



Faculty Senate Minutes
Friday, August 28, 2015
1:00 PM until Adjournment
DSC B&C

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Present: **CALS**—Cheatham, Cates, LeGrand, Thilbeault, Warner, Streett, Smith, Anson, Douglas, Ecke, Kyong-McClain, McAbee. **CB**—Leonard, Hendon, Farewell. **CEHP**—Prince, Evans, Layton, Rurup, Clemmons, Lowery. **CSSC**—Giammo, Flinn, Blevins-Knabe, Scranton, Craw, Jensen, Matson. **CEIT**—Jovanovic, Tramel, Tschumi, Bayrak. **LAW**—Foster. **LIBRARY**— Macheak. **EXOFFICIO**—Anderson, Toro, Wright.

Absent: **CALS**—Law. **CB**—. **CEHP**—Oltmans, Crass, Vander Putten, Carmack. **CSSC**—. **CEIT**—Anderson. **LAW**—. **LIBRARY**—. **EXOFFICIO**—Hickman, Laan.

II. Review of Minutes

Motion by Senator Flinn to approve the minutes from May 1, 2015. Seconded by Senator Layton. Motion carries.

III. Announcements

A. Upper Level Requirement: Vice President of the Faculty Senate will be heading the development of legislation to flesh out the Upper Level Skills courses.

Except in majors that must adhere to standards established by national accrediting agencies, major requirements must include courses or coursework either within or outside the department on

oral and written communication in the discipline

research methods, ethics, and critical thinking

technology

Please contact Joanne Matson if you want to assist. This has to get done this semester so that courses can be in place by Fall 2016.

Jovanovic: I am confused. It is labeled UL requirement but it doesn't examine UL requirement.

Wright: This requirement was in same section of legislation as the "12 upper level hours outside the major" when the legislation was originally passed. I've been incorrectly referring to the "skills" legislation as the Upper Level Requirement.

Matson: We want to create a broad community within the institution to represent a University-wide approach. Volunteer for this committee or to recommend those you know who have a broad interest in this.

President Wright explained the purview of the Faculty Senate and why we are here. The Senate is the legislative body of the University. Our area of authority includes admission requirements, curriculum, courses, and degree requirements, calendars, schedules, awarding degrees and honorary degrees. Senate is representative body for faculty and makes recommendations on issues outside our legislative authority. We have the purview to comment on issues outside our legislative authority. I want to reinforce that if there is any question as to what a piece of legislation means, we are the body that examines that.

IV. Introduction of New Topics (2 min limit, no discussion)

Senator Anson: Classes are still being cancelled after they have already begun. One of our [history dept's] classes with 25 students was canceled a week after the start of classes with the understanding that the college couldn't afford to pay a part-timer. We need to find some different ways to deal with problems, that doesn't adversely impact students.

Senator Cheatham: At the opening Assembly Meeting of PTC, conversations about potential merger between PTC and ATU or ASU. A comment was allegedly made that UALR was not interested in such a merger. Our faculty may want to have some conversations about it and speak to the implications of other systems encroaching even more in Pulaski County.

Senator Farewell: Unintended consequences of drop form legislation. Students couldn't drop courses to make room to pick up other classes. I think we need to do some administrative revision so it is not required to sign off on drop forms the first two weeks of the semester and it will allow students the freedom to make these changes without signatures. What if a faculty member doesn't sign off on the form? ABW: legislation on signed acknowledgement from instructor needs to be revised. First week students can drop without a drop form. Hendon: Registrar is telling us that we do need to do that. Wright: We will find a way to more effectively communicate. As far as legislation goes, we probably need to revisit the legislation. This is the first time the process has taken place, so I fully expect there will be some issues to figure out.

V. Election of Faculty Senate Secretary to complete the final year of Beth McMillan's term.

Blevins-Knabe nominated Jane Evans. No other nominations. Nominations closed. Accepted by acclamation.

VI. Reports

A. Provost's Report – Zulma Toro.

Provost Toro indicated that this was the first she has heard about the course drops as described by Senator Anson. She will look into that and can guarantee we will not cancel a course with enrollment of 25 students—again, if it did happen.

Anson: It happened in the history department.

