



## FACULTY SENATE

---

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 19, 2014

1:00 PM until Adjournment

DSC Ledbetter B&C

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes
- III. Announcements
- IV. Introduction of New Topics (2 min limit, no discussion)
- V. Reports
  - A. Chancellor's Report – Joel Anderson
  - B. Provost's Report – Zulma Toro
  - C. Council on Core Curriculum and Policies – Belinda Blevins-Knabe
  - D. Undergraduate Council – Mike Tramel
  - E. Graduate Council – Kent Layton
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Motion FS\_2014\_15. Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority Vote at Two Meetings. Second Vote) Faculty Research (committee) name change (no second required)

Change “Faculty Research” to:

Faculty Research Committee

This committee shall make recommendations to the Faculty Senate concerning research policies of a general nature and methods of encouraging research activity. Under the authority of the vice chancellor and provost, it shall award the faculty research grants. The committee shall consist of one full-time faculty member from each college and school represented in the Faculty Senate to be appointed by the Committee on Committees. Each member shall serve a two-year term, with the terms to be staggered to insure experienced representation.

**Commentary:** The committee which is referred to colloquially as the Faculty Research Committee does not include committee in its name, going back to the 1988 constitution.

## VII. New Business

- A. Motion FS\_2014\_16. Pete Tschumi (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting.) (Action to be submitted to the University Assembly for ratification at two consecutive Assembly meetings.) That the section of the constitution specifying the functions of the Faculty Senate be modified as shown below to add student affairs thereby bringing the constitution into alignment with Board of Trustee Policy 100.4

### **Functions of the Faculty Senate**

Within the framework of this Constitution, the authority of the UALR Assembly, and such governmental principles as are officially established for the University of Arkansas multicampus system, the Faculty Senate shall be, under the Board of Trustees, the legislative and advisory body on educational policies and programs on this campus. The Faculty Senate shall have the right to make recommendations on all matters that concern the educational mission and effectiveness of the University.

The areas of the Faculty Senate's legislative authority shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. Admission requirements
2. Curriculum and courses
3. Degrees and requirements for degrees
4. Calendar and schedules
5. Awards, honors and honorary degrees
6. Student affairs
7. Interpretation of its own legislation

In addition to its legislative authority and all actions taken under this authority, the Faculty Senate shall make comments and recommendations on matters of multicampus concern, directing them to the chancellor and, through the chancellor, to the president or other appropriate system-wide University authority. Similarly, the Faculty Senate shall make comments and recommendations on matters of UALR concern, directing them either to the chancellor alone or to both the chancellor and the president of the University of Arkansas, to be submitted by the president to the Board of Trustees.

**Commentary:** I do not know why this authority was not included in the constitution originally perhaps it was added to policy 100.4. Regardless as to why it is not there, it is one of the responsibilities of the faculty and should be included.

- B. Motion FS\_2014\_17. Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority Vote at One Meeting.) (Action to be submitted to the University Assembly for ratification at two consecutive Assembly meetings.) Term of senators (no second required)

That the section of Article III of the Constitution specifying Elections of Faculty senators be change to:

**Elections of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Officers**

Faculty Senate elections shall be by secret ballot, and shall be held before the end of the Spring semester of each year, the exact date to be determined by the dean of each college or school. Senators elected at these college or school meetings shall assume office at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year in August or September.

Members shall serve two-year, staggered terms.

During the first meeting of the academic year in August or September, the Faculty Senate shall elect its officers from the membership of the Faculty Senate.

**Commentary:** It is assumed throughout article III that Faculty Senators serve a two year term. However, it is never explicitly stated. It is strongly implied under By-Laws: Vacancies, which states “Seats in the Faculty Senate ... that become vacant during the academic year shall be filled for the remainder of that year from a list of alternates maintained by the Executive Committee, and for the next year (if required) by special election ...” However, in governance documents, it is better to explicitly state what is intended, rather than rely on implicit interpretation.

- C. Motion FS\_2014\_19. Ad Hoc Committee on Graduation Requirements (Upper Level) (Legislation. Majority Vote at One Meeting.) Fix the upper level requirement (second required)

Amend the 2012 Baccalaureate Degree Requirements Legislation from March 15, 2013, to reinstate the 45-hour upper-level degree requirement as a university requirement; and to revise the language about the 12 elective hours; and to revise the language about the major requirements in oral and written communication; research, ethics, and critical thinking; and technology so that it reads:

To receive a baccalaureate degree, a student must complete the following requirements:

- A minimum of 120 hours of which 30 hours must be in residence: and 45 hours must be upper-level. At least 15 upper-level hours must be completed in residence. A baccalaureate degree program may require more than 120 semester hours of college credit if prior approval has been granted by the Board of Trustees or it is a requirement of an independent licensing or accrediting body.
- Except ~~for~~ in majors that must adhere to standards established by national accrediting agencies, ~~majors must have a minimum of 45 hours of upper-level credit, at least 12 hours of which, chosen by the student, must come~~

~~from other departments, students must select at least 12 elective hours outside their program in addition to the Standard and College Core. and majors will include, as appropriate to the discipline~~

- ~~• a communication in the discipline course which covers writing and speaking;~~
- ~~• a course which covers research methods, ethics, and critical thinking, and~~
- ~~• instruction on technology within other required courses in the major~~
- Except in majors that must adhere to standards established by national accrediting agencies, major requirements must include courses or course-work either within or outside the department on
  - Oral and written communication in the discipline;
  - Research methods, ethics, and critical thinking;
  - Technology.

Commentary: The proposed revisions address the numerous problems that have been pointed out if one were to move the 45-hour UL requirement to the major. They address the confusion created in the 12-hour rule regarding departments that offer multiple programs, clarifying that these electives *can* come from the same department so long as they are not being used by the student to meet major requirements. Finally, they revise the language regarding the “skills in the major” requirement to resolve ambiguities and create parallelism.

The word “program” is chosen for the 12 elective hours instead of department or major.

The English major, for instance, has three programs: the standard track; the creative writing emphasis; and the secondary education track.

If we say that a student who is an English major taking the standard track/program must take 12 hours outside the major, that student would not be able to count the hours of a linguistic or creative writing minor towards that requirement because these classes are within the same department and major.

They are, however, not part of the program that falls under the general English track. This language would also work for the program that is the secondary education track within the English major, and it would importantly mean that a student in the creative writing emphasis track/program would not be able to minor in creative writing because it is already built in to their program.

Additionally, see Attachment X for May 9, 2014, Provisional Findings Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduation Requirements.

- D. Motion FS\_2014\_20. Faculty Senate Executive Committee) (Resolution. Majority Vote at One Meeting.) Establish an official faculty email listing for official communications (no second required)

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that an email list consisting of all members of the UALR Assembly be established and maintained for purposes of official communications. The authorized posters to this list must include the chancellor, the executive vice chancellor and provost, the UALR Assembly Executive Committee, and all associate vice chancellors and associate vice provosts. Additional authorized posters may be added at the discretion of the chancellor, the executive vice chancellor and provost, or the president of the UALR Assembly.

Commentary: Recent events have shown that reliable communication between the leadership of the university and the members of the assembly is important for good decision making. Facfocus and other lists are not reliable communication channels as they do not cover all the university assembly and they are routinely used for non-official communications.

#### VIII. Open Forum

- A. "Yellow Card" legislation parameters. This discussion will assist in setting the parameters of the legislation which should be brought in October.

#### IX. Adjourn