



## FACULTY SENATE

### Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

February 23, 2018

1:00 PM until adjournment

DSC B/C

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes
- III. Airing of Grievances (2 minute limit)
- IV. Introduction of New Topics (2 minute limit)
- V. Announcements
  - A. Suicide Prevention Walk - Mike Kirk
- VI. Reports
  - A. Executive Committee - Andrew Wright
  - B. Faculty Governance Committee - Rosalie Cheatham
  - C. Committee on Tenure - Jim Vander Putten, Rob Steinbuch
  - D. Chancellor's Report – Andrew Rogerson
  - E. Provost's Report – Velmer Burton
  - F. Graduate Council – Brian Berry
  - G. Council on Core Curriculum and Policies – Belinda Blevins-Knabe
  - H. Undergraduate Council – Mike Tramel
- VII. Old Business
  - A. **Motion FS\_2017\_26** . Executive Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority Vote at two Meeting, no second required, second vote) Create a Buildings and Grounds Committee

**Buildings and Grounds Committee:** The purpose of this committee shall be to insure protection of the natural and aesthetic environment of the UA Little Rock campus consistent with reasonable growth and development of the campus. The committee shall promote beautification of the campus through a continuous review of landscaping, building and signage appearance, and campus roads and paths. The committee shall recommend on plans for new campus construction, and shall recommend to the

chancellor steps that should be taken to preserve the natural environment and beauty of the campus. The committee shall periodically review the campus master plan.

The committee shall consist of one member from each college or school represented in the faculty senate, including collections and archives, appointed to two year, staggered terms by the Committee on Committees; two members of the staff senate, selected by the staff senate to two year, staggered terms; two students appointed by the Student Government Association to one-year terms. The administrator in charge of planning buildings and grounds shall serve as an ex-officio member without vote.

#### VIII. New Business

- A. **Motion FS\_2018\_2.** Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority Vote at One Meeting, no second required) Grades and Grading System changes

Be it resolved to adopt the following Policy on Grades (404.13) and supercede all prior legislation on grades (1968 LRU bulletin; repeated grades: 12/8/1983, 5/8/1975, 5/2/1973; credit/no credit: 5/2/1973; incomplete: 2/26/1987 ):

##### Grades

Permanent letter-grades are here indicated, together with the grade-point value of each grade:

- A -- superior work ..... 4 grade points
- B -- good work, above average .... 3 grade points
- C -- average work ..... 2 grade points
- D -- passing work, below average ..... 1 grade point
- F -- failing work ..... 0 grade points

##### **Other grading symbols:**

Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) may be given in certain courses instead of the usual letter grades.

A student may elect to take no more than one course each semester on a CR/NC basis if the course instructor concurs provided this agreement is established at the start of the course. This course may not be used to meet the general education requirements, major requirements, or minor requirements. Courses in which a department requires CR/NC grading are not included in this limitation. (5/2/1973)

W -- withdrawal during the early period of a course (see Attendance and Withdrawal Policy, 404.4).

I -- incomplete course work

The designation, *I*, or incomplete, is appropriate where the instructor deems that circumstances beyond the student's control prevented timely completion of course

requirements. The designation is given by the instructor only after consultation with the student and after the student has been informed in writing of the work to be completed and the date by which the work must be completed; additionally, a copy of the written notice must be filed with the department chairperson.

The work must be completed and the I converted by the instructor to the appropriate grade by the date grades are due during the next academic semester (fall or spring) for undergraduate courses, and within one year from the date grades were due for graduate courses. The I will expire and be administratively changed to an F on the first business day following the above periods if the instructor does not convert the incomplete grade or submit an extension request within the allowable timeframes. A request to extend the deadline to complete an I must be completed by the instructor and forwarded to the Office of Records and Registration prior to the expiration date. The extension request must include a specific date by which all course work will be completed.

Regardless of any extensions that may have been granted, an unconverted I grade will expire and be administratively changed to an *F* on the first business day following the date grades are due in the term immediately prior to graduation.

