

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2017

1:00 PM until adjournment

Donaghey Student Center, B/C

I. Welcome and Roll Call Call to order 1:03 pm

Present: **CALS**— Cheatham, LeGrand, Douglas, Thibeault, Street, Smith, Barrio-Vilar, Woolbright, Warner, Law. **CB**— Hendon, Leonard. **CEHP**—Oltmans, Prince, Carmack, Vander Putten, Stieve, Otters, Grover. **CSSC**—Giammo, Flinn, Blevins-Knabe, Scranton, Lopez, Matson, Crow. **CEIT**—Tramel, McMillan, Jovanovic. **LAW**—Fitzhugh. **LIBRARY**— Macheak. **EXOFFICIO** - Rogerson, Wright, Anson, Baldwin, Nolen.

Absent: **CALS**— Cates, Kyong-McClain. **CB**—Farewell. **CEHP**— Crass, Finley, Evans. **CSSC**—Golden. **CEIT** — Sandgren, Berleant, Deangelis. **LAW**— Entrikin, Boles. **LIBRARY**—. **EXOFFICIO**— Donovan, L McClellan

II. Review of Minutes

Nov 18 – Stephanie Farewell change absent;

Nov 18 – minutes: Anson made motion to accept minutes with amendment noting Farewell change; Farewell 2nd the motion; motion carries with no nays

Dec minutes: Anson made motion to approve the minute; Bennie Prince 2nd; motion carries unanimously.

Announcements – none

New topics – Mike Tramel – would like to thank the University for the new Veterans center that was dedicated/opened at the end of Fall semester.

III. Reports

A. Chancellor's Report – Andrew Rogerson

Happy new year – belated. Short report – then will hand over to Interim Provost; also have 2 other guests who will comment on Blackboard and the legislative session

Jan 3 – to my SHOCK – 2927 students on delete list -thanked admission and financial aid and one stop shop, worked huge effort to get them off delete list – as of today down to 278

Timing of this year's spring semester was a problem – had no time to get students organized. Need to start spring semester at least 1 week later to help students get financial packet together

9028 students at campus – a little down from last year 2.4%. We can weather it. Optimistic about turning around enrollment in fall. There are 1488 applications from 1st time freshman – up a bit from last year

From now on we are UA-Little Rock – pushing out new graphic,

B. Provost's Report – Deborah Baldwin

Interim Provost Baldwin was introduced and received an ovation from the senate.

Thank you for your time and expertise – thanks to staff in provost office – Drale and Robinson and the staff. I have only been in job 2 weeks, no grand agenda. We are committed to helping you on academic and curriculum, with your assistance. Hoping not to drop any balls. If we are, let us know.

Having discussions of aspirations in anticipation of new provost- hope to on campus in the summer. WE are in new situations, new positions, may be a semester to reflect what that means, then articulate for new Provost what that means. WE will schedule meetings with Depts to assemble concerns and opportunities.

enrollment, blackboard, elearning has been working diligently with IT to work through many problems we have faced.

HLC – many of you have been involved. I have now had a crash course.

Need to provide leadership for HLC from Provost office; need to communicate big picture to a large audience – campus wide

We need to be sure we have a comprehensive assessment plan

Christy Drale has agreed to be pt. person for HLC – we have a learning curve, but we don't want it to be left for new person in July

WE have made significant progress

Graphic (shown on screen) that outlines products that need to be developed to finish our accreditation. Is an incomplete document with errors, please tell us. Goal is to come up with clear ideas to share with campus

Group working on strategic plan

Working on a series assessment plan/products

Quality initiative – decision support system – a group working on those

Assurance Argument – committees put in place to address issues set out in the plan from HLC

I don't understand it all, there are people in this room who do understand.

Moving on – set those who will be responsible, Set time table

Questions?

Douglas – what is official communication between faculty and administration?> what is that listserv? Is it being used? I think FACFOCUS is being used. But I think that is not the one that should be used.

Wright – University assembly list – to communicate to the assembly; provost has a list of all faculty and a list of all full time faculty

So FACFOCUS is not the correct way to communicate? Is that correct? Wright – correct

Jovanovic – the university assembly list and the provost's lists are one way communication – admin to faculty

Blackboard report:

John Rathje (CIO IT)– embarrassing and difficult unacceptable performance by a vendor.

