



FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

Friday, January 25, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting

Donaghey Student Center Ledbetter B&C

Article I. MINUTES

Present: **CAHSS**—Jo Anne Matson, Sarah Beth Estes, Paul Yoder, Julie Steel, Robert Corwyn, Allison Merrick, Ed Anson, Kris McAbee, Jess Porter. **CB**— Robert Mitchell, Steve Edison, Mark Funk, Jim Nickels, Mike Watts. **CE**—Gail Hughes, Greg Barrett, John Burgin. **CEIT**— Pete Tschumi, Andrew Wright, Gary Anderson, Nick Jovanovic, Mike Tramel, Chia-Chu Chiang. **LAW**—Chuck Goldner. **LIBRARY**—Karen Russ. **CPS**—Shannon Collier-Tenison, Amy Barnes, Avinash Thombre. **COS**—Marian Douglas, Lirong Zeng, Elizabeth Sloan Davidson, Qingfang He, Tom McMillan, Jingbiao Cui, Bennie Prince, Jay Sims, Denise Legrand. **EX OFFICIO**—Chancellor Anderson, Provost Toro, President Smith-Olinde.

Absent: **CAHSS**— George Jensen, Brad Minnick, Adriana Lopez-Ramirez, Erin Finzer. **CB** – none. **CE**—Amanda Nolen, Judy Hayn. **CEIT**—none. **LAW** – June Stewart, Kathryn Fitzhugh. **LIBRARY**—none. **CPS** – Judith Faust, Jim Golden, Sonny Rhodes. **COS**—Bryan Benton. **EX OFFICIO**—Past President Ford, Staff Senate President Turner, SGA President Mohsin.

I. Welcome and roll call

President Smith-Olinde welcomed the senators, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and invited Secretary Wright to call the roll.

II. Review of minutes

The minutes from 12/07/12 meeting were moved by Senator Tschumi, seconded by Senator Yoder, and approved unanimously on voice vote.

Senator Tschumi commented on the New Business section of the minutes, where President Smith-Olinde asked two questions (“Can adjunct faculty with affiliate status also chair a thesis committee? Can they serve on graduate council?”) and GC Chair Nolen responded with a single “No.” Senator Tschumi asked for clarification that Senator Nolen's response of “No” applied to both questions. It was clarified that the “No” meant

that Affiliate Status would not allow a faculty member to either chair a thesis committee or serve on graduate council.

III. Announcements

President Smith- Olinde welcomed the Senate back from winter break.

On Friday, Feb. 8, at 1:00 the senate will meet with the new Provost to discuss undergraduate education at UALR in dickinson 100 (auditorium).

The Provost's Office has been working on updating the faculty handbook. The draft came to the Governance Committee at end of last semester. Teh Committee is reviewing and should have an updated faculty handbook by middle of this semester.

IV. New Topics

none.

V. Reports

Chancellor's Report (Joel Anderson)

The Chancellor greeted the Senate and welcomed our new Provost, Dr. Zulma Toro.

The Chancellor indicated that there are two things causing concern.

Enrollment is down again and it looks like there is a 3% decline from a year ago. Reduced tuition revenues will cause adjustments for this semester. The outlook for next year is concerning.

Other institutions are getting a bigger slice of higher education pie. Since the pie isn't growing, this means UALR will get a smaller piece.

The second concern is the legislative session. The Chancellor indicated that he has never felt the institution faced three months of uncertainty like it is now. The storm clouds on the horizon have intensified at the state level.

UALR will deal with a bunch of higher education issues, such as guns on campus. The consensus at UALR is that guns on campus is a bad idea. While this opinion is not unanimous on this campus, it represents the Chancellor's view.

The state legislature is talking about cutting the income tax. If this revenue is not recovered, the state budget will shrink, and it will fall disproportionately on the higher education budget. Budgets for K-12, prisons, and an increasing medicaid allocation will get their share. There are not many items that can be cut after those items have been protected.

The Federal budget is a little more certain and optimistic than at this time last year. But, student aid got "kicked down the road" until about 3 months. This will affect UALR.

