



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
University Assembly Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2015 • 2:00 p.m.
Donaghey Student Center, Ledbetter Rooms A/B/C

MINUTES

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm by President Andrew Wright.

II. Review of minutes

President Wright invited comments on the draft minutes of the August 14, 2014 meeting of the Assembly as posted on the web site. Hunter moved and Bayrak seconded that the minutes be accepted as posted. Motion passed on a voice vote.

III. Remarks by the Assembly President: Andrew Wright

This is a special meeting of the Assembly. Having Assembly meetings at the beginning of the spring semester is not meant to be a practice. The main purpose of this meeting is to address amendments to the constitution. Amendments to the constitution require two consecutive meetings. We do not want to wait until our late Spring meeting because we want to work with the Board of Trustees over the summer to update the constitution. This meeting will help us with that process.

The other reason for this meeting is that we have experienced lots and lots of changes and we continue to have enrollment challenges. This is a good time to review and to see where we stand and to get some notice about the challenges ahead.

In academia today, technology is removing barriers – barriers that pushed us to adopt our current structures. We need to continue to identify best practices and implement improvements so that we can maintain our competitiveness. That said, many of our structures do represent best practices. After all, education is hard work. In a nutshell, I like to say education represents changing someone's mind. This tends to require contact, persuasion, contact, and forceful encouragement. We can use technology to remove barriers and help a student see things differently. But the engaged faculty presence at the other end of the wire is the indispensable element.

eVersity is here. The system president wants it. The Board of Trustees wants it, the legislature wants it. It is going to affect us. We have to proceed cautiously and constructively. In December, the Faculty Senate passed a thoughtful recommendation regarding eVersity. One headline in the Democrat Gazette muddled our position. But a letter to the Board of Visitors and an Op Ed in the Democrat Gazette helped to restore UALR's position as a relevant, mature commenter on this initiative. I want to thank senate Vice President Joanne Matson for co-writing these documents with me. I sincerely thank her for her good work on that effort.

The future has possibilities and opportunities and challenges. eVersity is going to happen. UALR has an opportunity to influence how it happens if we choose to do so. This is going to be an historic semester for UALR. I look forward to working with you to make it a rewarding one.

IV. Remarks by the Provost: Zulma Toro

Thank you for your commitment and welcome. My remarks today are focused on progress made last semester and work in progress the coming semester. From the Huron consulting group report – there are four areas needing attention if we are to achieve our UALR 2020 vision. I will comment on the most important of these - making UALR a student success centric institution, and I will comment on the realities of the 14-15 academic year that are facing us.

We are making significant progress in achievement of the 2020 vision – of becoming “One of the Top Metropolitan, Community-Engaged, and Research Universities among the 16 Member States of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).” There is still work to be done. Every faculty and staff member must understand and know how to act for creating a student success-centric institution. We must establish relationships between students and staff and students and faculty. During the spring registration many faculty, staff, deans and chairs demonstrated student success centric means. Thank you to all who helped make the spring 15 enrollment time go smoothly. Special recognition goes to Academic Advising for extending their regular office hours for student advising.

On enrollment challenges –the revised version of 11th day fall enrollment shows a downward trend over the last 4 semesters. Over the last spring 12 semesters, headcount is down

without considering concurrent enrollment. If concurrent is counted, headcount is only down for the last 3 semesters. The last data point is an estimate of headcount for this spring semester. We will be down again around 2-3% in terms of headcount. That will be impacted by students who have not paid by tomorrow afternoon. There is a difference in this year's registration. So far we have not deleted any students for lack of payment. The first deletion will happen tomorrow after 5 pm. What happens with that process will impact our headcount. UALR's budget is based on SSCH. For 2014 fall, the 11th day count, including concurrent enrollment, is 8.3% less than 2013. This decline had a significant impact on our budget. SSCH not including concurrent enrollment for spring 2015 is estimated to result in 3.3 % decline. However, there is a bright spot – graduate enrollment seems to be up. The % decline in upper level hours is less than the decline in lower level hours. It could be that we are doing better at retaining upper level students, or getting more upper level transfer students. We need to do a better job at retaining lower level students. We are making progress.

The consistent decline in enrollment has impacted our ability to maintain our current budget level. The Provost's Office is leading a process including academic and non-academic units to look at resource alignment. The Academic Planning part of this process has 2 goals – 1) to determine viability of academic programs and 2) to identify programs that are growing and/or have revenue growth potential. The goals of the Non-Academic Unit review are 1) to evaluate the impact and centrality of each unit to UALR's mission and 2) to assess their funding model. The process consists of 9 steps – we have completed first 4 steps. (1. Identify, gather and distribute data; 2) develop and share questions to guide conversation 3) Meetings with Deans and Chairs; 4) Review college dashboard and develop recommendations. Five different data reports were shared and 5 questions were asked of chairs. Most chairs did great job of answering questions. There were an additional set of questions that were a surprise to the chairs. Some of the chairs offered thoughtful, useful recommendations. When asked to assume they were the UALR Provost and had to close a \$4 million gap in the budget, most of the chairs said they are not interested in the UALR Provost's position [as a career move].

