FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 20, 2013 1:00 PM until Adjournment

Ledbetter A & B

MINUTES

Present: **CAHSS**—Corwyn, Estes, Giammo, Hawkins, Jensen, Matson, Minnick, Yoder; CB— Funk, Mitchell, Nickels; CE— Barrett, Vander Putten, Kuykendall; CEIT— Anderson, Cheng, Jovanovic, Tramel, Tschumi, Wright; LAW— none; LIBRARY— Macheak; CPS— Collier-Tenison, Faust, Franklin, Giese, Rhodes; COS— Benton, Douglas, He, LeGrand, B. McMillan, T. McMillan, Prince; EX OFFICIO—Toro Ramos, Ford, Wright

Absent: CAHSS— Amrhein, Anson, Drummond, Maguire, Merrick, Porter; CB– Watts ; CE— Hayn; CEIT—none; LAW – Fitzhugh, Foster, Gallant (alt. for Aiyetoro); CPS – Golden; COS— Chen, Zheng, Davidson; EX OFFICIO— Anderson, Bishop, McNeaill

I. Welcome and Roll Call

President Wright called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Secretary B. McMillan took roll.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the August 30, 2013, meeting of the Senate were reviewed. No corrections were identified. A motion to approve the minutes was moved, seconded, and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

III. Announcements

A. Election Results for Council on Core Curriculum and Policies and Time-line for Implementation of General Education Curriculum

President Wright began a brief progress report on the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies. The committee members have been duly elected. They are: CAHSS - Paul Yoder, Belinda Blevins-Knabe (Chair), COE -Anne Lindsay, Rascheel Hastings, CPS - Tusty ten-Bensel, Johanna Thomas, COS - Rebecca Streett, Fusheng Tang, EIT - Steve Minsker, Nick Jovanovic, COB - Joe Felan, Cindy Daily. Due to technical difficulties, he continued the report later (see notes at end of VII. New Business).

IV. Introduction of New Topics (2 min limit, no discussion)

No new topics were introduced.

V. Reports

A. Provost: Zulma Toro-Ramos

Provost Toro began by wishing us a good afternoon. She relayed Chancellor Anderson's regrets that he could not be here, as he was attending the presidential inauguration at Harding University.

In opening remarks, she reported that she recently met with Deans Council to discuss the roles that Academic Deans can play regarding the ongoing Core Curriculum process. She met with the Chairs Council earlier in the day regarding the implementation and approval process. She asked that their concerns and recommendations be considered as this process moves forward.

With respect to restructuring, she noted that all are asking "What is happening?" Her reply: "Today we are a day closer….. I will be happy after Oct 15." Since the last Faculty Senate meeting she has met with all college leadership teams, except COB about restructuring. She did not meet with the COB leadership team, as the COB will remain 'as is' based on recommendations from all three Restructuring task forces. She will meet with the Graduate Council next Wednesday. She concluded this part of her report by thanking all who have given feedback over the last 6 months. She realizes that some think the process has been too long, some think it has been too short, but "No matter what you think, we agree, opportunity is there for input." She also thanked Chancellor Anderson for allowing her to have input into moving UALR toward the goal of being "One of the Top Metropolitan, Community-Engaged, Research Universities among the 16 Member States of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)" and reiterated her commitment to the mission of the institution, regardless of the outcome of restructuring. At the next meeting of the Faculty Senate, she will report on the new college structures. She does NOT know yet what that will be – is still looking at alternatives.

Provost Toro announced the plan for the formation of a task force to develop an alternative degree completion pathway to help non-traditional degree–interrupted students. Currently we are not serving this population. She asked "Can we motivate them to finish a degree at UALR instead of elsewhere?" She will ask the task force to work with a time-line to begin at least one degree completion pathway for non-traditional degree-interrupted students by Fall 2014. Contact Karen Wheeler to be a part of the task force.

