



---

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK  
**University Assembly Meeting**

*Thursday, April 28, 2011 • 2:00 p.m.  
Dickinson Hall Auditorium*

MINUTES

*I. Call to order*

President Andrew Eshleman declared it to be 2 p.m., called the meeting to order, and welcomed those in attendance.

*II. Review of minutes (of two past meetings)*

The minutes of Tuesday, August 17, 2010

The minutes of Thursday, April 22, 2010

Clausen noted that the draft minutes of April 22, 2010 were dated Tuesday rather than Thursday.

Robertson moved, and Jennings seconded, that the minutes be approved with the correction indicated. The motion passed on a voice vote.

*III. Remarks by the President: Andrew Eshleman*

President Eshleman: I was going to begin with a story about a professor, a student, and a final exam but in the interest of time will save that. Instead, I want to say thank you to the UALR administrative leadership, Chancellor Anderson and Provost Belcher. I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with them as a team. Since the Provost is leaving, I ask you to join me in thanking him. I also want to thank the lovely group of people I worked with on the Executive Committee. I thank Steve Yanoviak, a conscientious worker and quick study, secretary Jeanette Clausen, new to Exec but not to leadership roles, and being secretary is a demanding task. Judith Faust, who switched roles for us, from secretary for many years to resources manager, the guardian of the governance documents. We rely on her expertise, thank you, Judith. Laura Smith-Olinde also made a switch, from Parliamentarian to Vice President. I especially noticed her spunk in speaking up to Ford; she's the sort of person who becomes a student of the issues involved to get the job done and has done this in various roles – I really value her contributions. This leaves Richard Ford, who is the past president and is eager to be the past immediate past president. Even though he was on sabbatical he came to

meetings on Fridays, which he loathes, so thank you. Finally: this is a great institution and what makes it great is all of you – thank you.

I have checked and with your permission, I would like to re-order the agenda, to move VI and VII to IV and V. There were no objections to this change to the agenda.

#### *IV. Motions to Amend the Constitution of the UALR Assembly*

(Legislation. Requires three-fifths vote of the Assembly, provided that a quorum is present, at two consecutive meetings).

See: “Attachment A & B: Modifying Const Passage Officers”

Pete Tschumi: I move motion A. The purpose is to clarify some things that came up because Andrew is leaving. The Constitution was unclear on what to do when the president leaves before finishing his two-year term. The language of the passages in question, which spell out the terms of the officers, was ambiguous and left an opportunity to let the alignment get messed up. The resource manager was appointed in odd years. The changes also provide consistency of language (immediate past president instead of past president).

President Eshleman invited discussion. There was none.  
Eshleman called for a vote. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Tschumi then moved Motion B (pointing out that it was labeled C but it's really B; Clausen promised to correct this). When we created the resources manager position, we had a lot of debate about what to call her. This officer's role really is to serve as institutional memory: what was done and why was it done that way. After we had voted, a law professor suggested that this officer is usually called special counsel, so we proposed this name. At the last Senate meeting, it was suggested to strike the word special, and we agreed, so this position will be called counsel. There is also a change to even-numbered years.

Eshleman invited discussion. There was none, except that Judith Faust still thought archbishop would be a good title.

Eshleman called for a vote. Motion passed on a voice vote.

#### *V. Election of New Assembly President*

Eshleman: the next task is to replace me: it's kind of an odd feeling. According to the description of the Committee on Committees, one of their jobs is to prepare a slate of nominees. Laura Smith-Olinde agreed to be nominated, so her name is on the slate, and the floor is open for other nominations.

Pete Tschumi nominated Steve Jennings (no second needed). Jennings said he was willing to be nominated.

Eshleman asked candidates to make a statement.

Smith-Olinde: One of the most important questions is: do I want to follow Andrew? Are you serious? The Faculty Senate and Assembly are integral parts of UALR but do not operate in a vacuum. As chair of the Transfer of Credit Committee this past year, I have learned so much that I had not known as a faculty member. Since I arrived here in 2001, this campus is not the same university. Given the current climate for higher education and the change of leadership at UALR, this coming year is going to be interesting. I'm familiar with the issues, and hopefully we can continue to move forward.

