



Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 11, 2016

1:00 PM until adjournment

DSC B&C

I. Welcome and Roll Call

II. Review of Minutes

III. Reports

- A. eVersity Update – Michael Moore
- B. Provost’s Report – Zulma Toro
- C. Council on Core Curriculum and Policies – Belinda Blevins-Knabe
- D. Undergraduate Council – Mike Tramel
- E. Graduate Council – Brian Berry
- F. Faculty Governance Committee – Pete Tschumi
- G. Chief Information Officer – John Rathje

IV. Old Business

- A. **Motion FS_2016_8.** Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Legislation. Requires majority vote at two Faculty Senate meetings, second vote, no second required) Membership of the Admissions and Transfer of Credit Committee

Be it resolved that Article III: Appointed Committees (Admissions and Transfer of Credit Committee) of the Faculty Senate of the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock be modified (underline indicates addition, ~~strikethrough indicates deletion~~),

The committee shall consist of ~~ten~~ one full time faculty members from each college/school represented in the Faculty Senate, including the Ottenheimer Library and excluding the Bowen School of Law, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees of the Assembly, two student members appointed by the Student Government Association, and, as ex officio without vote, the administrative officer in charge (or designee) of the Office of Transfer Student Services, University College/~~academic advising~~, and the Office of Testing services, and, as ex officio with vote, the Director of Admissions (or designee) and the Registrar (or

designee). The Director of Admissions's designee shall coordinate the processing of materials for the committee. serve as Coordinator for the Admissions Committee proceedings. The ~~ten~~ faculty members shall serve two year staggered terms ~~and there shall be a minimum of one faculty member from each College, except the Bowen School of Law, and a maximum of three faculty members from any one College. All members of the Committee are voting members. All other members shall serve a one year term.~~

And Be it Resolved that the committee will be reformed immediately and the terms of committee members will be staggered by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

And Be it Resolved that the President of the Faculty Senate will call an organizational meeting for purpose of electing a chair before the end of the Spring 2016 semester.

Commentary: The committee is too large to function effectively. The faculty membership restrictions can make it difficult for the Committee on Committees to assign the committee in one meeting. Bringing the number of faculty members and their method of representation into line with the method used for most of the other appointed committees resolves this issue. Once the number of faculty members becomes smaller, the ex officio representation needs to be adjusted so that faculty maintain a majority of the committee.

Changing from Admissions's to Admissions' was necessitated by a review of current style. The President of Faculty Senate's style manual was deemed by a majority of the executive committee to be out-of-date.

The section about being "Coordinator of the Admissions Committee proceedings" was confusing. Does this mean the Director of Admissions is chairing the committee? Although practice has made it clear that this is not the case and the Senate by-laws require committees to be chaired by a faculty member, the ambiguity in the language in the committee description needed to be fixed.

Since the new committee needs to be empaneled to function for summer 2016 and since the faculty membership will reduce, it is important that these changes be instituted before adjourning for the academic year.

V. New Business

- A. Motion FS_2016_10.** Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Legislation. Requires majority vote at one Faculty Senate meeting, no second required) Place a constitutional amendment on the assembly agenda (enable eVoting for Assembly committees)

Be it resolved that the following be added to Article I: Bylaws of the University Assembly of the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock:

eVoting: Committees of the Assembly may render decisions on matters of routine business through asynchronous electronic means such as email (hereafter referred to as eVoting) provided the committee follows the approved operating procedures by which it will conduct eVoting. Operating procedures for eVoting must be approved by the Faculty Senate.

The deliberative process is the foundation of sound democratic governance. It is critically important that the use of eVoting is done in such a way that it does not undermine this process.

B. Motion FS_2016_5. Faculty Senate Executive Committee, referred to Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (Legislation. Requires majority vote at one Faculty Senate meeting, no second required)

Be it resolved that the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies recommends approval of Motion FS_2016_5 with the following change (strikethrough indicates deletion, underline indicates addition):

No information identifying a student may be recorded in student ~~teaching~~ evaluations of teaching or programmatic assessment data.

No information identifying the course instructor, including section information, may be recorded in programmatic assessment data.

Commentary: In order to improve the honesty of evaluation, it is important to protect the anonymity of an evaluator in areas where the evaluator might feel that retaliation could ensue, especially if the evaluation is negative. Further, data collected for program improvement should be constructed differently than data collected for teaching evaluation. Misapplying these data in other venues will result in skewing the data itself and making it meaningless for either purpose.

The principles of blind data analysis have long been established in the sciences, in particular particle physics, where confirmation biases can skew conclusions toward preferred theories. Robert McCoun and Nobel prize winning physicist Saul Perlmutter have argued that these principles be applied to other venues of data collection and analysis, including the social sciences (Nature, 10/8/2015, v 526, 187-189).

The consequences of skewed programmatic assessment data, with the likely bias being “we’re doing just fine,” can lead to disastrous results for the institution which fails to correct curriculum when outcomes are not being achieved.