We are ready to advance UALR to the next level of education and academic excellence. During the Fall Assembly, I shared with you many UALR bright spots and from now on, each time we meet including today, I will share with you these bright spots to set the stage for building a stronger UALR. They are not only making the news, but also setting the stage for building a stronger UALR. The bright spots we are sharing today will be included in the next edition of the Forum. Individuals: Dr. Janet Lanza and Dr. Jim Winter were acknowledged for their work LSAMP and Universty Science Scholars; Meeting/place: Link that current and future students will have in the College of Social Sciences and Communication. Processes: UALR Bookstore has implemented initiative that will allow students to receive a set shipping cost of \$7.50 for all

books. This is a significant savings for what some students have paid for shipping in the past. All of these bright spots will be located on the Provosts Office website, as well.

On August 17, 2015, UALR announced a partnership with eStem Charter that will bring an on-campus high school that will serve 9-12 grades on UALR's campus. In the next weeks, Deans will be appointed to work on the details of the partnership including programmatic processes, and infrastructure areas. In the meantime, meetings with surrounding community are being held and the eStem waiting list is expanding. They initially had 5200 students on waiting list when we announced the partnership. A week later, they had 6200 students on waiting list. Feedback we have received from LR and AR community have been positive and very encouraging.

A number of changes have been implemented in our student registration process. More changes will be implemented for the next semester as we review this semester's process. The changes in processes are yielding positive results. For example, last year we dropped 697 students for lack of payment the first time we went through the process; however, this year, we dropped 491—a significant number of these students have already been reinstated. It is anticipated that this Fall, our headcount figures will be slightly up compared to last year. This has been possible thanks to the commitment and hard work thanks to a number of people. To all of you, my heartfelt thank you.

Cody Decker joined UALR to head OIR on July 1, 2015. I am happy to report that much progress has been accomplished in creation of reports. Are assisting us with data definitions, and the Office is coming up with data dictionary to avoid data definition confusion. Deans are receiving reports with head count and SSCH. OIR will dedicate the next month to producing reports needed by programs that are up for program review or accreditation this year.

Program Review revisions. ZT has made these efforts to make UALR stronger and more competitive; UALR launched a fully online educational experience—UALR Online—to increase opportunity for students. Students enrolled in strictly online programs are assigned to a different campus to let us know how many students were pursuing a fully-online degree program; Have been exploring Degree Works, which is an academic advising and degree audit system. Approximately 60 faculty and staff attended a presentation about Degree Works a few weeks ago. Contact SJR if you would like to review the presentation.

Let's make the commitment build an institution where every faculty and every staff says they are proud to be part of the UALR team. I give you best wishes for the upcoming academic year.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

A. Election of Faculty Governance Committee representative

Wright: Last year we changed the Faculty Governance Committee and we now to have to elect from the faculty senate a representative to serve on the committee. Floor opened for nominations. FGC is one of the steps in the review process. The committee reviews the governance documents and makes recommendations to Provost who then reviews and makes recommendation to Chancellor. Anson: Are former presidents' of the Senate still to serve on that committee? So I should not choose them to serve on it. Wright: I think that what we will do is table this until next FS meeting. Tschumi: This is a busy committee. We will do some things by email but we will need to start off meeting approximately once per week. Denise LeGrand admits she is on the committee and its lots of fun. Wright: for the next meeting, unless someone makes a nomination, we will need to make a recommendation so the committee can begin meeting. Tschumi: Don't have the committee meeting schedule because we don't know who is on the committee. Matson: Could we consider having the committee have a standard meeting time? Jensen: nominates Kevin Cates. Wright: Any other nominations? Nominations closed. Moved

to accept Cates to represent the Faculty Senate in the Faculty Governance Committee. Unanimously approved.

- B. Motion FS_2015_27. Faculty Senate *Executive Committee* (Legislation. Majority Vote at One Meeting) Correct the Provost's title throughout the Constitution

Be it resolved that instances of the title, "Provost" or the title, "Vice Chancellor and Provost," shall be changed to "Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost" throughout the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas of Little Rock.

Wright: On behalf of Exec Committee, I will bring forward the motion. Cheatham: Thought we had already voted on this. Wright: The Assembly voted to allow the Senate this authority last year. But, the senate still has to make the changes. We still want to retain the authority, rather than making it automatic. Sometimes, when a position changes, it may not be clear how the new title might fit on our committees. Any further discussion? Motion carried/approved.

