

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of September 7, 2007

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Louella Moore—Chair	P
Richard Freer—Vice-Chair of the Senate	P
Bill Humphrey—Past President	P
Lillie Fears —Secretary Faculty Association	P
Judith Pfriemer—Secretary of the Senate	P

PROXY

AGRICULTURE (1)

Bert Greenwalt	Spring 08	P
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BUSINESS (3)

Mark Foster	Spring 09	P
Richard Segall	Spring 08	P
Ahmad Syamil	Spring 08	P

COMMUNICATIONS (2)

Pradeep Mishra	Spring 08	P
Mary J. Pitts	Spring 09	P

EDUCATION (5)

Andy Mooneyham	Spring 09	P
Daniel Cline	Spring 09	P
David Holman	Spring 08	A
Stephanie Davidson	Spring 09	P
Amy Claxton	Spring 09	P

ENGINEERING (1)

Shivan Haran	Spring 09	P
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FINE ARTS (3)

Stacy Alley	Spring 08	P
Ron Horton	Spring 09	A
Bill Rowe	Spring 09	P

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)

Robert Baum	Spring 08	P
Win Bridges	Spring 08?	A
Richard Burns	Spring 09	P
Peggy Robinson-Wright	Spring 09	P
Alex Sydorenko	Spring 09	P
Richard Wang	Spring 09	P

LIBRARY (1)

Myron Flugstad	Spring 09	P
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MILITARY SCIENCE (1)

Jeffrey Helms	Spring 09	A
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NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (4)

Donna Caldwell	Spring 09	P
Richard Freer	Spring 08	P
Mike McDaniel	Spring 09	A

Julie Isaacson

Judith Pfriemer Spring 08 P

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)

Richard Grippo Spring 09 P
John Pratte Spring 08 P
Jeff Jenness Spring 08 P
Jie Miao Spring 08 P

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)

Gloria Bridges Spring 08 P

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

I. MINUTES: Minutes from April 20, 2007 presented for approval. Approved

II. OLD BUSINESS:

June 4, 2007 the ASU Board of Trustees met. Louella Moore reported that the board passed the procedure for making changes to the Faculty Handbook and the changes to the foreword and section I. they also approved tuition changes for international students and approved a new program for the Department of Nursing to offer an accelerated BSN.

Louella welcomed the senators and informed them that the Senate meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 3:00 on the 8th floor of the library. Agendas will be emailed to the senators and other interested parties such as Jonesboro Sun via Sherry Pruitt and ASU Radio/TV via Greg Chance, approximately 3 to 4 days prior to the meeting. Anyone can submit an item for the agenda and are encouraged to email or call any member of the executive counsel.

The Association bylaws call for a Vice Chair of the Senate, to assume the duties of the chair if the chair was unavailable and Secretary of the Senate to be appointed in the Fall.

Dr. Moore submitted Shivan Haran from engineering for consideration for Vice Chair and he was approved.

Dr. Moore submitted Judith Pfriemer from nursing for secretary and she was approved.

Dr. Moore reported that Joanna Grimes had been appointed to the Academic Governance Oversight Committee (AGOC) but due to off campus teaching commitments she will be resigning her post and nominations to fill the seat were taken. Bill Humphrey was nominated and approved to fill the seat until Spring '09.

Dr. Moore distributed a packet that included the flow charts from the AGOC and Institutional Governance Oversight Committee (IGOC) policy and flow charts. Julie Isaacson addressed the Senate to walk us through the procedure. Minor editorial changes to the handbook related to punctuation and grammar may be made by the committee but no substance changes may be made without the following the procedure outline may be made. Any individual or constituency group may bring an item to the appropriate shared governance committee and in the case of no appropriate committee then to the AGOC. All issues should also be brought to the attention of the AGOC to be assigned a tracking number and for oversight. The procedure for the item to follow same order of review and if step three is reached a public hearing @ the senate will be scheduled. The flow chart and the text are the same except the flow chart does not address the public town meeting.

Bill Rowe asked if the Faculty Association bylaws were part of the handbook.

Dr. Moore stated they were placed in back of the handbook but is not part of the handbook.

Ms. Isaacson reminded the Senator that work has only been done on the foreword and section one of the handbook and that no other section has been touched as of now. Julie stated the Handbook is a living, breathing document and so change is inevitable.

Dr. Moore further stated that by following the AGOC and IGOC procedures the Faculty Senate is definitely in the loop of all items of change.

Dr. Moore Presented a panel of candidates to fill the handbook committee and list was seconded by Bill Humphrey. Bill Rowe stated he was concerned that there was no representative of the AAUP on the committee. Dr. Wang stated he agreed that even though Alex Sydorenko was a member of the AAUP he felt that the committee may need to have an ex-

officio member be the chairman of ASU AAUP or an appointed representative. Dr. Moore stated that the current shared governance document does not list an ex-officio member. Mrs. Isaacson stated that the system can amend this if faculty see this as an omission and add ad hoc members and then bring the issue to the AGOC to follow the procedure outlined. A vote was called and the panel as approved. Bill Rowe was invited add an agenda item to the next meeting regarding the need to add an ex officio member to the handbook committee.