On the semi-hard hiring freeze, she explained that high priority hiring requests will come from the Deans, be forwarded to the Provost, who will forward them to the University Committee,

who will submit the recommendations to Chancellor Anderson. On September 30, 2013, the committee will consider the positions currently in the queue and forward their recommendations to the Chancellor.

Reporting on the Quality Initiative, the Provost referred to her report from the last Faculty Senate meeting defining Quality Initiative and its three committees. She is in the process of contacting the 16 folks that have been selected as nominees to serve on these committees. If you received an email yesterday/today – you are a nominee. She will share committee member names next week.

B. Undergraduate Council: Mike Tramel

Chairman Tramel reported that there was one order of business – a program change to the Bachelor of Music – Music Education.

C. Graduate Council: Mark Seigar

Chairman Seiger reported that 10 persons had been approved for graduate faculty status. The committee is still working on a graduate faculty status proposal. They hope to get it to the Faculty Senate by the end of the semester. They produced a document addressed to the Provost about academic restructuring and the Graduate School. The Provost is scheduled to attend the next Graduate Council meeting.

D. Ad Hoc Committee on On-line Higher Education – Greg Barrett

Co-Chairman Barrett reported that the committee met on Tuesday of this week. They reviewed the motion *FS 2013_6. Regarding Online et al. Programs.* After discussing the resolution, they developed a friendly amendment:

> Be it also resolved that all discussions of online education at UALR shall be considered matters of shared governance and shall involve faculty input at every stage of the process.

A vote was called and the resolution received the unanimous support of all the committee members present at the time the vote was taken. The committee strongly urged the Faculty Senate to adopt as amended.

Reporting on their progress, the committee met and worked through the summer. Scheduled meetings for the fall will be on Oct. 1, Oct. 17, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Nov. 26, and Dec. 10 in the STaR Training and Meeting Room (Dickinson 101) at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In July, the committee adopted a mission statement for online education at UALR. It is as follows:

> UALR is committed to empowering students through online educational experiences designed to prepare them for life long learning. It is committed to being a quality provider for cutting-edge online education.

The committee is currently in the process of conducting a SWOT analysis to determine the University's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in relation to online higher education. Based on the findings of the SWOT analysis they will be developing a list of faculty, staff, administrators, and other functionaries along with sets of questions for each that have emerged from the analysis. They will ask the questions of those functionaries during interviews designed to supplement, substantiate and/or challenge the conclusions of the committee's SWOT analysis.

The SWOT analysis will serve as the first step in developing recommendations for a strategic plan for the online, distance education instruction medium utilizing many of the possible strategies listed in the charge to the committee. The committee plans to have the initial analysis in the hands of the Faculty Senate by December 2, 2013 and to complete the remainder of the charge including submitting final recommendations to the Senate by March 31, 2014.

(notes in minutes paraphrased by Sec. McMillan from report submitted by Greg Barrett)

VI.Old Business

None

VII. New Business

A. FS_2013_6. Resolution regarding On-line, et al Programs

> Whereas the purview of the Faculty Senate includes responsibility for admission requirements, curriculum and courses, and degree requirements,

> Whereas the Chairs Restructuring Task Force, the Faculty Restructuring Task Force, and the Restructuring Steering Committee recommended that on-line programs be moved under Academic Affairs,

> Whereas the administrative and academic restructuring provides a convenient opportunity to address structural asymmetries,

> Whereas accreditation of programs may be affected by these structural asymmetries, and

> Whereas there is a general sentiment among the faculty at large,

> Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that on-line programs, accelerated programs, and concurrent programs be administered and governed from Academic Affairs under the leadership of an academic administrator.

The motion was made by Archivist Judith Faust on behalf of the executive committee. No second was required.

Tschumi- point of order – should list in the agenda that the motion comes from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Friendly amendment accepted – insert **"all academic programs including"** before '"on-line programs, accelerated programs and concurrent programs"

Senator Barrett was recognized and submitted the friendly amendment from the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Higher Ed to be inserted at the end of the resolution.

