. A well-known AETN personality or other respected official will monitor the Town Hall meeting. The date, time and process for submitting questions will be released presently.

IV. New Business, continued:

A. ABI Director—at beginning of meeting

B. Dr. Louis Semrau—at beginning of meeting

C. Student Crime—Faculty members expressed concern about a recent attack on one of their own, in which a faculty member and his mother were terrorized by a former and a present student of ASU. Bill Rowe expressed his concern that even though the student may be expelled, he may enroll at another college. He noted that academics and conduct should go hand in hand. There is a move underway to add a flag to a dismissed student's transcript so that a new college might be alerted to problems.

In the discussion that ensued, Jack Zibluk noted that he resigned from the Disciplinary Committee over its lack of openness on disciplinary matters. The members of the Committee are reticent due to fear of recriminations for going public on the campus crime wave. Zibluk and others expressed their serious concern about the number of gun crimes on the ASU campus. Zibluk sees campus crime as a safety issue that must be addressed publicly, not behind closed doors.

There was some discussion of the 8th Circuit Court of Ohio decision that disciplinary hearings constituted private matters. According to the Faculty Senate's attorney, the Ohio decision is not binding in Arkansas.

Dr. Marburger asked whether a student's academic record was a personnel record or a public record? Did it come under FERPA? Could an FOI request be filed on these records?

D. Missing Class for Athletic Events—Chairman Rowe commented on a recent email from the football program, asking that football players be excused after 1:00 PM on the Friday of a game weekend and that they be allowed to make up all missed work. Rowe pointed out that this request seemed discriminatory, especially since the faculty had never received similar requests from other teams or the marching band. The faculty was left with the impression that the policy was male-oriented. They also questioned the need for an excused absence at 1:00 PM when the game was at 7:00 PM. Someone theorized that perhaps the team needed the extra time to pray.

E. Informal Board Meetings—A letter was sent to the Board, requesting notification of informal meetings or phone conferences and requesting a means of access.

F. FOI Board Meetings--Filing a Freedom of Information Act request on these informal meetings was discussed briefly.

G. Board Bylaws—The Faculty Senate is asking the Board to place its bylaws on its website.

H. Student Questions About Budget Shortfall—There was a brief discussion of a student question: "When is Little Rock going to come and straighten ASU out?"

4. Other:

- i. There was a short discussion of ASU's intellectual property guidelines. There was general agreement that the Handbook Committee should review the policies on intellectual property (books, patents, etc.).
- ii. Several Faculty Senate members expressed concern and dismay at ASU's new travel guidelines. Several professors stated that they or their colleagues had been turned down for travel that their department considered essential. Even deans have been rejected because the finance office did not approve of their reasons for travel.

It was recommended that if a faculty member is turned down for travel, he/she should appeal to Susan Allen, then President Wyatt. Some faculty questioned the validity of Finance's involvement in the matter of travel, since travel is an academic matter.

It was noted that out-of-state travel requests would be gone over with a fine-toothed comb. Even funds that have already been allocated are subject to the more stringent standards, according to Jennus Burton. Dr. McDaniel confirmed that the new policies were already being vigorously implemented.

Dr. Wang opined that Academic Affairs is not protecting the academic mission of the departments.

Dr. Zibluk, who is Division Chair of a national organization, reported that he was rejected for travel to an accreditation meeting and subsequently had to appeal the decision. He questioned the involvement of Administrative Affairs rather than Academic Affairs and cited the new travel policies as an example of the failure of shared governance.

Dr. Maynard suggested that this situation might call for AAUP involvement.

Dr. Cline reminded the group that any unused monies at the end of the year go back to ASU, and the departments lose the funds.

V. Announcements:

- i. Dr. Wang reminded faculty of the upcoming Alderman and Mayoral election.
- ii. Chairman Rowe reminded the Faculty of the Monday 4:00 PM Executive Committee meeting at the Edge coffee house. Everyone is invited.

VI. Adjournment:

In the absence of any further business, Chairman Rowe adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.