

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 9, 2011

I. Roll Call

A. Senators Present: Russell Wilke (Faculty Senate President), Martha Sleutel (Faculty Senate Vice President), Bruce Bechtol (Center for Security Studies), Loree Branham (Agriculture), Mark Crouch (Computer Science), John Glassford (Political Science), Murat Kara (Accounting, Economics, Finance), Heather Braden for Lynne C. Hughes (Physical Therapy), Cathy Johnson (Communication, Mass Media and Theatre), Kim Livengood (Curriculum & Instruction), María de los Santos Onofre-Madrid (Modern Languages), Jason E. Pierce (History), William E. Renforth (Management & Marketing), Charles Allen for Joseph Satterfield (Physics), Jeffrey Schonberg (English), Andrew F. Siefker (Mathematics), Sangeeta Singg (Psychology & Sociology), Steven R. Snowden (Kinesiology), José Velásquez, (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

B. Invited Guests: Dr. Nancy Allen, Vice Provost for Academic affairs, Dr. Anthony P. Blose, Provost and Vice president for Academic Affairs, Mr. Héctor Romo, ASU Student Senate Vice President

II. Comments from Guests:

A. Dr. Nancy Allen informed the Faculty Senate that the first O. P. meeting may need to be on Friday evening due to current manpower problems.

B. Dr. Anthony P. Blose had no new information but offered to answer any questions the senators had. He indicated that the budget considerations were the “elephant in the room” and that he did not know how large the problems were now, but that we will do the best job we can. The deans and vice presidents are leading the way to do things more efficiently; they are doing them collaboratively to be on the same page. He stated that Academic Affairs are the revenue generator on campus, and that we need to be very responsible with what we’re doing, as academics drives the budget process.

He indicated that Fiscal Affairs would have the new vice president in place within a week. The second initiative is space utilization; we need to find a better use of rooms in academics. There will be room expansion to stay within fire code. We need to find space for other areas by working with Greg Pecina, who is doing the best job possible. The larger rooms are for some disciplines, not for all of them.

There was discussion, in which Senators Snowden and Branham participated, about the explanation of the room expansion, the funding, and the benefits of a larger class as opposed to having two smaller ones. The Student Senate Vice President, Mr. Romo, was asked to voice the desire of students.

Dr. Blose stated that a computer lab on the third floor of the library had been converted into a tutoring location. He indicated that we should take a look at the library and its new configuration.

With respect to shared governance, he said that he would continue providing feedback, as it’s still a priority.

C. Mr. Héctor Romo reminded us of the True Blue Initiative – wear blue on Fridays. They are putting together the Gary Rodgers Award, in cooperation with the Student Center. He said that they had taken a trip to the Texas Legislature and had met with Representative Drew Darby, who had asked them to make a resolution with respect to the proposed legislation about carrying hand

guns on campus. Representative Drew Darby wants the students' opinions, and the Student Senate is putting together a survey to be able to send the resolution. They asked the Faculty Senate to do likewise, and they will ask the Staff Senate to participate, as well.

Senator Schonberg reminded faculty senators that the Senate's response as an organization representing the university is restricted by our state affiliation. There was much discussion as to what actions would be appropriate, what exact limitations apply, and whether the issue is considered political or safety related. Senator Sleutel asked if we could get guidance from administration. There was much discussion. It included the question of it being a political or a safety issue. Faculty Senate President Wilke stated that he would seek guidance from the system legal person.

III. Approval of January Minutes: Since the minutes were not posted for senators to read before attending the meeting, this action was not taken. In the future, the minutes will be sent to senators before they are posted on the website.

IV. Unfinished Business:

A. Review of Shared Governance document – The senators were encouraged to continue soliciting feedback on the draft. There were questions as to what the vice president actually believes. Some comments included that it's vague, it's window dressing and not shared governance.

B. Review of Previous Senate Action Items UPDATE – The senators were given a handout which listed the items. Several are pending. Comments included the following items: OP 6.23 on college guidelines, the collegiality statement (the language needs to be consistent, as there are still problems with it), OP 2.04 Revisions.