> Be it also resolved that all discussions of online education at UALR shall be considered matters of shared governance and shall involve faculty input at every stage of the process.

Jenson – should it say 'at every stage'? This phrase gives some pause.

Barrett – It would be a violation of process if changes were made without faculty involvement – is not shared governance

Matson – agree – 'every stage' means any time online et al talked about – needs faculty involvement.

Macheak – made reference to UALR - Academic Partners (AP) deal – not everyone knew about it (AP) until after the fact.

Jovanovic – suggests a change – 'at every stage of the 'decision' making process.

Giammo – instead of all 'discussions of online ed' – should be at all stages of 'decisions concerning online education'

Funk – why limited to 'online'- erase word 'online'; instead of 'faculty' include 'appropriate faculty'.

Estes – with respect to AP, faculty was involved - change from faculty to 'Faculty Senate'

Faust – intent is not to hamstring process, it is to get appropriate input – not comfortable with change to 'Faculty Senate' – trying to get at meaningful faculty involvement.

Yoder – this addresses University Policy making – this issue was a done deal. Colleges should be able to make own decision, but when it is University Policy making… that is what we are trying to solve.

Ford – back up with some history – is more important to stop bad legislation than push good legislation. Maybe appropriate to take back resolution, withdraw it – then take it back, craft it, and return to Faculty Senate as a separate motion.

Barrett – in that case the whole resolution should be withdrawn, then both committees should work together.

Giammo – next Faculty Senate meeting is after Oct 15 restructuring. Do we need to finalize today?

Tschumi – what is motivation of original motion? what is motivation of amendment. Is intent to put pressure on Administration before decision on restructuring is made?

Faust - all three committees clear about putting online et al under Academic Affairs. Seemed appropriate to the Executive Committee to say "Yes, these should be under Academic Affairs." We know the Chancellor's deadline. For the Senate to have a voice, we need to consider it now. Comment to Ad Hoc committee –if amendment is withdrawn, it does not need to be amended to this resolution later. We can come up with another Motion addressing this issue.

Jovanovic –The main motion under consideration is guidance to the restructuring process. The amendment from the Ad Hoc committee is ongoing guidance – these should be separate.

Barrett – I withdraw the amendment.

Rhodes –in the last phrase -places online programs under the leadership of an 'Academic Administrator' – why?

Faust – No, not an endorsement of hiring another administrator – from the Restructuring Steering Committee –clear guidance to be not under a Vice Chancellor, but under a division of academics.

Tschumi – 'there is a general sentiment…' -leave that line out -

President Wright – removal of 'there is a general sentiment….' accepted as friendly amendment.

No further discussion

Motion carries on unanimous voice vote. The final motion is appended at the end of the minutes.

B. Discussion of Meta-Majors

Provost Toro returned to the podium to introduce the topic of Meta Majors. She stated the goal of wanting the input of the faculty regarding two items - Meta Majors, and requiring students to declare a major after a given number of credit hours.

She shared the background motivation beginning with some facts. First - it is well documented in the literature of higher education that having too many options is not good. Today's students want more of a prescribed path to a degree. Second – a large percentage of our students with more than 100 hours are NOT near degree completion. Many students need between 50-60 credit hours more to complete a degree. If students have a clear path to degree completion, they are more motivated to complete a degree. Not a secret that our degree completion and retention rates are among the lowest in this country. These rates impact directly our funding.

The Meta Major concept narrows down the possibilities for students. Every student is required to be in a Meta Major when they enter the institution - both transfer students and 1st time Freshman. See cited two examples (handout): Arizona State University – calls them Exploratory Tracks, they have 4. Every student is assigned to 1 track. Austin Peay (Tennessee) – has 9 pathways to degree completion, 8 of which are typical with one called 'Core' which is equal to undecided. Each pathway has a set curriculum for 2-3 semesters. Meta Majors will not replace majors. The student still must declare a major at some specified point and they can declare a major immediately on entering the institution.