#### **In Progress (IP) Grade - graduate only**

An In Progress grade (IP) is used for thesis, dissertation, or other similar classes that have a time obligation that is longer than the traditional semester or session. IP indicates that the student is making satisfactory progress in that class. Students who do not make satisfactory progress will be granted no credit (NC). The instructor assigning the IP grade will replace it with a letter grade that reflects the quality of the finished work. In unusual circumstances, such as a student not finishing the obligation in a length of time deemed reasonable by the professor or the professor assigning the grade being unable to change the grade, the graduate coordinator, after consulting with the Graduate School dean, may change the grade to CR in the CR/NC scheme or A-C in the A-F scheme. The IP grade is distinct and different from the Incomplete (I) grade. The IP grade is not calculated into the grade point average. IP grades will be administratively converted to CR/NC or A-F, as described above, after six years have elapsed.

#### **Repeated Grades**

If a student repeats a course for credit, only the last occurrence of the course shall be counted toward credit hours or cumulative grade points, except in circumstances of academic integrity.

#### **Changing Grades**

The course instructor has the responsibility for assigning grades. In the event that an instructor cannot issue a grade, the chair of the department offering the course may issue the grade.

Grades must be submitted to the Registrar by the date assigned in the academic calendar (see Calendar and Schedules Policy, 404.11). If the grade has not been entered by this deadline, the symbol MG (missing grade) shall be entered. Missing

grades should be changed to a final grade no later than five business days after grades were due.

Grades may be changed through the Grade Appeal process, through the conversion of an Incomplete to a grade, through the conversion of an IP to a grade, through the replacement of a repeated course, and through the Grade Change Process.

Grade Change Process: Under some circumstances not covered by an Incomplete or In Progress, a grade may be changed by the course instructor through submission of a grade change request. The request must be reviewed by the chair of the department offering the course. A grade may not be changed on the basis of a second final examination or additional course work undertaken or completed after the grade was issued.

### **Reporting Grades**

The schedule and method of reporting grades to the student are determined by the Registrar's Office.

**Commentary:** Many changes have occurred in the Grades and Grading System since the last time the faculty reviewed them (LRU, 1968). Some of these changes can be seen in Faculty Senate legislation (e.g., the incomplete legislation, 2/26/1987), but many changes cannot be found in Faculty Senate legislation.

This legislation is intended to reconcile current practices and fix a few issues, such as Spring incomplete grades being resolved in the summer when faculty are off contract and issues related to resolving situations where grades have not been issued.

- B. **Motion FS\_2018\_3.** Committee on Tenure (Legislation. Majority Vote at One Meeting, no second required) Adopt a variation on the Chicago Statement for Academic freedom

**Be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock hereby adopts the following operating principles:

### **STATEMENT ARTICULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK'S OVERARCHING COMMITMENT TO FREE, ROBUST, AND UNINHIBITED DEBATE AND DELIBERATION AMONG ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY**

Our students and faculty have the right to discuss any problem that presents itself. This right is grounded in long-standing principles of academic freedom and is reflected in university accreditation standards. The "cure" for ideas we oppose lies through open discussion rather than through inhibition. Free inquiry is indispensable to the good life, universities exist for the sake of such inquiry, and without it they cease to be

universities. This is the essence of critical thinking that provides society and individuals with progress.

Education is not intended to make people comfortable; it is meant to make them think. Universities are expected to provide the conditions within which hard thought, and therefore strong disagreement, independent judgment, and the questioning of stubborn assumptions, can flourish in an environment of the greatest freedom.

The ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is inappropriate for the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University community greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can *never* be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. But the University may legally restrict the substance of expression only when it explicitly violates the law, i.e., when speech falsely defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat or actual harassment, or invades legally recognized privacy interests. In addition, reasonable time, place, and manner regulations are recognized as legal. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions *never* be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University's commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

The University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community or society at large to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. The individual members of the University community—not the University as an institution, its administration, nor any external constituency—are entitled to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

As a corollary to the University's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless

freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.

**Commentary:** Higher Learning Commission expects some statement regarding Academic Freedom on campus as part of Criterion 2.D “The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.” The Committee on Tenure has prepared this statement as an adaptation of the 2014 University of Chicago’s Committee on Freedom of Expression [“Report on Freedom of Expression.”](#)

IX. Open Forum

X. Adjourn