Jennings: I've served as chair of Grad Council and on Chancellor's Leadership Group. I want to keep momentum going as far as undergrad curriculum also, work to better organize the committees of the Senate and the Assembly, so as Laura said, we can continue to move forward. I also came to UALR in 2001, by the way.

Susan Hoffpauir – Does everyone know who can and cannot vote? (Members of Executive Committee look up the passage while the meeting continues).

Earl Ramsey – I don't know when we've had a contested election before. It's a wonderful moment, whatever the outcome (Eshleman: It must be the increase in pay. Laughter).

Ramsey: We cannot lose with these candidates, I admire and trust them both – they are honest, they have integrity, they believe in faculty and they believe in students. I'm going to vote for Laura.

Clausen then read the passage defining who can vote.

The UALR Assembly shall be composed of the president of the University of Arkansas and the following UALR personnel: the chancellor; the vice chancellor and provost; all vice chancellors, associate vice chancellors, deans, and directors; the registrar; all full-time employees with the academic rank of university professor, distinguished professor, professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor; elected members of the Staff Senate; and one student for every 400 students enrolled in the fall term of each academic year selected by the Student Government Association to be broadly representative of the various student groups. Professors emeriti, persons with adjunct or visiting academic rank, lecturers, and part-time faculty members shall have voice but not vote in the Assembly,

Patterson asked about Staff Senate members of the Assembly.

Tschumi – the assembly is the broad representative body that represents all the constituencies on campus. All members of the Assembly can vote.

Paper ballots were distributed.

Eshleman: Ballots will be collected and counted while we proceed with the agenda.

## *VI. Remarks by the Provost: David Belcher*

Provost Belcher: I want to begin with the introduction of a new award at UALR. Hollywood has the Oscar, TV has the Emmy, and UALR has the Joel. Henceforth this award will be given every year, for achievement in, well, just because. Joel, please come forward to claim your award.

At this point Belcher gave Chancellor Anderson a bobblehead, with Anderson's features. Belcher: "You do not know how hard it was to part with that!"

Now for updates: The Strategic Plan has gone through several steps (input from internal and external groups) and has been revised against the backdrop of an accountability report. We will get that document out to the university community shortly.

Student Success: There is progress to report. The grant program that ran out of my office elicited proposals for some good projects. The restructuring in my office will allow a greater focus on student success. The Chancellor and I met with every department that has an undergraduate program and it was a very good exercise. The departments are doing some very good things.

We have done a lot of study related to the undergraduate curriculum revision and will be bringing a recommendation forward.

A good bit of work has gone on across campus on faculty governance documents – but not too many documents have come forward yet, so Sandra, good luck with that.

Sandra Robertson: I'll pay you back. (Belcher: She will, too, the last time she paid me back she put a toilet on my lawn.)

Leadership Changes: Mary Good is retiring in July and we are welcoming her successor, Eric Sandgren.

Linda Musun is also retiring, after having served in many leadership roles including associate dean in AHSS and, most recently, Dean of Extended Programs. Associate Vice Chancellor Jerry Stevenson is expanding his role, Christy Drale is moving in to take on some of his roles, and Daryl Rice will be focused on student success. Susan Hoffpauir's role has expanded to include diversity but of course Susan is leaving to become the Associate Dean of the Clinton School, so good luck Sandra. And not to forget Andrew Eshleman – a solution seeker, a caring leader, who will experience great success in his new role as chair of philosophy at the University of Portland.

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for eight great years at UALR. I have grown as an administrator because of working with you and owe my new position to that growth and to the opportunity to work with campus leaders such as Pete Tschumi, Andrew Eshleman, Ford, and Meemaw too. And especially Joel Anderson, who has given me opportunities that provosts don't always have; I thank him for that.