Another step in the Academic Planning Process, was to develop a Dashboard for each college containing metrics. The Deans were asked for inputs and to advocate for changes. Most of the changes were accepted. Deans are encouraged to share the dashboard with departments. Departments should use the dashboards and achieve green dots for each metric. We will share this with the Finance and Planning committee and will get feedback before forwarding recommendations to the Chancellor.

The review of non- academic units involved 11 units and 4 phases. The 1st phase has been completed – the other 3 are in progress. There are 8 areas of focus. Each unit will be reviewed with respect to its impact and centrality to UALR's mission and to evaluate its funding model and appropriate staffing levels. All of the reviews will be complete in first week of February.

On progress made on UALR's Actions and Operational Plan for 2014-2015, we have some actions complete and some in progress. We have completed an Excellence in Service Program under the Development of our People initiative. The search for the Dean of EIT is underway – just approved the 4 finalists, who will be visiting in the near future. The Dean search for the Graduate School dean will close on January 19. The Vice Provost for Student Affairs search is open until January 30. The search for Vice Provost for Research Innovation and Economic Development will be reopened in the next couple of weeks. Interviews for the internal search for Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success have been completed, I will share the decision sometime next week. Vendor selection is underway and components have been identified for the data warehouse. It is our plan to have the components of the data warehouse by end of academic year. We will have one Open Forum each month in which anyone can share with me what is keeping you awake at night, and I can share what is keeping my busy. I must publicly recognize chairs, deans and associate deans for their help in the academic course offering streamlining process. This semester, we achieved a record low in the number in courses that required minimum enrollment justification. This effort helps us contain costs.

UALR is offering an Associate Degree in collaboration with Greenbrier High School, and is working on agreements with other high schools. We have completed market analyses for 15 academic programs. The academic leadership is working on prioritization of these new programs, which will guide strategic investment for online and face to face programs for the next few years.

The UALR Enrollment strategy includes 9 categories of students. Will focus on graduate students, transfer students and first-time full-time students. Student Success will be the theme of next major UALR fundraiser campaign. It will include need-based scholarships and high impact student learning experiences (e.g. study abroad, undergraduate research, cooperative education, community based learning). Additionally it will include the Learning Commons in the Library and the transition to career initiatives. The inaugural Faculty Fellow, Dr. John Miller, has been leading conversations with alumni to implement a mentoring program for students with alumni.

My heartfelt thanks go to the faculty and founding deans of the three new colleges. You are off to an impressive start. You are using this opportunity to create a unique college which will make an impact on students and the quality of life of the communities we serve. A big thank you to the Honors College implementation taskforce and the search committee of the founding dean. The search is almost complete for the Dean of the Honors College and will have our first class the new Honors College in Fall 2015 – made of transfer students. This semester we are offering the first courses at the UA community college at Hope Texarkana.

We know there is not a straight path to our final goal. We need to make some changes, some will be big changes. According to Leon Megginson, "According to Darwin's Origin of Species, it is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest of the species that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able to best adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself."

V. Remarks by the Chancellor: Joel Anderson

Welcome to new faculty at this beginning of the spring semester. Thanks go to all who made efforts to accommodate issues related to registration and enrollment during the past two weeks. Thanks also to the Office of Academic Advising stayed open until 9 pm all last week and was open 10-4 on Saturday.

Good things have been happening. The Ethics Bowl team is competing in the national competition. The UALR Volleyball team was the conference winner and competed at the NCAA tournament, and we had 58% participation rate in the campus campaign.

There are several events of note external to the University that will likely impact us. Pres. Obama recently called for a national program of 2 years of community college free for those who have a C average or better. This may or may not come to pass. But people need post-secondary education in today's economy. Something along that line will happen. In the state we have a new Governor and a new Legislature, with likely impacts to come. There is no formal report today. Some comments - things are going to have to change. Our 4 million dollar shortfall will require change. If the proposed constitutional amendment regarding student academic affairs is adopted, I will not support it. I think it will be a mistake. The change to place that category under Student Services is an intentional change made 39 years ago. The Faculty Senate has great opportunity to impact student services through normal academic policies. The Faculty Senate is authorized to comment and recommend study of anything at the university. Often those recommendations on issues outside the academic area have had the most impact. For example, the non-smoking policy came from Faculty Senate. I hope they will add a similar recommendation on e-cigarettes.