We need to work together to retain and enroll students. On-line credits have been helping us. We need to try to enroll more students into distance learning, since we have an advantage relative to other institutions.

The Academic Calendar Committee is trying to make adjustments to the calendar to make it more amenable to get online credits.

On the positive side, several major construction projects have concluded. The EIT building, new residence halls, The Nanotechnology Center, and the Student Services building are LEED certified at the GOLD level. We're getting kudos for being environmentally sensitive.

The Chancellor has not looked at the latest documents from the Undergraduate Curriculum Revision process, so his next comments are not relative to that document. He indicated that his evaluation criteria will be the simplicity and flexibility of the result, since the quality of the content is expected to be high. He plans to assemble associate deans and others who are involved in academic advising of students, to determine what kinds of ruts and bumps the new curriculum will cause.

The Chancellor reminded the Senate that UALR has a heterogenous population of students, which presents all manner of challenges. Many students are transfer students or have credit from other institutions. He worries about the time to degree. Sometime in past, Sandra took a snapshot of the undergraduate population and the average time from first course to last course was just under 10 years and the average graduate's age was just under 30. In 2011-2012, these numbers were recalculated with the result that it takes 9 years to degree.

The Chancellor indicated that he feels curriculum is important, but individual course quality is more important to overall quality.

The Chancellor indicated that it has been about 20 years since the academic organization of university had been reviewed, and it is time to see if we're optimally and efficiently organized.

When curriculum revision has been completed, the Senate should look at the curricular governance process. More autonomy needs to be delegated to individual colleges and schools. Historically, UALR's basic governance was set when it was the primarily liberal arts Little Rock University. Now, UALR has more professionally oriented training, and we need to make it easier for those programs to do their business and respond to their constituencies.

The Chancellor entertained questions from the Senate.

Senator Anson: why is enrollment dropping? (Chancellor: lots of reasons, many of them out of our control. Many institutions have been affected by changes in Pell grants. In Little Rock, demographic changes (for instance, the age of the population, the

migration to outlying cities) are all working to our disadvantage. Student housing is helping, and the communication campaign is helping. We've allocated more dollars to scholarships, and we've been more effective in how we use those dollars. But, this is cutting losses. Distance learning is helping, and, although concurrent enrollment is not bringing in student tuition, it is bringing in state dollars.

Another problem is that folks have unpleasant experiences with this campus. An example from when I went to St. Vincents'. The building was like a maze. I asked a nurse for directions, and the nurse walked me to my destination. The nurse said she took courses at UALR and didn't like it. Why? She felt like she had been treated poorly. When she ran into problem, her experience was that she felt the other person didn't care whether she was there or not. Dean Kahler should help with this. If we don't treat students like they're very important people, they're going to go somewhere else. The process by which a student joins UALR is complicated and arduous.

Senator Barrett: How would you implement the delegation of curricular process to the colleges? (Chancellor: the closest model in the state is UAF. Colleges and Schools have more autonomy than we have on this campus. Pros and Cons are debatable. We need to debate and reach our own conclusions.)

Provost report (Zulma Toro)

Provost Toro introduced herself to the Senate and indicated that she intended to meet with all the departments.

UALR has hired a new dean of the Law School who will start on July 1.

Has three areas where she will be working with the Executive Committee:

- a faculty task force to examine support and infrastructure for graduate recruitment and grant writing
- the role of faculty in supporting student success
- a quality initiative (started by the deans and interim provost) to help us move academic programs to a new level of excellence.

Would like faculty input on processes for quality initiative.

UGC Report (Mike Tramel)

UGC met this week and passed about 20 items from business, political science, and education. 6 new items will be reviewed next week. Nothing monumental, just basic prerequisites and course changes.

UGC Chair Tramel deferred the discussion of the 2nd baccalaureate degrees to Senator Jovanovic.

Senator Jovanovic: A number of rules regarding a student earning a 2nd baccalaureate degree are creating radically different paths to completion based on when the student takes the first degree. Right now, if a student takes the 2nd degree at same time as first degree, there's one set of rules. If student graduates with first degree and then

returns, there's a different set of rules, which lead to an additional 30 credit hours, even if those hours are unnecessary.