Let me now take a quick glimpse at what has happened here in a brief period

We have raised admission standards twice; the number of students in developmental courses is plummeting. There is a strong emphasis on undergraduate research (which had begun even before I arrived at UALR, with a caring group of people in AHSS). We have expanded the Donaghey Program, implemented the AAMI [African American Male Initiative]. We have seven doctoral programs now. We have expanded online offerings, re-launched the MBA, and launched other rich and wonderful niche programs. We founded the Nanotechnology Center, the Institute on Race and

Ethnicity, doubled the number of Nursing graduates, built the Stephens Center, and revitalized the Sequoyah Center and much more. The development and redevelopment of Coleman Creek has taken place; if you haven't been out there you should go, it's been transformed. We renovated Stabler Hall, Stella Boyle Concert Hall, and more. We have brought in millions of federal dollars and well surpassed our goal for the capital campaign (\$92 million). We helped to parent the Clinton School into being. We hired new colleagues and updated processes. We are now hooked into ARE-ON [Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network]. We completed Roles and Rewards I and II. We have improved the infrastructure and enhanced our PR. We have a great Alumni Association, and for every item I've mentioned there are 20 or 30 others that I could have mentioned – and 20 or 30 that still should be done. This is not about me, but about what we've done. Now is not the time to slow down. Please keep focused on the long view. When we graduate students who make remarkable differences in their professions, make our reputation as a doctoral program, hire brilliantly – we are a place where we mentor colleagues and future leaders – where student life and activities ground students. It is the new world order of higher education, for maximum benefit of our students and our community. UALR has made remarkable progress and thank you for letting me share.

At the conclusion of this report, Provost Belcher received a standing ovation.

*VII. Remarks by the Chancellor: Joel Anderson*

Chancellor Anderson: Let me just say: Andrew Eshleman has topped Fred Williams for putting me last on the agenda. First, Andrew put together the agenda to put business first and then he has this contested election where there are campaign speeches.

(Looking at the bobblehead): Concerning this object that David has given me: if it means so much to him, I can let him have it back. I noticed that the company that made it put a lot of hair on it, so David you might want to get in touch with them. (laughter)

The people who are leaving (David, Susan, Andrew) and also the people who are retiring leave a great legacy. Also in a few weeks a great number of people will be leaving us, the students who are graduating.

[Referring to his PowerPoint presentation, which was behind the secretary]: I am going to skip through some things here: the Promise Neighborhood and the Reading Success program supported by grants (one national, one local); the summer camps (one funded by Exxon Mobile); Institute for Race and Ethnicity is almost ready to announce its leadership.

We have student successes all over the place (EIT, COB). One that I don't have on the slide is the student research expo – an outstanding event. I give all you faculty who had a hand in that a pat on the back. There simply was not enough time to take in all the great presentations.

Probably you are like me – not all that enthusiastic about the US News Rankings – however, they are taken seriously across the country and we have three units represented there (an interesting new milestone for the university).

In Athletics, we have several successes, including Chastity Reed drafted into the pros.

It's Time for UALR: I'd like to emphasize that we had 46% participation on campus, and we've got \$3 million-plus given by employees; and we are closing in on that new \$100 million campaign goal.

Important construction projects are going to very significantly change the face of the campus.

Sandra R gave me some numbers about the activity in the General Assembly; there are many statutes that affect us (3 in research, 4 in college readiness --I can't keep up with all of them, but we will study the situation and keep you informed. With Act 747, associate degrees will be maxed at 60 hours, and baccalaureate degrees at 120 unless prior approval has been received.

Performance funding is very complex but here are just a few points: The performance measure will go up gradually (5% a year ending up at 25% in 2018). This measure will now apply to the whole budget (previously performance funding applied only to new money). It can be very consequential for the receipt of state money if you don't sort of play ball.