C. Motion FS_2016_11. Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (Legislation. Requires majority vote at one Faculty Senate meeting, no second required) Modify operating procedures of Council on Core Curriculum and Policies

Be it Resolved to modify the operating procedures of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (legislation FS#2012-13_11) as follows (strikethrough indicates deletion, underline indicates addition)

Operating Procedures for the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies

A. The UALR Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (henceforth 'Council') a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, will be responsible for:

~~1. Adapting the Ad Hoc Criteria Committee's report to accommodate the curricular areas of~~

~~the UALR Standard Core and the College Cores:~~

- ~~• English/Communication Written;~~
- ~~• Fine Arts;~~
- ~~• Humanities;~~
- ~~• Social Sciences;~~

- ~~Mathematics;~~
- ~~Science;~~
- ~~English/Communication Spoken~~

- ~~1. 2.~~ Maintaining the criteria for determining whether a course is appropriate to satisfy a curricular area in the UALR Standard Core;
- ~~2. 3.~~ ~~Developing and~~ Maintaining a submission and approval process for UALR Standard Core course inclusion;
- ~~3. 4.~~ Developing and maintaining a re-approval process, including a timeline, for UALR Standard Core course continuation;
- ~~4. 5.~~ ~~Developing and~~ Maintaining a plan to assess educational outcomes of the UALR Standard Core;
- ~~5. 6.~~ Overseeing college/program course inclusion beyond the UALR Standard Core to ensure the coursework meets the State Minimum Core;
- ~~6. 7.~~ Providing a detailed, written review to submitters for all decisions;
- ~~7. 8.~~ Granting exemptions to the UALR Standard Core requirements to programs, where appropriate, as outlined in part C.
- ~~8. 9.~~ Developing application and exemption forms reflecting these guidelines.

B. Operating procedures of the UALR Council on Core Curriculum and Policies

1. Any course already approved by UGC is eligible to be considered for inclusion in core. Any new or modified courses must first be approved by UGC before being considered for inclusion in core.
2. No ~~chair~~, assistant dean, associate dean, dean, vice provost or vice chancellor shall serve as a voting member of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies.
- ~~3. Given the 3-year terms for faculty, one-third of the initial faculty members will serve for one (1) year, one-third for two (2) years and one-third for three (3) years, to be determined by lot.~~
4. The members of the Council will annually elect the chair from among its members, with the term of chair being one (1) year. A Chair-elect will also be elected annually. ~~Chairs may succeed themselves for a total of three (3) terms.~~
5. The Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall provide staff support to the committee, scheduling meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and providing such other support as may be required.
6. Student input is valuable for developing and maintaining the UALR Standard Core. If the numbers of elected undergraduate students willing to serve are less than the number of positions to be filled, then nominations for these positions will be solicited from the university community.

7. The Council will report regularly to the Faculty Senate and university community, with the actions taken at each meeting disseminated through the provost's office within five business days of each meeting.
8. If the Council rejects an application, the committee must provide a detailed, written explanation to the author(s) explaining why the proposal was not accepted. The author(s) may address the Council's concerns and resubmit the proposal within the same semester to the Council; said course will not need to be resubmitted to the Undergraduate Council. If the resubmission is not accepted, the author(s) may appeal the decision of the Council to the Faculty Senate. The author(s) will apply in writing to the Executive Committee within 10 business days of the notification of the Council's decision. The final decision on course inclusion resides with the Faculty Senate.
9. This document may be amended by a 2/3 affirmative majority vote of those members of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies present and voting, provided a quorum is present, and ratification of those changes by the UALR Faculty Senate.

C. Appeals for Exemptions to the UALR Standard Core

1. Individual programs or departments may appeal to the Standard Core Curriculum Council to be exempted from all or part of the UALR Standard Core requirements when implementing the UALR Standard Core would:
 - a. conflict with accreditation requirements;
 - b. increase program requirements to more than 120 hours for graduation or further increase the total number of hours for graduation for programs which have received approval from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to require more than 120 hours;
 - c. otherwise bring the program into conflict with state law, Board policy, or University policy.
2. Exemption request must include relevant documentation demonstrating how the UALR Standard Core conflicts with any of the above (1.a.-1.c.) including but not limited to: detailed accreditation requirements, ADHE/Board/University policies, state law, etc.
3. The Council may choose by a majority vote to grant exemptions for one to four years or an unlimited exemption. During the final year of the exemption, the department or program may reapply for an exemption, at which point the Council may grant them one additional temporary exemption of no more than two years or make the exemption permanent or deny them any further exemption. Permanent exemptions should be granted only in cases where it would not be possible to bring the program's or department's requirements in line with the UALR Standard Core without creating problems with accreditation, total hours, state law, or relevant policy, as outlined above. Exemptions would be permanent so long as there are no significant changes to the program curriculum.

4. If the Council rejects an application for an exemption, the committee must provide a detailed, written explanation to the author(s) explaining why the application was not approved. The author(s) may address the Council's concerns and resubmit the proposal within the same semester. If the resubmission is not accepted, the author(s) may appeal the decision of the Council to the Faculty Senate. The author(s) will apply in writing to the Executive Committee within 10 business days of the notification of the Council's decision. The final decision on exemptions resides with the Faculty Senate.
5. In the case of persistent exemptions of groups of programs, the Council will examine the UALR Standard Core and may recommend changes to the UALR Standard Core which may resolve these persistent exemptions.

Commentary: The start-up provisions in the operating procedures need to be removed, since they have been completed. The modification clause needs to be fixed, since the language requires 2/3 of the entire Core Council, which is impractical. The term limit on the chair can be removed, since the Constitution defines a two term limit on the members. The Operating procedures were passed before the constitution was modified to include this Council, so the chair term limit is redundant.

VI. Report from Workload Task Force – Christy Drale

VII. Open Forum

VIII. Adjourn