



## FACULTY SENATE

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### Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

Friday, October 17, 2014

1:00 PM until Adjournment

DSC Ledbetter B&C

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes
- III. Announcements
  - A. University Health and Wellness Committee is being removed due to failure to comply with constitutional modification procedures. If you want this committee, you need to notify the executive committee so that we can put it on the University Assembly agenda.
  - B. I'm looking to start an initiative to investigate day-care on campus. This effort needs a passionate leader who is willing to invest multiple years in the effort. If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact me.
  - C. Facilitating EMT access to campus
- 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\_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 list taken from Board of Trustee Policy 100.4, Chapter III, section 5.2:

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.

## VII. New Business

- A. Motion FS\_2014\_23: Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting.) Interim College Core legislation (no second required)

Whereas the implementation date for the new general education core is fast approaching (1/1/2015) and

Whereas some programs which are not housed under colleges (now and in the future) may not be covered under the current structure and

Whereas some degrees, primarily associate's degrees, have used the Blue Ribbon Core in their definition and were not considered in the original legislation to adopt the new general education core for bachelor's degrees and

Whereas there may be future colleges and programs created which will need time to evaluate a college core,

Be it established that any college or program will adopt the following interim college core until such a time as that college or program has completed its desired college core through the curriculum process:

Science (8 hours): any course in the science curricular area

Mathematics (3 hours): any course in the mathematics curricular area

Humanities/Social Sciences/Communications – Speech/Interdisciplinary (3 hours): any course in one of these areas (except for engineering programs which may substitute 3 hours of additional math/science)

- B. Motion FS\_2014\_28: Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting) College Core Transfer Agreement (no second required)

Whereas the State of Arkansas has adopted the State Minimum Core to facilitate transfer for Arkansas students; and

Whereas it is appropriate for UALR colleges and Arkansas institutions of higher education to develop different general education (or "core") curricula that reflect the values and interests of those colleges and institutions; and

Whereas it is also important not to penalize students who transfer among UALR colleges and Arkansas institutions of higher education;

Therefore, UALR shall adopt the following Core Transfer Reciprocity Policy:

Students transferring into UALR from another Arkansas institution of higher education or transferring between colleges at UALR shall have any courses completed at the sending institution or college that meet a core requirement be counted as meeting a core requirement in that curricular area at the receiving college.

This policy shall not keep individual programs from requiring students to complete specific core courses as part of their degree program requirements. The inter-college reciprocity policy shall only apply to a student who has officially declared a major in the sending college.

- C. Motion FS\_2014\_24: Executive Committee (Resolution. Majority vote at one meeting.) Scrap the Yellow Card (no second required)

The Faculty Senate resolves that the paper vehicle known colloquially as the "yellow card" be abolished as a means of obtaining permissions by which a student may be added to a class. The required permissions should be obtained through electronic means, such as email. These changes should be implemented prior to the Spring 2015 semester.

**Commentary:** To the best of the ability of the current Faculty Senate, it cannot be determined what legislation gave rise to the Yellow Card and its attendant walk of shame whereby a student must obtain signatures from instructor and chair prior to being admitted into a class. It appears that this process originated in Records and Registration many years ago. This process is labor intensive for all parties concerned and therefore sufficiently more expensive to the university than any possible benefit that it should create as a check on wanton late enrollment. It is neither modern, faculty friendly, or student friendly.

- D. Motion FS\_2014\_25: Executive Committee (Resolution. Majority vote at one meeting.) Late fee process change (no second required)

The Faculty Senate resolves that penalty fees associated with late registration be abolished except for cases where it can be demonstrated that the student was at fault.

**Commentary:** A late registration penalty fee is a poor deterrent to late registration behavior. In many cases, late registration occurs due to financial aid difficulties or other holds on a student's account. Especially in the case of financial obstacles to registration, a punitive fee might further bar the student from pursuing his/her education. It should be the responsibility of the institution to determine when a fee should be imposed (for instance in a case where a specific student consistently registers late) than on the individual student who might be caught in the gears of UALR's financial aid and registration process.

- E. Motion FS\_2014\_28: Ad Hoc Committee on Baccalaureate Degree Requirements (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting) Push back skills course implementation date (second required)

The Baccalaureate Degree Requirements legislation regarding the major requirements in oral and written communication; research, ethics, and critical thinking; and technology originally approved in March 2013 and then amended on September 19, 2014 as Motion FS\_2014\_19, shall be implemented by Fall 2016.

**Commentary:** original legislation during Fall 2013 set an implementation date of Fall 2015 for all pieces of the Baccalaureate Degree Requirements. This piece regarding major requirements will require more time to develop, as it involves changing courses and requirements in degree programs. The Ad Hoc Committee on Baccalaureate Degree Requirements intends to bring a full implementation plan for this process to the Faculty Senate during the Spring of 2015.

- F. Motion: FS\_2014\_21. Committee on Tenure (Resolution. Majority vote at one meeting.) Ethics Policy and Tenure Rights (no second required)

Whereas, tenure grants substantive and procedural rights in contract and property to tenured faculty;

Whereas, tenure affords, among other things, freedom of thought and speech, academic freedom in teaching, research, internal governance, and outside service;

Whereas, Board Policy 405.1 sets forth tenure standards;

Whereas, a tenure contract cannot be changed unilaterally;

Whereas, all changes impacting tenure must go through the University Committee on Tenure and the Faculty Senate;

Whereas, history reflects that “loyalty” and “ethics” oaths have at times facilitated the stifling of First Amendment and academic freedom rights;

Whereas, tenured faculty are put in an untenable position when they are instructed that they must sign a document that might impact tenure rights;

Whereas, disseminating and requiring a signature on a document that may impact existing tenure rights does not give sufficient consideration to the above;

The faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock resolve that the University should act in accordance with the letter and spirit of the whereas clauses above and the principles of tenure.