Budget: There's not any really bad news about the budget. If we put it in national context, we are not doing so badly; they [Ledge] could have treated us better but not much better, they just didn't have the revenue to treat us much better. The appropriation was essentially level: \$65 and a half million – but that is not our total budget; the total is \$137 million. So as part of that, the increase is less than ¼ of 1%. We anticipate that we will get a tuition increase but can't be sure. Always a sensitive issue. The governor has provided us some cover there.

We held several budget hearings on campus and the results were about what you would expect; most everyone put compensation first. As things stand now, there will not be raises next year. General Assembly decided that classified employees will not get COLA but held out the possibility of a merit raise at the end of the year. We will set aside a reserve as we did last year so that we will be in a position to give raises, as we did last year, if it is possible to do so at that time.

In bidding farewell to Provost Belcher – there's been an outcry from two of the seven people who work in his office to name something after him, it's been suggested that the still to be built Trojan Grill [sketch shown on the PowerPoint slide, which included Belcher bobbleheads up there]. (Raucous laughter) I think I detect some enthusiasm for this and I'll take that under advisement.

Seriously: David Belcher has been a great representative, on campus and in the community. West Carolina University's gain is our loss. We will miss you. You thanked just about everyone except yourself just now in naming all the areas where you have provided important leadership in all these areas (accreditation, new programs, faculty roles and rewards I and II, nanotech center, faculty excellence awards. David has been a real presence to work with.

Judith Faust and Steve Yanoviak came forward with the election results. Just over 150 votes were cast. Laura Smith-Olinde is the new president.

### *VIII. Open Forum*

No items were proposed for open forum.

Eshleman: For my final comments. Do you want to hear the story about the professor, the student, and the exam?

A Professor is giving exam, and a student shows up late; he sits down to write. The professor calls time but the student doesn't want to stop. The professor decided not to make an issue of it. However, when student had finished, he came forward to hand in his exam, and the professor said: I'm not going to accept that exam, the time was up. The student asked: Do you know who I am? No, said the professor, this is a very large class, so no, I don't know who you are. At the student slipped his exam into the middle of stack and left the room. .

### *IX. Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at about 3:30pm but the secretary neglected to note the exact time.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jeanette Clausen, Secretary*

## **Motions A & B: Modifying Constitutional Passage on Officers**

A. Motion. Pete Tschumi (Legislation. Requires majority vote of the Faculty Senate to send to the University Assembly and three-fifths vote of the Assembly, provided that quorum is present, at two consecutive meetings) To amend the Constitution of the University Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Article I and Article III so that the following sections are changed as shown (along with any other passages subsequently identified prior to the Assembly meeting by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as requiring revision to be made consistent with these changes):

### **Article I: Composition and Function of the UALR Assembly**

#### **Officers of the Assembly**

Officers of the Assembly shall be the president, immediate past ~~previous~~ president, vice president, secretary, and parliamentarian. In the event that the immediate past president is no longer a member of the faculty at UALR, the most recent past president still on the faculty shall serve in that position. The president of the Assembly shall be elected by the Assembly at a meeting late in the Spring semester of even-numbered years ~~each year~~ from among the faculty members of the Assembly who are eligible to serve in the Faculty Senate. The president of the Assembly also shall serve as president of the Faculty Senate, and may or may not be an elected member of the Faculty Senate. The term of office of the president of the Assembly and the Faculty Senate shall be two years, beginning with the first meeting of the Assembly or Faculty Senate, whichever comes first, of the following Fall semester. In the event that the president vacates the office of president before his/her term expires, a new president shall be elected to fulfill the remainder of the term of office. The vice chancellor and provost shall serve as the vice president of the Assembly. The secretary and parliamentarian shall be elected by and from the membership of the Executive Committee of the Assembly. The immediate past ~~previous~~ president shall have all rights of Senate membership, serve as advisor to the president of the Senate, and have voice on the Executive Committee.

[ . . . ]

### **Article III: The Faculty Senate**

#### **Elections of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Officers**

Faculty Senate elections shall be by secret ballot, and shall be held before the end of the Spring semester of each year, the exact date to be determined by the dean of each college or school. Senators elected at these college or school meetings shall assume office at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year in August or September.

