

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
University Assembly Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2015 • 2:00 p.m.
Donaghey Student Center, Ledbetter Rooms A/B/C

MINUTES

I. Call to order

President Wright called the Assembly to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. Review of minutes

The minutes from the 1-15-2015 University Assembly meeting were approved as read.

III. Remarks by the Assembly President: Andrew Wright

A long hectic year in which many things were accomplished: launching three new colleges.

Spring 2015 saw us switch on the new core curriculum. Thanks to Belinda Blevins Knabe, who more than any other faculty member this year, deserves a great big raise.

Pres. Wright dug through all minutes in an effort to get the University's policies in line. Faculty Senate passed a record amount of legislation.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been tremendously hard-working this year. Denise Legrand is the rookie this year. She joined the Executive Committee as its parliamentarian and has been very active in the Committee on On-Line Education and the Faculty Governance Committee. She's up for re-election in CoALS next week ... so, Vote Denise!

Judith Faust has served diligently for many years as our Secretary and Council. Alas, this year, we're losing her to retirement. Richard Ford, our past-past-past president has been tremendously valuable to me for his counsel and support. He's passing on to emeritus status as well.

Beth McMillan has served for two years as Secretary. She may be one of the more over-worked members of the executive committee with a full teaching load and now interim chair of earth sciences.

Joanne Matson has taken increasing duties as Vice President. She helped me through December's dust-up over eVersity and in vetting all the legislation that has come out of executive committee before it gets onto an agenda.

Thank you all for making me look good!

Future different from our past. Many significant decisions to be made in the coming months. A university is a crucible of ideas—our goal is always to identify the truth of a situation. Shared governance splits the responsibility, and makes for better decisions. May take longer, may be from time to time a little contentious. As long as we keep the institution's best interests in mind through all we do, the University will fare well in the good hands of its faculty and staff.

IV. Remarks by the Provost: Zulma Toro

Celebrating 2014-15 accomplishments: in spite of challenges, you continue to excel at what you do best. Grateful for another extraordinary year: singled out the president, the exec comm, and every committee and task force for moving us closer still to the top tier.

Highlights of the year: Creation and development of the three new colleges, the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences; the College of Education and Health Professions; and the College of Social Sciences and Communication. Partnerships with two-year colleges: New center at Hope.

Student success: Scholarship programs, year-round advising. New center for online education bringing together the 11 fully online programs, and making flat tuition rates available to all students enrolled in them.

Began Charles W. Donaldson Summer Bridge Academy. All graduates of the Academy bypassed at least one developmental class. Concurrent enrollment programs: ID'd how many students are coming to us from them.

CoEHP is developing a student success center for the College. CSSC has a Student Success coordinator. CEIT had a career fair run by students; attracted 44 companies. CoALS has been focused on training faculty and staff in advising. Grad School admission went paperless this year. 315 application in 2013. In 2014, 500 applications. This year, 542 applications.

MidSOUTH has received two grants IV-E \$6M, another for \$2.5M. Internal research grant competition yielded two proposals awarded \$25K a year for two years.

The resource alignment process yielded \$2.4M budget reductions from academic and non-academic units recommended to the chancellor.

V. Remarks by the Chancellor: Joel Anderson

To Senates, we've gotten some really good, hard work this year. Thanked the provost for a substantive and rich presentation. Thinking back to early 2013 when he asked her to head up a restructuring process. It really is getting close to over. Seeing a number of things we've talked about over the years and just not gotten around to, and now they're coming to fruition.

Rumor: the chancellor's taking music lessons? Practicing every hour on the hour? No. That's the new Carillon bells.

Introduced two people from the Department of Athletics. Chase Conque, Athletic Director, and Chris Beard, new men's basketball coach.

Received the provost's budget recommendations a few days ago. Promised to do his best to act on them very quickly. Expects to have done so by early next week.