- C. Motion FS_2015_28. Faculty Senate *Executive Committee* (Legislation. Majority Vote at Two Meetings, First vote) Merge Faculty Research Committee and Faculty Teaching and Service Development Committees into Faculty Professional Development Committee

Be it resolved that the Faculty Research Committee shall be deleted

~~**Faculty Research Committee:** This committee shall make recommendations to the Faculty Senate concerning research policies of a general nature and methods of encouraging research activity. Under the authority of the vice chancellor and provost, it shall award the faculty research grants. The committee shall consist of one full-time faculty member from each college and school represented in the Faculty Senate to be appointed by the Committee on Committees. Each member shall serve a two-year term, with the terms to be staggered to insure experienced representation.~~

And, Be it further resolved that the Faculty Teaching and Service Development Committee shall be renamed to the Faculty Professional Development Committee and changed as follows:

~~**Faculty Teaching and Service Professional Development Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to review and make recommendations concerning policies and procedures involving the enhancement of the research, teaching, and service functions of the University. ~~More specifically,~~ The committee is concerned with faculty improvement workshops and other activities and conditions designed to recruit, improve, and retain a highly productive faculty. This committee shall make recommendations to the Faculty Senate concerning research policies of a general nature and methods of encouraging research activity. Under the authority of the executive vice chancellor and provost, it shall award the faculty research grants.~~

The committee shall consist of one member from the Ottenheimer Library faculty, two-full time faculty members from each college or school represented in

the Faculty Senate to be named by the Committee on Committees to staggered terms of two years each and as ex-officio member, the designee appointed by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. ~~the Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology and Instructional Support, the campus director of American Humanities, and the Director of Campus and Community Partnerships.~~

Commentary: Neither the Faculty Research Committee nor the Faculty Teaching and Service Development Committee has been active in recent years, so neither committee has so much work to do that two committees are justified. By focusing the charge of the committee to Faculty Professional Development, it is envisioned that the committee might recommend and maintain a comprehensive professional development plan for the university that is responsive to faculty needs.

President Wright introduced the motion on behalf of the Executive Committee. Has to be voted on at two separate Senate meetings. This motion will merge existing committees to form the Faculty Professional Development Committee. This is to reenergize and to hopefully get us back on track with professional development. First vote on motion carries. We will have to revisit this, presumably at the next meeting.

- D.** Motion FS_2015_29. Faculty Senate *Executive Committee* (Legislation. Majority Vote at Two Meetings, First vote) Delete Planning and Finance Committee chair as Academic Calendar and Schedules chair.

Introduced on behalf of E.C. All voted aye. First vote on this motion carries.

Whereas the practice of the university has been for the ACSC committee to elect a chair from its membership,

Be it resolved that the Academic Calendar and Schedules Committee be modified to delete the chair of Planning and Finance Committee as the chair of the Academic Calendar and Schedules Committee, so that the committee shall read:

Academic Calendar and Schedules Committee: This committee shall recommend to the Faculty Senate the academic calendar, schedules, and schedule policy, and shall present academic schedules to the Senate. Normally, these calendars and schedules, in draft form, originate in the Registrar's Office, and are forwarded to the committee for its approval before being submitted to the Faculty Senate. When questions arise, the committee shall, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, interpret the calendar and schedules.

The committee shall consist of one full-time faculty member from each college/school represented in the Faculty Senate to be appointed by the Committee on Committees, the vice president of the Faculty Senate, the chair of the Undergraduate Council or that person's designee, the registrar or that person's designee, the vice chancellor and provost or that person's designee. In addition, two students appointed by the Student Government Association shall serve as members. Appointed faculty members shall serve two-year staggered terms and students shall serve one-year terms.

~~The chairperson of the Planning and Finance Committee shall serve as chairperson of this committee.~~

Wright: We have never had the Chair of Planning and Finance chair the calendar committee to the best of my knowledge. This motion will the constitution into line with our practice. No discussion. First vote on this motion carries and we will revisit this again next month.