Good news first – wireless – important to have a good network, and 2 ability to register easily. WE may need additional communications to explain how. Registration process is improving. We also have ways to get good residential experience. We need another communication out to point you to here's what to do. Once you ualr.wifi once you log in with that network, you won't have to log in again

Blackboard – what happened? Why? Timing? Project – systemwide contract – all UA schools participate – reduces costs, offers specifics for individual schools. Agreement finished in the summer.

Blackboard has current model, is moving to a new model. IN the agreement – had to upgrade by MARCH 21 2017. Blackboard move from old platform to new platform. They performed over break. It did not conclude. It continues today. Generated a number of issues

- 1) Migration issues: Archived courses that not yet available in new solution.
UALR runs process 3 times per day to update enrollment, it failed. Blackboard working with us to manage. Issue still a problem – some students who still appear to be in a course that they actually dropped
 - 2) Functionality of things like Respondus – has had issues
 - 3) This Tuesday and week ago Thursday where blackboard was completely unavailable.
BB hosting service had a failure – caused outages
- We are continuing to have communication with BB

Setting up webpage to communicate what has been communicated, status of what is being doing, and an FAQ for if this, then try this or call this

All of spring 2017 courses should be proper – with still some students who have dropped still in

All of fall 2016 and summer 2016 should be there

They need to pause during the day to not have some of the other issues

Questions?

Hendon – do you have access to the contract? Did you look at in detail? Any performance clause?

R – not looked at details yet?

Hendon - Do they lose money if they do upgrade and fail?

R – there is impact, we need to id impact and quantify

Heneon -are we the test bed?

R – we are not a test bed?

Heneon – any idea how much money this has cost? Direct costs? STaR, IT folks? BB has failed miserably. I was extremely angry at BB for this failure. This has cost us students. We need to make BB understand that cost

Prince – restoration completeness. I can see 2016 courses. But in the restoration 0- only half the content is in the course. When you say the restoration is complete ?

Montague – Is course spring 2016 ?

Prince – no content after 3 or 4 week?

Montague – is that all HHPS?

Prince – do I need to prepare a ticket?

Jovanovic – add historical note – in 1997. WebCT – when we made transmission to BB – bb said it would be converted, but BB did not keep promise

Anson – how are you communicating to all the faculty and all the students?

R – series of emails- admittedly not very good way to communicate

Montague – about to send message to Judy Williams

Anson – communicate to appropriate audience

R – could have done a better job of communicating

Anson- do you have the lists?

R – yes

Cheatham – maybe provost list is appropriate for this?

Drale – Judy has all students list and all employees list. Provost office has FTF list

Wright – Provost has parttime faculty list, too

Scranton – since multiple campuses are under this what is System doing?

R – system office is aware of this – working on costs – we do have allies; we need to take away that we need our continuity plan to assist when things go wrong

Matson – can we go beyond the informal help of friends – there are alternative modes of delivering things. Some resource created to provide work arounds; long-term – exploration of reducing our dependence on blackboard.

R – blackboard – expectation that bb is up all the time.

Montague – Wednesdays in DKS hall – a lot of folks take advantage of open lab – We have staff resources and expertise to help. We have open lab, you can make appointment too.

Carmack – this was not UALR's problem. Once the problem happened – why was deciding factor to continue on – what led us not to go back to the back-up.

R- info led us to believe it would not last so long and many faculty were able to get in and work on their courses. Then we had split issues.

Montague – a lot of folks invested time over break – conference calls everyday. Faculty were working in 2017 shells.

Barrio-Villar – is new platform going to be basic version? Are we getting BB ultra?

Montague- not yet. Over break – be able to migrate to new platform, but run faster and under new system updates on back end – system not doing that yet?

Wright – 8 week fully online classes? What to do for those students? We have not delivered 25% of courses.

Montague – we addressed 8 week first. Our system won't allow us to push through our work-around. We pushed them to BB.

Hendon – we have 5 week courses

Montague – I know how time sensitive these are. I have taught these as well. The upper admin needs to understand the pain the students are dealing with. We get the messages from students.