On the recommendation made in the fall requesting an all faculty listserv, we are close to accomplishing that. I will discuss it with the Faculty Senate leadership.

On enrollment, I want to amplify comments regarding teaching load and class size. Over time, teaching loads have declined to numbers that are not sustainable. As an example of what has happened, in 1993-94, the average course section (across the entire University) had ~28 students enrolled. Today the average section has ~15 students enrolled. To pick on a specific department, Political Science experienced class sized decrease in from ~23 in 2003-04 to ~14 in 2013-14. It has always been a point of pride that at UALR, our students have been taught by full-time faculty members. We need to recommit to that.

VI. Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence: Julien Mirivel

Co-Director Belinda Blevins-Knabe spoke in place of Julien Mirivel. She reminded all of the mission of ATLE - faculty development with emphasis on teaching and learning. This year, the

theme is teaching and relationships. ATLE hosts luncheons twice a month. We tap into the expertise on campus to learn more about teaching and learning.

VII. Community Connections Center: Lillie Wichinsky

Betsy Hart spoke for Lillie Wichinsky who was attending a conference. She reported on a survey about outreach on campus. There are almost 100 outreach and engagement projects. She highlighted a few. The UALR Ethics Bowl is heading to the national competition in CA. They also work with high school ethics bowl teams. We host a robotics competition for middle school and high school students. We are involved in "Love your School" with the Little Rock Mayor's office and several schools aimed at reducing childhood obesity. Children International serves 3200 students and youth from 5 partner schools with health and dental care, and tutoring support.

We are working on a new service learning academy. This semester, 24 faculty are going to be trained. Another training class will begin this summer. We are also Partnering with Clinton School to host the Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education in March.

The Community Connections Center (CCC) fits exactly with the community engaged part of UALR's 2020 vision - to be "One of the Top Metropolitan, Community-Engaged, and Research Universities among the 16 Member States of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)."

VIII. New Business

- A. Motion FS_2014_17. Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority Vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. First Vote.) 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.

President Wright introduced the motion.

No discussion

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- B. Motion FS_2014_22: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. First Vote.)

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 Council on Core Curriculum and Policies, 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.

President Wright introduced the motion.

No discussion

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- C. Motion FS_2014_30: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. First Vote.)

Modify Article II and Article III of the constitution of the UALR Assembly to:

Article II
Amending the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution of the UALR Assembly may be proposed by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate, provided a quorum is present, or by a petition signed by thirty (30) members of the UALR Assembly and presented to the office of

vice chancellor and provost. Ratification of amendments shall be by three-fifths vote of the Assembly, provided that quorum is present, at two consecutive meetings of the Assembly. The motion on the second vote must be verbatim the motion passed in the first vote and is not amendable. At least ten (10) calendar days must elapse between the first and second meetings of the Assembly. No final vote shall be taken on a proposed amendment until it has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Assembly and published as part of the agenda for two consecutive Assembly meetings, except that provisions concerning the composition of Assembly committees and councils shall be amended by action at one Assembly meeting in accordance with the above procedures.

The Faculty Senate shall have the power to amend provisions concerning the creation, abolish- ment and composition of Faculty Senate councils and committees as specified under *Article III, The Faculty Senate, Councils and Committees of the Faculty Senate*. The Staff Senate shall have the power to amend provisions concerning the creation, abolishment and composition of Staff Senate committees as specified under *Article V, Composition and Functions of the Staff Senate*.

Whenever the University changes an administrative title, the corresponding title may be changed in this document through majority vote of the Faculty Senate at one meeting provided that a quorum is present and that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and published as part of the agenda for that Faculty Senate meeting.

Proposed amendments must be considered during the regular nine-month academic year.

...

Article III

The Faculty Senate Councils and Committees of the Faculty Senate

Amendments concerning Faculty Senate councils or committees may be proposed by any member of the Faculty Senate. Ratification requires a three-fifths vote of the Faculty Senate at two meetings during the regular nine-month academic year provided that a quorum is present and that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and published as part of the agenda for that Faculty Senate meeting. The motion on the second vote must be verbatim the motion passed in the first vote and is not amendable.

Commentary: At the first Senate meeting of the Fall 2014 semester, both of these issues arose. A point of order was raised regarding the need for verbatim motions on the second of two votes. Since the current language is vague, it is preferred to tighten it up. The second issue regarding administrative titles was raised at the same meeting, where a motion to explicitly change titles was withdrawn. The constitution does not provide a convenient means of changing administrative titles other than the amendment process, so it is desirable to lower the threshold on how this amendment may be accomplished.

President Wright introduced the motion.

No discussion

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- D. Motion FS_2014_31: Faculty Senate (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. First Vote.) (Action to be submitted to the University Assembly for ratification at two consecutive Assembly meetings.)