Health insurance update: Our system-wide plan is going to require a significant increase in both premiums and employee contributions. Premiums will rise noticeably. Two slightly mitigating factors are that people who want to change from the PoS to the classic plan can do that July 1, and the numbers are a little bit better than the numbers most of you saw in earlier presentations. The new arrangements will favor employee-no-dependents plan and one parent with children.

Last week has brought a torrent of good news about student accomplishments. Bronwyn McFarlane's project—more than 200 students involved. Also the Earth Day announcements from Kim Tran. Abused Geeks competing in the U.S. Imagine Cup competition. About women's volleyball and basketball teams. Film Festival involvement. Ethics Bowl participation.

Longer list, even, of accomplishments by individual departments. Wants to highlight a few. Many have at their center high-impact learning experiences for students. Not to say they haven't happened in the past, but it's clear they're happening far more often these days.

VI. Community Connections Center: Lillie Wichinsky

Completed a survey of community engagement activities on the campus and a strategic planning process. Final report to be presented in the fall.

New website as a resource for the university community has been set up (ualr.edu/community/).

Career Services offering a number of workshops—all filling up—on topics that matter to job seekers, such as resume writing and interviewing.

Children's International, Promise Partnership, and University District will be our central focus.

VII. Old Business

- A. Motion FS_2014_17. Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority Vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. Second Vote.) Term of senators (no second required)

That the section of Article III of the Constitution specifying Elections of Faculty senators be changed as follows:

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.

Members shall serve two-year, staggered terms.

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

Commentary: It is assumed throughout article III that Faculty Senators serve a two-year term. However, it is never explicitly stated. It is strongly implied under By-Laws: Vacancies, which states “Seats in the Faculty Senate ... that become vacant during the academic year shall be filled for the remainder of that year from a list of alternates maintained by the Executive Committee, and for the next year (if required) by special election....” However, in governance documents, it is better to explicitly state what is intended, rather than rely on implicit interpretation.

Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

- B. Motion FS_2014_22: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. Second Vote.)

Modify article IV of the Constitution of the UALR Assembly to add the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies, as follows:

Responsibilities of colleges and schools are as follows:

- 1 By secret ballot to elect representatives and one alternate for each representative to the Faculty Senate, the Undergraduate Council, the Graduate Council, the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies, the Committee on Tenure, and the Appeals Council. Election as an alternate will be for a one-year period only, and an alternate will serve only in the event of a vacancy. Each college or school will provide a list of alternates (by position) to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate on an annual basis.
- 2 To study college or school curricula. Each college or school shall establish its own curriculum process. Routing of curriculum and program proposals shall follow the procedures outlined in the description of the Undergraduate Council, the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies, and the Graduate Council.

Commentary: When the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies was added as a Council of the Faculty Senate, the statement on general routing of curriculum was missed in the modifications. This addition will clarify the curricular process.

Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

- C. Motion FS_2014_30: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. Second Vote.)

Modify Article II and Article III of the constitution of the UALR Assembly to:

Article II

Amending the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution of the UALR Assembly may be proposed by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate, provided a quorum is present, or by a petition signed by thirty (30) members of the UALR Assembly and presented to the office of vice chancellor and provost. Ratification of amendments shall be by three-fifths vote of the Assembly, provided that quorum is present, at two consecutive meetings of the Assembly. The motion on the second vote must be verbatim the motion passed in the first vote and is not amendable. At least ten (10) calendar days must elapse between the first and second meetings of the Assembly. No final vote shall be taken on a proposed amendment until it has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Assembly

and published as part of the agenda for two consecutive Assembly meetings, except that provisions concerning the composition of Assembly committees and councils shall be amended by action at one Assembly meeting in accordance with the above procedures.

The Faculty Senate shall have the power to amend provisions concerning the creation, abolishment and composition of Faculty Senate councils and committees as specified under *Article III, The Faculty Senate, Councils and Committees of the Faculty Senate*. The Staff Senate shall have the power to amend provisions concerning the creation, abolishment and composition of Staff Senate committees as specified under *Article V, Composition and Functions of the Staff Senate*.

