



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

## Faculty Senate Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2009, 1:00 p.m.  
Donaghey Student Center, Rooms B & C

### MINUTES

*Present:* CAHSS— Bunch, Clausen, Giammo, Martin, Ramsey, Yoder. CB— Brice, Nickels, Watts. CE— Bandre, Garner, Hayn, Lindsay. CEIT— Chan, Jovanovich, Patangia, Tschumi, Tudoreanu. LAW— Fitzhugh. CPS— Collier-Tenison, Faust, Rhodes, Robertson, Robinson, Smith-Olinde. CSM— Chen, Douglas, McMillan, Perkins, Prince, Sims, Tarasenko, Yanoviak. EX OFFICIO— Belcher, Ford, Williams, Davis.

*Absent:* CAHSS— Anson, Chadwick, Eshleman, Estes, Levernier, Vinikas, Webb. CB— Edison, Holland. CE— Pack. CEIT — Tramel. LAW— Aiyetoro, Foster. LIBRARY— Pine. CPS— Robinson. CSM— Kosmatov, Wiscaver. EX OFFICIO— Anderson, Lyn-Cook.

#### *I. Welcome & Roll Call*

The president declared it to be 1:00 and convened the meeting. The secretary called the roll.

#### *II. Review of Minutes*

The Senate reviewed the minutes of the February 20, 2009, meeting. **Motion and second to accept the minutes carried on voice vote.**

#### *III Announcements*

President Ford reminded the Senate that the May meeting has been rescheduled to May 8 and the location changed to the Legends Room in the Stephens Center.

#### *IV. Reports*

##### *A. Chancellor Anderson*

The chancellor was unable to attend because of commitments related to the University's interests and the legislative session presently in process.

##### *B. Provost Belcher*

The provost updated the Senate on implementation of the recently passed transfer-of-credit law. ADHE is directing the planning, and the provost's take is that each university will be obliged to report on each student who transfers in with an associate's degree, indicating which courses transferred in, which didn't, which 1000-2000-level courses the student was required to take, and why.

He also reported that Rep. Roebuck has reintroduced a bill having to do with remedial courses. The bill requires testing at the end of such courses to determine whether students are ready for college-level work. Universities would have some flexibility to design their own testing processes.

The provost noted another piece of legislation that would require high schools across the state to test students at 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to determine whether they're capable of college-level work.

The structuring of the state lottery should be concluded soon.

The provost ceded the floor to Faculty Senator and State Representative Nickels to get his comments on the session. Nickels reported that he had introduced a bill to make the UA System part of the state employee health insurance program. He believes it would be wise to combine all public insurance programs so that one very large pool of covered people would improve the programs leverage in marketplace negotiations. He knows the bill won't get far, but is hopes for an interim study, perhaps.

Note was made that Sen. Madison has introduced six to eight new bills having to do with textbooks.

The provost suggested we are in for "a rich and full year" on 2009-2010:

- Many reaccreditations will be happening, including the University's own by North Central, two in CEIT, and an alphabet soup of others.
- Some big program starts will occur.
- The new ADHE degree-program review process we're preparing for begins, including self-studies for the first round of reviews in AY 2010-11.
- We're taking the baseline-data snapshot of numbers of degrees granted in each degree program this June 30, and reaching back to June 30 of the previous three years, to determine which programs' numbers aren't up to the standards. He suspects we may have ten or twelve that will have until AY 2011-12 to make improvements.
- We will also likely be putting in place our reporting system for complying with the new transfer-of-credit law.

The provost had nothing new to say about budget. We're waiting for decisions from the General Assembly and the UA System board of trustees. The chancellor will be having his budget hearing on March 18.

The provost was asked if UALR is poised to take advantage of federal economic stimulus resources. The answer is, "Yes, indeed!" We have a "strike team" looking for anything we can use, and have hired some grant-writing help so we can move quickly. Looks like there will be significant stimulus packages in connection with STEM, NIH, DOE, CJ, and some others. Different agencies may be expected to use the funds differently, some to fund proposals they already have and some to start from square one on new initiatives.

As for state-level stimulus money, the provost reported that the governor has contacted the chancellor and planning proceeds apace.

President Ford resumed his announcements, adding to the provost's list of work for AY 2009-2010 the task of "rethinking the bachelor's degree."

He also noted that the Senate's resolution on proposed tenure and promotions policy is with the chancellor, and moving toward action. The chancellor has found a faculty member who will clean up the language of the proposed policy so that it reads smoothly and in one voice. The few issues the

chancellor thinks need to be changed have been identified, and we can expect to have an amended draft to review, though we're not sure just when.

Ford told the Senate he has gotten on the agenda for the chancellor's budget hearing next week, and will make the best pitch he can for allocating resources for faculty raises.

### C. Reports of Standing Committees:

#### 1. Graduate Council, Anne Lindsay, chair

Lindsay said Grad Council had nothing new to report.

#### 2. Undergraduate Council, Jeanette Clausen, chair

Clausen reported the Council had approved the rise in ACT values requested by math and stats. The change will apply to students admitted in fall 2009. Those admitted under the previous standard will remain there. By fall 2010, the new standard will be applicable across the board.

The Council approved the Service Learning Scholars Certificate that has been shepherded by Betsy Hart and Juliana Flinn. It's the university's first undergraduate certificate program.

She quickly listed several other changes approved in political science, the philosophy and religious studies minor, and business. Details are available in the UGC minutes posted on [the Council's website](#).

Clausen noted that the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils are still struggling to work out the best mechanisms for timely and thorough communication with the faculty as a whole.

The Council has decided that starting next semester, matters for review by UGC must be submitted four weeks prior to the last day of the semester in order to give sufficient time for implementation.

### V. Old Business

There was no old business before the Senate.

### VI. New Business

#### A. MOTION. Calendar Committee, Amy Barnes, chair. (Legislation; second required; majority vote at one meeting.)

*The Faculty Senate adopts the attached calendar for Academic Year 2012-2013.*

Amy Barnes presented the calendar for AY 2012-2013, and sought comments and questions from the Senate.

After considerable discussion of late registration (including consideration of its budgetary impact, with Vice Chancellor Donaldson observing that late registration this year accounted for about \$375K in revenue), and about when, officially, the University closes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the committee accepted friendly amendments from Williams to add the following notations to the academic calendar: that late registration closes on August 30 at 5:00 p.m., and that late registration closes on January 22 at 5:00 p.m., and that the University officially closes at 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**Motion carried on voice vote.**

Barnes will get the secretary an amended copy of the calendar for posting with the minutes.

### *VII. Open Forum*

Robertson drew the Senate's attention to recent discussion on FacFocus about on-line book orders, a system that may not be working as well as it ought to. He suggested that the executive committee look into the matter.

Jovanovich asked when, by whom, and where the list of required textbooks is posted on the web, as he understands is required by law.

Robertson suggested that perhaps a report from the bookstore to the Senate would be in order. Williams suggested that we ask Byron. Ford said he'll make this happen.

Sims suggested that the Senate formally recognize the hard work and dedication of the chairs of Undergraduate Council: long-time chair Rosalie Cheatham, her successor Jamie Byrne, and Jeanette Clausen, the current chair. Ford took the matter under advisement, demonstrating an obviously positive bent toward the idea.

### *VIII. Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:30.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Judith Faust, Secretary.