With reference to OP 6.23, the Provost's Office would like to highlight problematic phrases in it to the select committee, but will not do so unless directed to do so by the Faculty Senate. The senators were asked to decide this. The motion to accept this action came from the Executive Committee. Questions were posed requiring clarification. Was the select committee only to look at the highlighted items or the entire document? Senator Renforth asked why the Faculty Senate was taking a role in this if the committee is in charge of doing the job. Senator Pierce also voiced his opinion. There was a call for a vote on the motion made by the Executive Committee. Senators Velásquez and Branham abstained from voting. Senator Pierce moved that the committee address any problematic items and not be limited to problem areas identified beforehand. Senator Schonberg seconded the motion. The motion included that this be communicated back to the Provost and Review Committee. There was more discussion. Senator Sleutel abstained; the rest of the senators approved.

C. Graduation Speaker Selection Update – President Rallo will contact Dean Brian May to get a speaker. It is for the Provost to decide; it's always a political atmosphere; we will be waiting to see what the Provost does.

D. Questions for President Rallo Update – A handout listing the questions posed to the president, and the responses given, at the February 2nd meeting with the Executive Committee was given to the senators at the meeting. Time was taken to allow senators to ask questions and make comments. With respect to the academic calendar, it is now to come from the Provost's Office. Senators were surprised with the response the Provost gave about CITR and Blackboard support; "CITR shouldn't be in the

business of providing Blackboard support. There was much discussion on the distance education policy which is being written by people who don't teach distance education courses. Senators Sleutel and Bechtol contributed comments that included concerns of class size and intellectual property. Neither one has been consulted on the policy being drafted. There was much discussion on SACS concern of contact and material covered.

V. New Business:

A. Proposal on Faculty Rights and obligations in conjunction with CITR – Senator Glassford provided a handout of a document with reference to a case. He stated that tenure may be in some trouble, as faculty may be fired and not hired at will. He cited contract law and that one of the exceptions may be tenure. He said that there are 3 legal cases against the university, and faculty need to be informed as to what they can and cannot do. He added that the orientation (of new faculty) does not include academic policy and procedures, and he recommends that the Faculty Senate distill this information (at least the more salient). Academic freedom is not covered outside of area and he suggests we take responsibility. His concern is that of the legal responsibilities, as the departments are not doing it (providing the necessary information). Faculty Senate president asked for input from the senators, and asked if it were not better that such document come out of CITR. Senator Siefker seconded the motion. There was some discussion in which Senator Renforth stated that maybe we just need to say “these are the policies”, and that maybe a written document is not the best thing. Senator Branham moved to table the item. Senator Snowden seconded the motion, and all approved it. Faculty Senate President Wilke and Senator Glassford will meet with Dr. Wegner (CITR).

B. Committee Assignments for Faculty Excellence Awards – Faculty Senate President Wilke distributed a handout with the college committees.

C. President's Faculty Excellence Award Banquet - Faculty Senate president Wilke proposed that he and Faculty Senate Vice President Sleutel work with the Provost's Office and Lena Morales on the arrangements. He said that the cost for each faculty member and one guest will be covered. Senator Onofre-Madrid moved that Senators Sleutel and Wilke take care of the arrangements as proposed. Senator Renforth seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of it. There was a question – the Faculty Excellence Awards are not mentioned in the Faculty Senate Constitution, and this is an item that needs to be looked at and amended.

VI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Academic Affairs: No report.

B. By-Laws and Standing Rules: No report.

C. University Affairs: No report.

D. Student Affairs: No report.

E. External Affairs: No report.

VII. Roundtable:

- Senator Sleutel asked what would be done with the written document of the questions posed to President Rallo and his answers. Faculty Senate president said he planned to send an electronic copy to faculty.
- Senator Branham asked if for the Gary Rodgers award faculty may recommend a staff member
- Senator Glassford stated that the Provost said that he wants annual evaluation to be an O.P. He said that the annual evaluation is linked to tenure and that the faculty evaluation and peer evaluation are being decoupled. There is no standardization.
- Senator Siefker spoke in reference to shared governance and the need to solicit comments, amendments and deletions to the document posted.

VIII. Adjournment: Faculty Senator Snowden moved to adjourn. Senator Schonberg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

María de los Santos Onofre-Madrid
Secretary, Faculty Senate