

ASU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 9, 2011 (revised)

I. Roll Call

- A. Senators Present:** Russell Wilke (Faculty Senate President), Martha Sleutel (Faculty Senate Vice President), Bruce Bechtol (Center for Security Studies), Mark Crouch (Computer Science), John Glassford (Political Science), Heather Braden for Lynne C. Hughes (Physical Therapy), Cathy Johnson (Communication, Mass Media and Theatre), María de los Santos Onofre-Madrid (Modern Languages), Jason E. Pierce (History), Hardin Dunham 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. Anthony P. Blose, Provost and Vice president for Academic Affairs, Mr. Michael Reid, Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Dr. June Smith, Professor of Communication

II. Comments from Guests:

- A.** Mr. Michael Reid informed the Faculty Senate that our situation here was better than some thought. He responded to questions previously provided to him by the executive committee. Some of the comments made include the following:
- He's going to make a template to communicate with us as things seem to be "in limbo" now.
 - At the state level there was a zero-out of line items, and we need to prepare ourselves for it. The worst case scenario is a cut of \$7.5 million, and we need to plan for the worst.
 - There are several cuts that are being looked at. There are not a lot of options to resolve the issue. One way is to have positive growth outcomes and graduates, since some of the funding is based on completers.
 - The demographics are positive in Texas, and we can't just cut a program because we still have to teach.
 - We need to finish cutting another 45%, and we need to get accurate information, which needs to be tracked, so that we know what we're up against.
 - He does not see any point in hiring and then laying off people; there may be some delays in hiring.
 - They still need to look at internal hires. Restructuring is a possibility.
 - The long-term goals include the need of accountability for accounts; there needs to be a regulatory or service body to make it more of a service body without needing all those signatures. With accountability, there needs to be responsibility.
 - The master plan needs to be updated, and efforts need to be made to bridge academic and financial areas. We need to focus on service not regulation.
 - There is a need to help educate and to remove road blocks with respect to budgets and signatures.
 - We need to work on partnerships.
 - He has an open-door policy. We need to let him know what's important to us, and where we are heading; don't be bashful. He will be accessible for meetings.
 - With reference to UBAT, the recommendations are still being explored.

- A role of his office is to tell how much money is available.
- With reference to Texas grants, those are being looked at to be taken away.
- With reference to CARR, the idea is to provide more to more students.

Mr. Reid took questions from the floor; one was in reference to the total ASU budget (about \$60 million).

B. Dr. Anthony P. Blose informed us that he was sending an ad for 2 positions in Academic Affairs, the Director of Academic Assessment and the faculty representative to the SACS Reaffirmation Leadership Team. He stated that we were in a good place now, with the work that Dr. Kelly McCoy has done. He stated that he would accept self-nominations and that the persons in those positions would work with Dr. Doyle Carter, the Director of Quality Enhancement Plan. He will send the notice via e-mail to the faculty.

With respect to shared governance, he is putting together a working group to modify the draft and make it more workable for ASU. He plans to populate committees in the summer to let committees start work. He would like to include 5 to 6 faculty members and 5 to 6 staff members. He may start recruiting and maybe meet after spring break.

On the core curriculum and class size issue, he stated that he finds it perplexing, as things do not point to decreasing class sizes. He will have to design assessment for class size. He needs to look at this more closely.

He made a comment on Mr. Reid's uplifting presentation. He stated that it's an example of how good they are working together.

With the \$7 million needed in cuts, which is a lot of money, they will be having an informal retreat to ameliorate things. Academics may be able to come up with \$1 million; he is concerned, and he said that we're not out of the woods. He plans to look at class sizes by asking deans and heads. They are using information from program prioritization. He will keep us posted. He will work with Michael Reid.

With respect to hires, he said that some things were coming down; they need to look internally. He stated that if a position becomes vacant, it needs to be justified. He stated that the department heads need to do more work and he needs to see how this goes. He commented that it is o.k. to play fair and right.

He addressed a few questions from the floor, about ASU competing with Texas Tech in the graduate program area, the effects of increased enrollment, and the developmental courses taken to community colleges.

III. Approval of January and February Minutes: Since the minutes were not sent to the senators before the meeting, Senator Sleutel moved to approve them at the next meeting. Senator Womack seconded the motion. It was approved.

IV. Unfinished Business:

A. Review of Shared Governance document – The senators were encouraged to continue soliciting feedback on the draft. The feedback should be forwarded to Senator Martha Sleutel.

B. Gary Rodgers Administrative Award – the members, Wilke, Womack and Satterfield have met, and they will send information forward.

C. Proposal on Faculty Rights and Obligations in conjunction with CITR – The proposal had been tabled before. Dr. Wegner and Dr. Glassford will work on this after the O.P. review.