Dr. Moore stated that a number of issues will now be flowing to the senate for public hearings and suggested that as items come to the senate an effective way to deal with them would be for the chair of the senate to send an email to all faculty to distribute the information on the item and have a group of four senators receive the replies and write a report back to the Senate. This week alone there are three items and we could end up spending most if not all the meeting times on these items. No objections were heard on the above suggestion. The following groups were set.

- 1) No Gambling. Flugstad & taskforce members Foster, Mishra, Mooneyham
- 2) Conflict of Interest/Textbook Royalties ... Humphrey & taskforce members Pratte, Pfreimer, Bridges
- 3) Extended Review D transfers, English from South Africa, Restart revision – Moore & task force members Baum, Haran, Pfriemer

III. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Moore reminded the Senate of ASU centennial and would like faculty to think about how the faculty would want to mark this event and to send her suggestions.

Dr. Moore informed the senators that campus safety issues are still a concern of the University and this fall the Campus Safety Committee will host a conference on the issue.

Dan Cline brought up a concern he has about ASU minimum ACT scores and him being told that students with low scores are being told to apply to ASU and be denied admission due to a score of 10 on the ACT and then appeal to Admissions and Credits committee and they will be automatically admitted.

Richard Burns stated he is concerned about faculty teaching load and faculty workload. He stated he clearly has an agenda of his own and it may also be of concern for others but what does he do to get this concern addressed. He also concerned about the way AAUP articulates these terms and thinks the terms are not clearly distinguished in the handbook as they are in the AAUP documents. He did not have the documents with him **to be distributed today but will send them out to senators via email for a later discussion.** Dr. Moore invited him to send any member of the executive committee any items that need to be added to the agenda.

Dick Freer addressed the senate about ASU mascot change and encouraged all interested individuals to go on line and make suggestions for the name change until Oct. 31st. At that point each constituency group leader will tally the names and submit a list of 8-12 names to the committee who will compile and bring the list down to ten names. Those ten will be submitted to the steering committee and when the list is down to the final few those names will be kept secret until copy rights can be explored and obtained. The only rule is ASU will not be changing their color. The entire procedure is also on line for those interested since the mascot had been an issue with the faculty senate for a number of years.

Dr. Moore reported the the ASU Board of Trustee met this morning and they released a number of items including number of students which is up and the number of online and web enhanced course that have also increased. Retention rate is slightly lower then last fall. Other items included adoption of a Board of Trustees Principles of Board Service Policy, of a Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy, of Bylaws, of a Service Policy and of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy. A Doctorate in Physical Therapy was approved. Dr. Moore directed senators to the website <http://bot.astate.edu>

Dr. Moore announced that three candidates for the VCAAR will be on campus next week, Monday through Wednesday and faculty slot is 1 pm to 2 pm in the Mocking Bird room with open forum at 3:30.

Dr. Moore distributed as reading material a white paper on The Concept of Action Based, Engaged Learning. She would like senator to read and review and if enough interest is generated, it might be possible to develop this into our academic mission on campus.

Judith Pfriemer reported on Fringe Benefits committee which she chairs this year. Dr. Potts has already informed faculty that an increase will be needed in our health insurance premiums. There has not been an increase in the past four years

and because the number of claims on all campuses within the ASU System has increased, the university now has a \$1 million deficit. In order to remain solvent, an increase is necessary. Fringe Benefits committee completed a health plan comparison between ASU and the University of Arkansas, University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University, and Henderson State University; public school employees; and state employees at the meeting and via email with universities in Missouri and Tennessee. It has been proposed: (1) raising premiums by 5%; and/or (2) increasing doctors visits co-pay to \$25 or \$30; and/or (3) increasing the drug co-pay to \$10-\$30-\$50 (Drug care is approximately 25% of the total cost of insurance. If the co-pay is increased, it could off-set the percentage of overall increase.) Another option is tiering, which would increase rates based on different groups of employees such as employee only, employee-spouse, or employee family. In addition, the current exposure rate of \$150,000 could be raised to \$175,000. This is the insurance that the university has to offset claims over \$150,000. At present the monthly percentage breakdown of cost for individual is 94% University and 6% employee and for family 72% and 28% with overall a 79/21 split. There has been a 60/40 split on the percentage increases in the past. All recommendations from the committee must be submitted to Chancellor Potts by October 1st in order to be prepared for the fall benefits fair and enrollment period. When documents are received from administration they will be distributed to the senators so faculty can provide feed back. Ms. Pfriemer reported that some institutions only pay for family coverage what would be paid on an individual plan. Since the increases will be feel most by the lowest paid employees perhaps a system where the highest paid will pay more towards coverage and a graduated scale could be developed. Bill Rowe stated he has believed this graduated scale is needed and has voiced this in the past.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.