

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
Assembly Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2008 • 2:00 p.m.
University Theater

MINUTES

Secretary's note:

I am unable to locate the original notes taken electronically during this meeting. My laptop went to sleep unexpectedly near the end of the meeting, and I found the brief handwritten notes with which I finished. I thought the file was safe, given the nature of the computer problem, but it apparently wasn't.

Only two actions were taken at the meeting: the election of the Assembly president, and the passage of the resolution to ban smoking on the UALR campus. We do, however, depend on these minutes also to capture the content of reports and the main points of discussion on action items, and I cannot reconstruct the chancellor's and provost's remarks to the Assembly or the discussion about the smoking ban.

I apologize to the University community for this gap in the minute record.

I. Call to order

President Ford declared it to be 2:00 p.m. and called the meeting to order.

He reminded those gathered of the Assembly's composition, representing faculty, staff, and student governance.

II. Review of minutes

The minutes of the August 16, 2007, meeting of the University Assembly were reviewed. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on voice vote.

III. Announcements and recognition

With the help of Senate Vice President Ramsey, President Ford recognized the faculty members retiring in AY 2007-08:

Bonnie Black, Associate Professor of Art
William C. Goolsby, Professor Emeritus of Finance
Nancy J. Harm, Professor Emeritus of Social Work
Gary A. Heidt, Professor Emeritus of Biology
Carl F. Hummel, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Alan H. . Marks, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology
Malay K. Mazumder, Professor Emeritus of Applied Science

Russell E. Murphy, Professor Emeritus of English
John C. Pickett, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Finance

The president also thanked the three directors of the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence for their fine service this year, and for the excellent work done already by the Academy.

Ford also gave a brief update on the new Student-Faculty Award program, and distributed the Faculty Nomination Form and a brief description of the program and the process.

IV. Elections

President Ford was elected to a second term as president of the University Assembly.

V. Remarks by Provost David Belcher

VI. Remarks by Chancellor Joel Anderson

VII. Update from Bob Denman

Mr. Denman was unavailable for today's meeting, which the president was sure meant that things were going swimmingly on the university's fund-raising front.

VIII. Smoke-free campus resolution

Whereas, the tobacco problem is as great as ever, and tobacco use remains the nations' leading preventable cause of death, killing more than 400,000 people and costing more than \$194 billion in health care bills and lost productivity each year, and

Whereas, smoking rates on college campuses have increased while rates in almost every other group have fallen. Almost 40% of college-aged smokers became smokers after entering college, and

Whereas, 40% of college baseball players and 30% of college football players have used spit tobacco in the past year, and

Whereas, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has adopted a tobacco free campus policy that will become effective July 1, 2008 to extinguish health related issues related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke and to improve the overall atmosphere at the state's flagship. Other campuses in Arkansas that are smoke free include: UA Fort Smith and UAMS, and

Whereas, 105 other colleges and universities nationwide have implemented campus-wide smoking policies due to rising health-care costs and the ever-increasing amount of scientific evidence on the ill effects of smoking, and

Whereas, secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., killing 53,000 non-smokers each year, and

Whereas, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke has concluded that secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke, and

Whereas, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer, and the National Cancer Institute determined in 1999

(Monograph #10) that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually, and

Whereas, smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, suicides combined, and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes, and

Whereas, 4,900 adults in Arkansas die each year from their own smoking, and

Whereas, 390 – 700 nonsmokers in Arkansas die each year from others' smoking due to exposure to secondhand smoke, and

Whereas, 64,000 kids in Arkansas today who are younger than 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking, and

Whereas, the annual health care cost in Arkansas directly attributable to smoking is \$812 million,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Arkansas at Little Rock ban all students, faculty, staff, and visitors from smoking within areas deemed as on-campus, including parking lots, effective July 1, 2008.

There was lengthy discussion on the motion. Among the primary points raised were these:

- The resolution, which does not have the force of legislation, will be passed on to the chancellor, who is responsible for setting the University's policy on such matters.
- The resolution has been passed by the Staff Senate and by the Student Government Association, and representatives of each body spoke in favor of the resolution. Proponents of the motion had also arranged for at least one guest, from the Arkansas Department of Health, to speak in favor of the resolution.
- Though the resolution language contains an effective date of July 1, 2008, a number of speakers both for and against the resolution either advocated for or acknowledged the wisdom of a longer implementation period.
- Several speakers to the motion also suggested that as part of implementing such a ban, the University should strengthen its available smoking-cessation assistance to faculty, staff, and students.

When discussion ended, the president called for a voice vote on the resolution. Loud nays led the president to take the vote again, with members of the Assembly standing to register their aye or nay. The resolution carried.

IX. Open forum

President Ford called for matters members wished to bring before the Assembly for discussion.

Sen. Jim Nickels spoke about the very small pool of funds available for merit raises as a result of the Governor's call for budgetary belt-tightening for the second year of the biennium. Nickels asked what would happen if the current revenue projections for the biennium are too conservative. There was some discussion of passing this question on to the chancellor. Sen. and Past Assembly President Williams suggested that it was clearly a matter for the Planning and Finance Committee to take up.

Sen. Jovanovich expressed concern to the Assembly about the plan for extensive tree cutting between ETAS, Reynolds, and Fine Arts for a temporary parking lot to be used during the construction of the new Engineering and Information Technology building. Jovanovich pointed out that the campus master plan already calls for the eventual banning of cars from the main campus, and questioned how the loss of some many trees is justified by such a short-term convenience. Jovanovich volunteered to serve on the Environmental Impact Committee of the Assembly. Sen. Wright said he believes the parking lot is to be completed this summer, which

suggests that any action needs to be taken quickly. It was noted that the Faculty Senate would be meeting again at least once in the next two weeks, and that the matter might be taken up there.

X, Adjournment

There being no further discussion and no further business to come before the Assembly, the president adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

*Ruefully and inadequately submitted,
Judith Faust, Secretary*