The second thing to consider, is if we go with Meta Majors? Should there be a threshold before the student should finally declare a major?

Both the Meta Major and prescribed time to declare a major address retention rates and graduation rates. Can this be a way to market ourselves, as well?

Is the Meta Major idea something that we would like to consider? There will be a Taskforce. Some of you will be a part of the Taskforce.

Questions?

Jovanovic – at his undergraduate institution, the standard application form was to apply to the institute or college, not the University. The student is admitted to a particular college- they could change majors within the institute/college, but had to apply to, for example, the school of music if they wanted to change to a major in another college. – more rigid than Meta Major, but same idea.

Jensen – once new colleges are set, once college cores decided - Does that create Meta Major?

Toro – that is a way we could proceed

Tramel – are there other pathways?

Toro – Yes

Yoder- will there be an 'undecided' pathway? Toro – that is what Austin Peay does with 'core' pathway.

T. McMillan – will intensive advising be a part of this?

Toro – yes - advising - deliberate

T. McMillan - could there be testing for aptitude?

Toro - Yes

Jovanovic – troubles me – all of EIT programs require specific content? if they are in a Meta Major – the student may miss out on early program requirements.

Faust – student can just declare a major when admitted

Matson – Austin Peay example reflects that worry. They have asterisks and associated notes in the example pathways to help guide students who think they will go a certain way

T. McMillan – idea is to help get students into your major earlier than is occurring now

Toro - Daryl Rice will be putting together the appropriate task force. I would like to hear in favor, or not?

Pres. Wright – who would be the appropriate groups to start drafting legislative language - undergrad council?

The last item under New Business was a continuation of the Announcement of Election Results for Council on Core Curriculum and Policies and Time-line for Implementation of General Education Curriculum

President Wright displayed the timeline for the process on the overhead projector. Noted that it is a tight timeline that should be feasible. We have formed the Core Council, the members are working to develop the criteria to bridge the curricular areas to the educational outcomes. They have been tasked to bring something for debate at the next Faculty Senate Meeting. It will include some of the criteria. Hopefully all of the criteria will be ready for approval no later than the November meeting. President Wright might have to call a 2nd Faculty Senate meeting in October to meet this goal. Some courses are starting to be developed in the absence of criteria. As criteria get developed, might allow for courses to be developed.

Jovanovic – Math is under the College criteria. Once criteria are established, whoever wants to offer the course can offer it?

President Wright - Each College should contact departments – departments should contact colleges. Negotiations – communication – tools are out there to encourage offerings.

Jovanovic - College algebra and Quantitative math – comes up – so not a reason for those courses to appear in EIT math core. EIT will develop criteria for their higher level math. Other colleges have different requirements.

Douglas – Core courses will count toward anything. Core Council is approving criteria. They will approve courses that meet that criteria. The colleges will choose from those approved courses the ones that will be required for that college – for the College Core.

Tschumi – the Core Council will approve a set of science courses. The College will set the approved courses for their students.

Douglas – is committee using competencies developed last year?

President Wright - Yes

Yoder – Anything that fits the math slot for whatever department, within AHSS, those math courses will fit math requirements for any major.

Matson – science proposes current courses – liberal arts says – science course for non-science majors. Are you interested in developing such a course? If colleges want to see something else – go work with other departments to develop the course – courses can be developed in later years. Not all have to be developed and approved this year.

VIII. **Open Forum**

None

IX. Adjourn

T. McMillan moves to adjourn, motion carries on unanimous voting with feet.

Final version of Motion FS_2013_6. Resolution regarding On-line, et al Programs

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> **Whereas the administrative and academic restructuring provides a convenient opportunity to address structural asymmetries,**
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> **Whereas accreditation of programs may be affected by these structural asymmetries,**
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> **Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that all academic programs, including on-line programs, accelerated programs, and concurrent programs, be administered and governed from Academic Affairs under the leadership of an academic administrator.**