Passed by the Committee on Tenure 9-17-2014

- G. Motion FS\_2014\_27: Executive Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two meetings, first vote.) Tweak Council on Core Curriculum and Policies to generalize approval process (no second required)

Modify the paragraph describing curricular routing to:

In academic units (programs, departments, schools, colleges) curricular proposals for requests for course inclusion of new courses in affecting the UALR Core, including but not limited to course inclusion in the core, modifications to existing core courses, and inclusion in the college core will be routed through program, department, school, college curriculum committees and to the Undergraduate Council before being sent to the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies. Recommendations of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies are subject to review by the Faculty Senate following an unsuccessful resubmission and appeal by the authors within 10 business days of the notification of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies's decision to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Proposals not reviewed by the faculty Senate or having passed Faculty Senate review shall be routed to the vice chancellor and provost and the chancellor.

**Commentary:** The current "routing" language is not general enough to all of the matters that are governed by the authority of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies. This statement needs to be generalized for clarity.

- H. Motion FS\_2014\_22: Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting.) (Action to be submitted to the University Assembly for ratification at two consecutive Assembly meetings.)

Modify article IV of the Constitution of the UALR Assembly to add the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies:

Responsibilities of colleges and schools are as follows:

- 1 By secret ballot to elect representatives and one alternate for each representative to the Faculty Senate, the Undergraduate Council, the Graduate Council, the Committee on Tenure, and the Appeals Council. Election as an alternate will be for a one-year period only, and an alternate will serve only in the event of a vacancy. Each college or school will provide a list of alternates (by position) to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate on an annual basis.
- 2 To study college or school curricula. Each college or school shall establish its own curriculum process. Routing of curriculum and program proposals shall follow the procedures outlined in the description of the Undergraduate Council, the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies, and the Graduate Council.

**Commentary:** When the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies was added as a Council of the Faculty Senate, the statement on general routing of curriculum was missed in the modifications. This addition will clarify the curricular process.

- I. Motion FS\_2014\_26: Executive Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two meetings, first vote.) Remove FAC Operating Procedures from constitution (no second required)

**Faculty Appeals Council:** All appeals and grievances involving faculty are made to the Faculty Appeals Council. This includes but is not limited to appeals and grievances about dismissal, tenure, promotion, salary, fringe benefits, working conditions, and discrimination based upon race, sex, or physical handicap. Membership of this committee shall include the Committee on Tenure, one full-time faculty member, with tenure, elected from each academic unit represented in the Faculty Senate, and two academic administrators below the level of dean who shall be elected by the Faculty Senate. Should the composition of the Faculty Appeals Council not, in the opinion of the president of the Faculty Senate, include adequate representation of women and/or minorities, the Faculty Senate president may appoint up to five additional full-time faculty members to provide such representation. Elections shall be conducted in the spring, and members shall serve two-year staggered terms.

~~Internal Structure and Processes of the Faculty Appeals Council: The chairperson shall divide members of the council into hearing panels of five persons each. Members not assigned to one of the panels shall serve as alternates appoint members of the council to three-person informal and five-person formal panels when appeals are made. In making hearing panel appointments, the chairperson shall distribute faculty members as evenly as possible in relation to tenure status, administrative status, race, gender, and previous service on other panels during the academic year. Composition of the five-person hearing panels can be changed by vote of an absolute majority of the members of the council at a meeting convened for that purpose. Any panel member may disqualify herself or himself for good cause. Panel members may be challenged for cause, with the merits of each challenge decided by majority vote of the panel. In addition, the appellant shall be permitted one peremptory challenge. Eligible alternates shall be selected by the chairperson from the group of unassigned members or from other hearing panels.~~

~~Each faculty member who is considering filing or who has filed a complaint before the Faculty Appeals Council may, at such person's option, request an advisor. In the response to such request the chairperson of the council shall appoint a member of the council to serve as that person's advisor. A person's advisor shall not sit on a panel of the council to hear that person's grievances.~~

**Commentary:** Operating procedures should not be part of a constitution. They need to be removed from the constitution in order to enable a separate Operating Procedures document to be created. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, the document for Operating Procedures will be presented for a vote along with the second vote on the committee.

## VIII. Open Forum

- A. Discussion: Attendance Policy

Based on the discussion at September's Faculty Senate meeting, it appears that some requirements on what percentage of class time can be missed before it becomes problematic for a student to succeed in the class may need to be instituted.

1. Do we want to have a university attendance policy?
2. If so, what should be the parameters?
3. Are there "zero tolerance" classes? For instance, some lab classes may have exercises that cannot be made up.
4. Any university policy would be a minimum policy. Individual syllabi can be more restrictive.
5. Should policy be determined by percentage of instructional minutes missed? Number of classes missed?
6. Outcome of violating the attendance policy? F or NC? Automatically dropped?
7. If we do have an attendance policy, how will we take attendance? Are there ways to make this less class-time consuming and reliable?

IX. Adjourn