

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
University Assembly Meeting

*Tuesday, August 19, 2008 • 2:00 p.m.
University Theater*

MINUTES

I. Call to order

The president declared it to be as close to 2 p.m. as we could manage and called the meeting to order.

President Ford took a moment to read the agenda to the Assembly, having learned it was not distributed ahead of time. He apologized for the loose electrons floating somewhere that started out and should have ended up as an agenda...

II. Review of minutes

The president called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2008, meeting of the University Assembly. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as posted on the Faculty Senate web site <<http://www.ualr.edu/facultysenate/assemblyminutes>>. Motion carried on voice vote.

III. Welcome and announcements

Ford welcomed the members of the assembly to the beginning of academic year 2008-09. He said he always finds the beginning of a new year invigorating, and advised new faculty members to take some time to walk around campus the first week of classes, and just absorb the energy. He thought that would be a good idea for the old and jaded geezers, as well.

Reminding the Assembly of the chancellor's challenge last year to us to take up the cause of recruitment and retention, Ford observed that this summer, sixteen faculty members made use of the new program through which they can arrange scholarships for students who might not have come here otherwise. The previous summer, when the program was just initiated, only one award was made. This year's sixteen, he said, represent revenue of at least \$50,000 to the University. The benefit to students is tuition reductions of \$200 per semester for four years of their matriculation, and faculty can secure the scholarship for one student each year if they wish.

On another matter, Ford made the pitch for service to the university as well as service to students and the community. Service is part of our job here Ford reminded Assembly members they have the most powerful voices when they participate—and the payoffs are significant for them as well as for the university and the larger community.

He noted that service to the university for many of us is what gets us out of our departmental cubbyholes and connects us to interesting people whom we would otherwise likely not meet.

IV. Report from Judy Williams, Director of Communications

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*