Whenever the University changes an administrative title, the corresponding title may be changed in this document through majority vote of the Faculty Senate at one meeting provided that a quorum is present and that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and published as part of the agenda for that Faculty Senate meeting.

Proposed amendments must be considered during the regular nine-month academic year.

...

Article III

The Faculty Senate Councils and Committees of the Faculty Senate

Amendments concerning Faculty Senate councils or committees may be proposed by any member of the Faculty Senate. Ratification requires a three-fifths vote of the Faculty Senate at two meetings during the regular nine-month academic year provided that a quorum is present and that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and published as part of the agenda for that Faculty Senate meeting. The motion on the second vote must be verbatim the motion passed in the first vote and is not amendable.

Commentary: At the first Senate meeting of the Fall 2014 semester, both of these issues arose. A point of order was raised regarding the need for verbatim motions on the second of two votes. Since the current language is vague, it is preferred to tighten it up. The second issue regarding administrative titles was raised at the same meeting, where a motion to explicitly change titles was withdrawn. The constitution does not provide a convenient means of changing administrative titles other than the amendment process, so it is desirable to lower the threshold on how this amendment may be accomplished.

Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

- D. Motion FS_2014_31: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. Second Vote.) (Action to be submitted to the University Assembly for ratification at two consecutive Assembly meetings.)

Modify Article III of the constitution of the UALR Assembly to:

Article III

The Faculty Senate Composition of the Faculty Senate

...

The faculty of each of the aforementioned colleges or schools with ten (10) or more faculty shall be entitled to elect a minimum of one senator, with additional Faculty Senate seats apportioned on the following basis: a second Faculty Senate seat for those colleges or schools with twenty (20) to twenty-nine (29) full-time faculty; a third Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with thirty (30) to thirty-nine (39) full-time faculty members; a fourth Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with forty (40) to forty-nine (49) full-time faculty members; a fifth Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with fifty (50) to fifty-nine (59) full-time faculty members; and so forth for each additional ten (10) full-time faculty. *The Faculty Senate will be reapportioned every two years, prior to Faculty Senate elections, by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, based on current information as to the number of full-time faculty members in each college or school. If a new college or school is created in the year between reapportionments, the Faculty Senate shall be reapportioned prior to Faculty Senate elections in that interim year.* The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall assign faculty members of units not otherwise represented in the Faculty Senate to a single unit solely for purposes of representation in the Faculty Senate provided that such full-time faculty members number twenty (20) or greater; otherwise, the Executive Committee shall, subject to challenge on the floor of the Faculty Senate, assign such faculty members to one or more units that are represented in the Faculty Senate, such assignment being solely for purposes of representation in the Faculty Senate. When a single unit is created for purposes of representing faculty members of units not otherwise represented in the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate has the responsibility for supervising elections to the Faculty Senate from this unit.

Commentary: There have been two instances since 1999 where a new college was added during a year between apportionments. Strictly following the constitution would require that those colleges would not have had representation until the following year. In both cases, the Faculty Senate has acted to prevent that problem from occurring. This amendment will protect against such a problem in the future.

Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

VIII. New Business

There is none.

IX. Open Forum

A. Discussion of Judicial Appeals Processes

A motion to substantially amend all judicial appeals policies has been brought before the Faculty Senate (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate/files/2013/12/Faculty-Sen-Agenda-03-13-16_v3.pdf at the very end.) The motion was postponed until the committees that implement judicial appeals on campus could review the documents and until the campus community had a chance to discuss the matter. This open forum is the campus's chance to weigh in on judicial appeals.

President Wright invited Faculty Senator Pete Tschumi to speak to this matter since he had introduced the postponed motion. Sen. Tschumi recounted his historical perspective on these issues, observing a need to carefully elucidate the principles that underpin our judicial

policies and to define as precisely as we can the terms used in the policies. He proposes a major reorganization of the policy in our current policy documents, one that would help us both understand and apply the policies better in the future.

He expressed his hope that we will see in the fall an inclusive process of planning for amending our judicial appeals processes.

X. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 3:30 p.m.