UGC Chair Tramel: There are also issues with degrees that have significant overlap, so that there may not be enough credit hours available in the curriculum to satisfy the extra 30 credit hours.

GC Report (Amanda Nolen)

none (Graduate Council had not met yet.)

Greendot (Sarah Beth Estes)

We engaged in an informational campaign last semester, and we visited a lot of departments. The anti-violence program will launch in 3 weeks. And after that we'll have GreenDot week.

The kind of violence that we're targeting is power-based violence, for instance stalking, bullying, physical violence, and cyber violence.

GreenDot is a symbol. Wherever there is violence, folks put a red dot on a map. GreenDot is the antidote. We're adapting a national program (Direct, Distract, Delegate) to put green dots on maps.

The approach is based on bystander theory. We're thinking about lots of stuff most of the time, so we're passive bystanders. We want to turn us into active bystanders. Here's a Direct example. You see a squabble that might escalate. Go over and say, "What's going on."

This is a Distraction. There was a fight in a New York City subway train, where the two combatants were punching and kicking each other. A third guy was hanging onto the overhead horizontal bar, eating a bag of chips. The bystander never looked at the combatants but kept getting in between them until guys quit fighting.

The third tactic is to Delegate. If you don't want to get in the middle of a couple of guys kicking each other, call public safety. If a colleague is having trouble, go over to Counseling Services.

GreenDot makes these activities deliberate and visible.

We train students in how to be an active bystander and how to look for signs of violence.

We have extended talks which are designed for a class room. If you need a substitute class, we'll use that time for this program.

We'll also have a faculty/staff toolkit to give you ideas about how you can make improvements.

Be kind, recognize how people are feeling, make UALR a better community for all of us. More than 90% of trainees had either experienced power-based violence or cared deeply about someone who had been exposed to this violence.

VI. New Business

none

VII. Old Business

Secretary Wright reviewed progress of the Senate through Motion FS 2012-13_2. The stopping point was to postpone Senator Jovanovic's motion to delete section 5, pending the Ad Hoc Criteria Committee's report, which was delivered to the Senate at the previous business meeting in December.

President Smith-Olinde indicated that the Executive Committee requested that Ad Hoc Committee's report be referred to the Executive Committee to put the content into amendments to the main motion.

Senator Tschumi: What will meeting with Provost do to this? (Pres. Smith-Olinde: I don't want to postpone by yet another meeting.)

Senator Yoder: Are we buying time? Will the Executive Committee take this report and return with a "bill?" Meantime we'll meet with provost, which may impact how we proceed. (Pres. Smith- Olinde Yes.)

Senator Anson: Is there another motion under new business? (President Smith-Olinde: I'll rule it out of order, since it affects the same section that FS 2012-13_2 modifies. We need to conclude that motion before taking up another motion that essentially does the same thing.)

Senator Yoder: when will the Executive Committee get this done? (Pres. Smith-Olinde: we'll start on this after this meeting, and we'll have a draft by the next senate business meeting.)

Senator Barrett: Could we get this by the 8th? (Pres. Smith-Olinde: we'll try.)

Senator Yoder moved that the Senate refer the Ad Hoc Criteria Committee's report to the Executive Committee to be converted to motions to amend FS 2012-13_2 by the Feb. 15 business meeting. Senator Tschumi seconded.

Senator Jovanovic requested that the Executive Committee also consider minority report in drafting its amendments.

Senator Burgin: Wasn't Senator Jovanovic's motion submitted to the Executive Committee before FS 2012-13_2? (Pres. Smith-Olinde: the Executive Committee put the FS 2012-13_2 on the agenda before Senator Jovanovic's motion. The Senate did not reorder the agenda to consider Senator Jovanovic's motion first.)

Senator Burgin: Let's just call a vote on Senator Jovanovic's motion.

Senator Tschumi: The Senate voted at the beginning of last semester to start this process. We need to respect the will of the Senate.

Senator Yoder's motion passed on voice vote with a couple of nays.

VII. Open Forum

None

VIII. Adjourn

At 2:21, the meeting was adjourned.