D. President’s Faculty Excellence Awards and Banquet – With respect to feedback, the Executive Committee inquired: Do we want to solicit department chairs for information about their faculty accomplishments and put these in the program? We did this last year, but had a difficult time extracting the information from department heads. As a result, several departments were omitted and the bad feelings were directed to the Faculty Senate even though it wasn’t our fault. Senator Schonberg made a motion to disregard the information. Senator Womack seconded it. One senator opposed it and one abstained from voting; the motion was approved.

Also, last year, the accomplishments of every nominee from every college were read aloud, and it took quite a bit of time. Would we like to continue that or just read the accomplishments of the overall winners and post the rest in a program? Senator Sleutel made a motion to include information on all nominees in the brochure and read aloud that which is relevant of university. After some discussion, she withdrew the motion. Senator Hughes made a motion to list all nominees and college winners, and to have a paragraph of information to read about the university winners. Senator Schonberg seconded the motion. There were some questions and discussion. The vote taken included 4 who opposed and 4 who abstained; the motion was accepted.

Invitations will be sent to full time and part time faculty.

With respect to entertainment, Senator Womack made a motion to pay last year’s piano player \$150. Senator Sleutel seconded the motion. Senator Siefker made a friendly amendment to increase the amount to \$200. Senator Velásquez seconded the amendment. All voted in favor of the amendment and the original motion.

E. Handgun resolution – Senator Johnson made reference to The Ram Page and commented that the survey that had been taken was **an invalid survey**.

Senators were given a copy of the Handgun Resolution Statement from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates, of which we are not members. Senator Schonberg moved to postpone action indefinitely. Senator Siefker seconded the motion. One senator opposed it, and the others voted in favor of it.

V. New Business:

A. Shared Governance Work Group selection – Senators were asked to solicit volunteers from their respective areas to work as part of this group, as equal representation is needed. Senator Sleutel commented that Dr. Blose has read all the comments that were sent to him. Senator Siefker stated that his department does not want to waste time. There was some discussion among senators along this line. Senator Siefker made a motion to request a department representative for this work. Senator Sleutel seconded it. Senator Sleutel made a friendly amendment to include sending an e-mail to the faculty as a support effort to ask for volunteers. Senator Snowden seconded the motion with the amendment, and all approved the motion as amended. It was recommended that the response be sent to Faculty Senate President Wilke and Senator Sleutel by Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

B. President Rallo will meet with the faculty at the April 13th Faculty Senate meeting, in Cavness 100 - Faculty senators are asked to solicit questions from faculty and to forward them to Faculty Senate President Wilke. President Wilke stated that President Rallo wants to increase graduate enrollment and has raised entrance standards.

C. OP Review Update – It is ongoing. Distance Education OP will be posted in the usual way (as an 04 or a 44) through Dr. Limbaugh’s office. It is a brand new and broad policy. Please review it and submit comments to Dr. Nancy Allen. You may not get a response! There will be separate guidelines for class size and intellectual property. Intellectual property will be posted through Dr. Limbaugh’s office and listed under “Research” (OP 56’s with Katie Plum). Please review and submit comments when posted. Senator Bechtol requested that we ask what the guidelines will be.

D. Committee on Committees – This committee needs to reconvene, and it needs a chair, possibly Senator Murat Kara. Senator Siefker moved to consider posting online all committees and who populates them. Reference was made to Article 7, Section 2, on page 15 of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate. Senator Hughes seconded the motion, and all approved.

E. Looking Ahead – Faculty Senate 201112012 - Senators are asked to solicit new membership for the April meeting, and we will nominate and vote for new officers - Vice President (President Elect), Secretary, and Parliamentarian. At the next meeting, outgoing faculty senators (Womack, Johnson, Schonberg, Sleutel, Singg, Hughes, and Wilke) need to have replacements to represent their respective departments.

VI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Academic Affairs: No report.

B. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Senator Schonberg informed us that department representatives should be selected by the 3rd week in April, having nominations from the floor. The term is from July 1st to June 30th.

C. University Affairs: No report.

D. Student Affairs: No report.

E. External Affairs: No report.

VII. Roundtable:

- Senator Siefker reported incidents of faculty being chastised for FERPA violations. The administration needs to tell us the expectations, as there is some vagueness in the web site. The faculty needs guidelines and directives.
- Senator Glassford stated that there have been some problems with FERPA violations.
- Senator Johnson asked on the number of years a faculty member is required to keep a grade book.

- Senator Sleutel responded to the previous question saying that she thought it was 2 years, but that she would ask about it.

VIII. Adjournment: Faculty Senator Snowden moved to adjourn. Senator Gee seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

María de los Santos Onofre-Madrid
Secretary, Faculty Senate