IX. Open Forum

A. Discussion: e-STEM

Anson: This does appear to be something we had very little part in. Raises some issues/concerns: parking, picking up/dropping off students. More importantly, we are taking a side in the controversy of charter vs. public schools. There was an article in the Dem-Gaz and the current superintendent is not very happy about this combination. Also, we are entering into an agreement with an outside corporation: One of the questions I asked the Provost at her general meeting was “who controls this relationship?” She responded jointly controlled, which makes sense, but we are also talking about control of the curriculum. Seamless curriculum from elementary through college. Our interest should trump theirs. The ultimate goal is that this should be a feeder to us and we should have a say in all cases regarding this joint venture. Wright: Regarding last statement, this issue of partnerships with other curricular bodies, we as faculty of the University have authority to generate curricular policies. We have to be sensitive to the issues your raising but we have the responsibility to act wisely.

Jovanovic: I sent out sample for an associate’s degree in Ohio for preparing students to study engineering for example. It is kind of a Stem-associate degrees that would help with feeding associate degree programs into our four-year degree programs. Most institutions in Arkansas don’t follow this and students who come to me (in Engineering) are 9 semesters away from graduation because they haven’t had math beyond algebra. With an associate degree, they think that they should be 2 years away from a bachelor’s degree, but in all reality, they won’t have much to put toward their bachelor degree.

Tschumi: You have to get away from an AS or AA because they require a 35-hour core, whereas other associate degrees can be done a bit differently. Technical areas in associate degrees will push core courses into the junior and senior year of baccalaureate degree. Engineering Technology just got approval to reconfigure our Associate of Engineering Technology degree. There are ways around it, but you need faculty involved in figuring out how you solve these kinds of problems.

Jovanovic: Bringing up Concurrent, this is not solely about the e-Stem proposal—which as I understand it, has not been officially approved by the eStem board. We have issues with concurrent credit. I’m not sure if departments are actually approving faculty at the high schools for teaching concurrent courses. The Core Council has run into issues with getting teachers to give us syllabi for concurrent courses for our core assessment, and there are even instances when departments weren’t aware that a certain course was being offered as concurrent. We have already lost control of our curriculum when it comes to concurrent high school credit. The e-Stem issue just adds to it, although the e-Stem students will be located on our campus and will have the opportunity to take concurrent credit with current UALR students.

Provost: I can speak about what is going to happen with current concurrent program. I don’t know what happened before it was moved to Academic Affairs, but I can assure you that we know that the department has the approval right of who is teaching, the departments are the one deciding whether the teacher is capable and has credentials to teach a particular course—we don’t do that, it goes to the departments. Not only that, we are having meetings with departments and teachers on a regular basis. I have to say, when we make these general comments that we are doing or aren’t doing certain things, and the facts are different from those comments, we start losing credibility. I can guarantee you that we have a quality control process in place for concurrent. It is not as it has been in the past.

Cheatham: If e-Stem does come on campus, would we assume that a concurrent course for the e-Stem body. Why would we want an e-Stem person teaching Chemistry I?

Provost: We do have the ability to look at the partnership.

Dual-enrollment program will address the issue. If we admit students into dual-enrollment program, that student can sit in one of our UALR courses and would not be duplicated. In terms of the fee structure, current concurrent students pay \$50 per concurrent course. We have not reached any agreement regarding fee structure with e-Stem. What is in place is a general MOU that describes the site of the

high school where the 9-10 graders and the 11-12 graders will be located, and the relationship will have a governance structure with a board that is appointed by the Chancellor and the CEO of the e-Stem school. The board will report to both of them and the details are not set yet. We cannot have details in place until we have final approval from all entities. E-Stem is in the final stages of having the State Board approve the partnership. In the meantime, we will have committees working to iron out the details. Sure enough, faculty will have representation and a voice on all of these committees. This is a long process, and the fact is, we had to start somewhere. As faculty, I understand your questions and concerns, but I can guarantee you that you will have representation on each of those task forces.

There were no further comments on eStem.

Senator Hendon: Have one question but I don't know exactly what we can do about it. I want an explanation and rationale behind why we changed our athletic team name to Little Rock Trojans. As far as I know, we are still a University. Dropping the University from the name of the sports team was done months ago. This was done, once again in secret and though I don't suspect it was intentional, I also don't think it's un-doable. I and those in my college would like to know the rationale behind the change. I request that the administration give us information as to the background and how or why this happened.

Wright: I will email the Chancellor and ask if he would care to comment on this. Any further questions? We are adjourned.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.