LeGrand – students don't have the time to rearrange

Montague – if you have a list of courses with problems, send them to us. I appreciate kindness of Dean's Chairs, to reach out to your faculty to communicate with the faculty. Best thing to do is email to STaR.ualr.edu

Jovanovic – original question of Wright – not a question for Rathje and Montague, but of upper administration. Questions will come-up about refunds, being able to take course again. Not the Rathje and Montague's job to answer. I want to know that that these questions are being considered by upper?

Rogerson – we are aware, we are addressing these questions

Wright – we do have the ability to move deadlines. We might need to move end date of course, drop date of course. Might be a way to address things. Needs to be a communication to instructors and students – if there is a way to fix it.

C. Graduate Council – Brian Berry

none

D. Undergraduate Council – Mike Tramel

Is on website

E. Council on Core Curriculum and Policies – Belinda Blevins-Knabe

Bringing back a motion that will show up on February agenda.

Last year put language through connecting assessment and faculty evaluation. Worried assessment would be used to evaluate faculty individually. Assessment groups point out that linking assessment to faculty evaluation – problems. Looked out our language – make it clear. Participation in assessment is what is evaluated, but not individual results. Assessment is evaluating programs.

We met with Interim Provost – did not hit any major problems with that.

Questions –

Vander Putten (chair of Committee on Tenure) – surprised that I am seeing it for first time this year.

BBK – this has been through senate once completely.

Vander Putten - campus Committee on Tenure has not seen this motion this year. We would like to see this and be able to comment

BKK – we would be interested in having feedback

Nolen – what about when things are going really well. Can I count it for PT.

BKK – other ways to document

Nolen – many programs that are single person programs. That is it

BKK – participation can count

Vander Putten – is unworkable in the College of Education; what have you used to come up with this

BKK – looked at nationwide at different groups, assessment organizations that specifically say; come to us because faculty came to us with concerns. We went through it in Senate.

Vander Putten – seems like a vast overreach beyond the Core Council curriculum – we are hitting these issues first. We put this top priority because it came to us as faculty needs

Wright – section on tenure only is purview of Committee on Tenure. Not Annual Review.

Vander Putten – yes – needs to be put to committee on tenure

Wright – It looks like the Senate will be ready to take this up. I don't think the Senate or Executive Committee is going to refer the motion. Committee on Tenure can bring comments or amendments to the February senate meeting.

Jovanovic – I am an evaluator for ABET – been on 15 visits across the country. Easiest way to tell if program is not meeting SLO. We have to say credit for when they are learning and also take credit when they don't learn. We can't have it both ways. We don't want faculty members to be fired or not tenured based on what students learn or don't learn.

Flinn – many other things go into if a student succeeds. If we want to improve student learning we need to have the freedom if we don't have to worry about the hammer that might fall.

Cheatham – maybe a way to say that in language that - suggest the Tenure committee look at the language to accomplish the goal, but not hamstringing the use of

Jovanovic – if we are afraid to report poor student outcomes, assessment is useless. WE can't be penalized for reporting poor outcomes.

Giammo – not just saying the faculty is punished for things that are not their fault. WE want people to be able to experiment with things that might fail... and we don't want faculty to be penalized for experimenting.

Anson – formatting is odd

Wright – you need a “Therefore be it resolved...”

Vander Putten – Why is research not included in report? Just Teaching and Service?

BKK – research in assessment would have a slightly different path. We did not address it because it did not seem to fall in this aspect of assessment. I don't think it excludes research.

Scranton – doing assessment as service, as an activity as focus of research. The concern of this committee is trying to assure that the collection process is as good as it can be. It is trying to take away specter of concern that there is only good news. Important task that the process is clean, untainted by the possibility of results.

Wright – you don't want a prohibition saying you can't use assessment results in research

Vander Putten – I don't see where the authority has extended to Tenure and Promotion for this committee.

Wright – you can bring amendments from committee on tenure to the February meeting

Vander Putten – will take responsibility for circulating motion to Tenure Committee

F. Government Relations (update on legislative session) – Joni Lee

Ended 2 week mark today. 400 bills filed. 50 related to Higher Ed. We will probably track about 400 bills during the session. Focus on Governor's tax package – wants to cut 50 million. Are competing tax packages. Budget is built on his tax cut ideas. Our appropriation bill has been filed. Funding formula bill has been filed. Repeal of existing formula – one that counts graduation and progress – concept looks at productivity measures. Rewarding higher education – but no actual info about weights associated with measures. 10 million increase in 2nd year – end of year reward.

