



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
University Assembly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2016 • 2:00 p.m.
Donaghey Student Center, Ledbetter Rooms A/B/C

AGENDA

I. Call to order

President Wright convened the meeting at 2:08

II. Review of minutes of August 13, 2015 minutes approved

III. New Business

A. **Motion FS_2016_10.** Faculty Senate (Legislation. Requires majority vote at one University Assembly meeting, no second required) Modify the Constitution to 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.

President Wright upheld ruling; no objections.

B. A Wright introduced **Motion FS_2016_10**. Modification of Constitution to allow e-voting by Assembly committees.

No discussion; AW calls vote: Motion carries.

C. Motion FS_2016_12. Faculty Senate (Legislation. Requires majority vote at two University Assembly meetings, no second required, first vote) Change Ottenheimer Library to Collections and Archives throughout the Constitution:

Be it resolved that the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock be modified to replace “Ottenheimer Library” with “Collections and Archives” throughout the document.

President Wright introduces: Vote called: Motion carries **3:00 on the Mp3**

IV. Election of President of the UALR Assembly and Faculty Senate

3:30 Dr. Toro introduced Dr Andrew Wright and Dr Joanne Matson as nominees. If no other nominations, we will proceed. Lists who may vote. Please distribute the ballots.

Remarks from the candidates:

Dr Matson: introduces self I am in Rhetoric and writing and have done research in law school and have a law degree and passed the bar exam. I have an interest in the writing disciplines - history of ed; marriages, kids, employment history; has served as administrator and faculty for decades; played an important role in online course development; developed pre-law program; would like for you to know the UALR I have known. We have a history of people working together to accomplish things. I have been involved as program development, admin bring a new perspective to the faculty senate after these years of many challenges. I have been here since 1983 - I can bring continuity and perspective because of my range and depth of experience here. I have been through budget crises, challenges, triumphs. I have been a student much like our students now, working and raising children while working on my degrees.

I can serve as a communicator. This role must communicate with fac, admin and staff – a lynchpin to get information out to all. Must receive and distribute info accurately and

timely. If we do not get a clear message from someone, we tend to fill in the gap with negatives and never have a chance to come together.

We can succeed by returning to the principles of our past; more communication, more collaboration etc. I will do what I can to make that happen.

16:20

Dr Wright: We are a relatively young institution. We are being tested but this will make us stronger. I have been working on policies and will complete the task if allowed. Plans to take academic processes etc and document them wants to build cooperation and teamwork academia is a challenging now we transform lives we now have more and better schools modern learners are seeking good fit and we want UALR be their choice while honoring its history and values. With your support I will be happy to serve again.

Vote taken: Matson 37; Wright 91; Jacobson 1

V. Remarks by the Assembly President: Andrew Wright - I made my remarks earlier and invite the Provost

VI. Remarks by the Provost: Zulma Toro

Recognizes the winners of Faculty Excellence Awards, the UALR Bright Spots, new academic programs opened and changes made, based on evidence, that address the needs of the community. Reviewed Student Success.

VII. Remarks by the Chancellor: Joel Anderson

Inspired by ‘So what?’ don’t want to ride the retirement horse too hard but that will be my answer from now.

Ed Anson asks: Isn’t that a bit simplistic?

JA: So what?

(Editor’s note: this was a gag that Joel arranged with Ed before Joel took the podium.)

Budget: This year we are going to finish in the black – thanks to lots of folks all across campus. We all share in the achievement. Next year, we need to reduce our operating budget by not filling some open positions, we have done a good job of managing personnel and are on a good path. Offering another early retirement option. Personnel costs are where the main costs are and we will continue to do so.

Arkansas Works passed in the ledger so we will not be threatened by loss from that quarter.

What will the board of trustees do regarding tuition? [Comment on the legislative session: The Medicaid expansion discussion] it is not over til it's over -- what has gone on recently are initial activities so don't be discouraged; there will be several votes. There is much strategy to be played out. We are hoping for a pass because it is propitious for our budget.

We don't know of other machinations-- may be out there -- anticipate more drama but hope for the best. Failure to pass will mean cuts for us.

Bad/Good news: almost certainly going to have 2% increase in health insurance premiums but it appears that we will be able to request a tuition increase and I will ask for small raise for all. Board will not act on budget until after the legislative session, therefore probably not until June.

Sal Rinella recs: push for enrollment has already begun and the response is good. We are trying to increase the yield of apps that have come in and those who actually come and enroll. Aiming at 4% increase in enrollment and identifying things that are doable. There is much activity going on already that will be productive. Thanks for pitching in and it really is worth working on. Most of our students' decision time is coming due.

Invites retirement jokes: be nice to your kids, they could choose your nursing home.

I will miss the people the most and UALR has a bright future. 1:20:30

VIII. Open Forum

No comments

IX. Adjournment at 3:29 pm