During the first meeting of the academic year in August or September of even-numbered years, the Faculty Senate shall elect its officers from the membership of the Faculty Senate.

Commentary: There are several places in the constitution where there is an implicit understanding that the president term of office starts in even-numbered years and that other actions take place relative to this election time frame. However, the language in other places assumes the president's term of office without it being stated. This change is to avoid confuse in the future. In addition, the constitution is ambiguous on what is done if a president does not complete a full term of office. In order to keep the various other constitution actions aligned or staggered as expected, it is necessary that the two year terms start and finish as expected with any vacancies being filled for the remainder of the term. The change from previous president to immediate past president is to match the existing language in Article III.

B. Motion. Pete Tschumi (Legislation. Requires majority vote of the Faculty Senate to send to the University Assembly and three-fifths vote of the Assembly, provided that quorum is present, at two consecutive meetings) To amend the Constitution of the University Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Article III so that the following section is changed as shown:

## **Officers of the Faculty Senate**

Officers of the Faculty Senate shall be the president, the immediate past president, the vice president, the secretary, the parliamentarian, and counsel ~~resources manager~~. The immediate past president shall have all rights of Senate membership, serve as advisor to the president of the Senate, and have voice on the Executive Committee. The president of the Assembly shall serve as president of the Faculty Senate. The vice president, secretary, and parliamentarian shall be elected by the Faculty Senate for two-year terms. In the event that a senator elected to one of these offices ceases to be a member of the Faculty Senate, another senator shall be elected to fulfill the remainder of the term of office. The election of new officers shall take place during the first meeting of the academic year in even-numbered years after new members of the Faculty Senate have been elected. Vacancies shall be filled by election at the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting.

The president shall preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate and of the Executive Committee, and also shall discharge the responsibilities specified elsewhere in this constitution.

The vice president shall be the presiding officer at Faculty Senate meetings in the absence of the president, and shall also serve as vice president of the Executive Committee.

The secretary shall be responsible for preparing the minutes of each Faculty Senate meeting and for submitting the minutes to the office of the vice chancellor and provost for distribution to all members of the Faculty Senate and Assembly. The secretary also shall serve as secretary of the Executive Committee. The secretary shall collect papers and documents concerned with Faculty Senate matters and transfer them to the UALR Archives or equivalent place at the end of each academic year.

The parliamentarian shall advise the officers and members of the Faculty Senate on questions of procedure in order that the business of the Faculty Senate be transacted correctly, efficiently, and impartially. The parliamentarian also shall serve as parliamentarian of the Executive Committee.

Counsel ~~resources manager~~ shall be responsible for ensuring that copies of records related to faculty governance are maintained in the Faculty Senate offices and are

current. Counsel ~~resources manager~~ shall provide expertise to the executive committee on current policies and the historical background on important issues. Counsel ~~resources manager~~ shall be a faculty member and shall be appointed by the elected officers of the Faculty Senate to a renewable, two-year term that is staggered relative to the Faculty Senate officers. The appointment shall be reported to the Faculty Senate.

Commentary: The change in the language of elections is to ensure the current practice continues without confusion occurring in the future and to ensure alignment with the language in Motion A. The change in the name of resources manager to counsel is to clarify and emphasize the original intent of this position. At the time this position was created we could not determine a good name for the position and finally settled on the term resources manager for lack of a better term. After the amendment was approved, a law professor brought the term special counsel to our attention as a more appropriate term but it seemed too much trouble to send a constitutional amendment through just for that change. Now would seem to be a convenient time to make the change. The intent of the role is to primarily provide expert advice to the executive committee of the Faculty Senate. As a secondary role, since the person has the most need to have ready access to the records related to faculty governance, this person is to keep the executive committee's copy of these records. The main copy of the records are maintained in the archives in the Provost's Office and are the responsibility of the provost, who serves ex-officio as vice president of the Assembly.