National level issues – move to Republican positions – will dictate approaches to higher ed. HB 1042 –sanctuary bill – restrict how higher education deals with undocumented persons. Guns on campus leg – no bill yet – sponsor of past Guns on Campus intends to

file a bill. Campuses have worked together on this. Would make mandatory that concealed carry persons can bring onto campus. We are working on standing behind position that what we have now have. Gov. has come out in favor of present system. Other states have gone to open carry. It is hard to keep making arguments when exists in other states.

Wright – would you share the bill when you get it?

Jovanovic – free community college idea from Governor?

Lee - taking existing scholarship funds to put into new program that will set-up program in high need disciplines primarily at 2 year level. Would be a hit to us.

Jovanovic – in this state – Community Colleges don't have the prerequisites for pre-Engineering. Shifting people to CC's means fewer Engineering students unless we have pre-Engineering at CC's.

Lee – taskforce report for re-alignment of higher ed. No report, no recommendations. Don't expect impact on this session from this.

Blevins-Knabe – what kinds of feedback can we give, what will not interfere with what you are doing?

Lee -Right now fac/staff only. If that does happen, other groups as wanting students concealed carry. Individuals need to contact their representatives. Presidents and Chancellors are working together.

Cheatham – would you post main bills on your site to link ?

Wright – UAF – reaffirmed their prior recommendation. Would it be helpful for us to do that? Or harmful?

Anson – silence means assent

Wright – anyone working on the rec?

Angela Hunter – working on a recommendation. I would be happy to share it. Will be data driven.

Lee – no bill yet; timeframe for session – would have to look at timeframe of session

Giammo – more likely to have an impact – the student Government association.

Wright – helpful for a senator to bring the motion to get it on the agenda. If you are interested, contact Angela

Matson – get to executive committee 2 weeks before meeting (Feb. 3)

Hendon – are we poking the bear that holds the purse? Do we run risk them passing it because we pass resolution?

Lee – Rep Collins expects opposition. He has responded that they will be able to pass some form of that legislation.

Carmack – some have a problem with you taking away a right that has been given.

Anson – I would much rather depend on police officers who have been trained

Hendon – concern with legislature Republican – do we run the risk of telling them we are not following your rules and they have the money, I am concerned about the cost

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

Cheatham – calendar issue – The impact of our start date early on Jan 9 has been felt on financial aid, admissions.

2018 calendar – we passed to start on Jan 10, we should move start to Jan 16, 2018.

Move to suspend rules to consider possibility to consider calendar change, Anson 2nd

Rules suspended unanimously.

Cheatham – move to move the start date for the Spring 2018 semester to Jan 16

Giammo – amend motion on the floor change move to move the start date to Jan 16, empower calendar to look at impact of moving all other dates shifted by 6 days (save Spring Break).

Wright – I'll accept this amendment without objection.

Fitzhugh – objects – don't know how that will affect intersession at the Law School. Unknowns. Unwise to go forward with so little notice.

Mathis – will be net increase of 4 processing days. What we might have challenges – will affect Law School intersession and summer session. And into following fall

Thibeault – impacts student activities – hardship for our students (dance) who are participating in further education during the break

Amendment carries on voice vote.

Motion – move start date to Jan 16 2016 and empower calendar committee to accommodate those changes

Motion carries on voice vote.

Cheatham – amount of time required for lecture classes may be changed since there is no longer a guiding UA system policy of time for instruction. Ask calendar committee to re-engage options of timing and looking at calendars in the coming years.

Cheatham - Move that Senate charge the calendar committee to look at class meeting dates, fall break, time in classes with reference to lack of mandate on those specifics.
Anson – 2nd

Hendon – there is a state minimum?

Cheatham – not any more

Wright – ADHE rules were a requirement for new programs. Behooves to reconsider 2250 hours per semester for 3 credit hours. There is no backstop in board policy. If we want to do so, we need to make it a policy

Jovanovic – when was that board policy removed?

Cheatham – in last 2 years – fairly recent

Motion is to charge calendar committee to look at fall break, length of term, and lecture minutes per credit hour.

Motion carries on voice vote.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjourn – 3:24 pm