Modify Article III of the constitution of the UALR Assembly to:

Article III

The Faculty Senate Composition of the Faculty Senate

...

The faculty of each of the aforementioned colleges or schools with ten (10) or more faculty shall be entitled to elect a minimum of one senator, with additional Faculty Senate seats apportioned on the following basis: a second Faculty Senate seat for those colleges or schools with twenty (20) to twenty-nine (29) full-time faculty; a third Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with thirty (30) to thirty-nine (39) full-time faculty members; a fourth Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with forty (40) to forty-nine (49) full-time faculty members; a fifth Faculty Senate seat for those colleges and schools with fifty (50) to fifty-nine (59) full-time faculty members; and so forth for each additional ten (10) full-time faculty. *The Faculty Senate will be reapportioned every two years, prior to Faculty Senate elections, by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, based on current information as to the number of full-time faculty members in each college or school. If a new college or school is created in the year between reapportionments, the Faculty Senate shall be reapportioned prior to Faculty Senate elections in that interim year.* The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall assign faculty members of units not otherwise represented in the Faculty Senate to a single unit solely for purposes of representation in the Faculty Senate provided that such full-time faculty members number twenty (20) or greater; otherwise, the Executive Committee shall, subject to challenge on the floor of the Faculty Senate, assign such faculty members to one or more units that are represented in the Faculty Senate, such assignment being solely for purposes of representation in the Faculty Senate. When a single unit is created for purposes of representing faculty members of units not otherwise represented in the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate has the responsibility for supervising elections to the Faculty Senate from this unit.

Commentary: There have been two instances Since 1999 where a new college has been added during a year between apportionments. Strictly following the constitution would require that those colleges would not have representation until the following year. In both cases, the Faculty Senate has acted to prevent that problem from occurring. This amendment will protect against such a problem in the future.

President Wright introduced the motion.

No discussion

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- E. Motion FS_2014_16. Faculty Senate (introduced by Senator Pete Tschumi)
(Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two consecutive Assembly meetings. First Vote.)

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 by Senator Tschumi: 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.

President Wright introduced the motion and invited Pete Tschumi to comment.

Tschumi - The Chancellor indicated he will veto this. He keeps calling it student services instead of student affairs. Clearly we do not want to handle student services. Student affairs refers to those directly related to the academic side. He also indicated that faculty had lots of opportunities in the past to effect change even without student affairs under our purview- giving the example of the Non-Smoking policy that now exists on campus. However, this did

not happen with the IRB policy. The Faculty Senate voted no on the IRB policy that was produced by the administration. The end result was total silence from administration and the administration implemented their policy. The faculty was ignored. The Board of Trustees has created this list – including those things that are the legislative authority given to the faculty. It is true student affairs was not included in original constitution years ago. We give up authority that is ours if we do not add it. Action has to be taken by the administration when we create legislation. We need to put this back into the constitution. If the Board thinks we should have it we should put it back in the Constitution.

Wright – Do any others want to speak to this motion?

Aiyotero - Who defines what student affairs means? How will we ensure how this body understands what we can have true legislation over?

Wright – In normal circumstance, we legislate. The Chancellor will notify us if we step outside of our authority.

Tschumi – any controversy will go into discussion with the Chancellor

Matson – I feel this is unnecessary. There is lack of clarity. Anything that touches academic affairs, we can take it up. If there is dispute, it will be go to discussion with the Chancellor. The Board of Trustees does not say the authority goes to the faculty senate. It says some higher body has authority. This is not a matter of taking back authority. This is no problem currently that calls us to have this motion

Wright – board policy delegates the authority of the 7 areas to the campus governmental structure, we consider the constitution our governmental structure. Ultimately the powers are delegated to the Chancellor and he delegates authority to other bodies through the constitution.

Tschumi - Board policy 100.4 transfers authority to the campuses as well as defining structures of the UA system. It splits the authority at the campuses – one section says what chancellor gets and the other section transfers it to the campus governance structure. It does not go through the chancellor. Under 100.4 – you get legislative authority. Only when you get legislative authority can you force discussion. If you do not have legislative authority – you can be ignored. That was the case with the IRB policy. We did not have legislative authority. We made a strong statement, but we were totally ignored. If we do have legislative authority it will trigger a discussion with the Chancellor about what we can and can't do. We should vote yes to put this into the constitution

Linda Stipsky – (Staff Senate) Board Policy on authority– before the list that includes student affairs - states ‘...shall include but are not limited to....’ It seems that the ‘not limited to’ allows us to make legislation if we want to. If we add this to the constitution we might limit ourselves. To have some ambiguity can be a strength rather than a weakness.

Tschumi - this will force an issue. It triggers a process and keeps us from just getting ignored.

Angela Hunter – some of us have been way too busy to pay attention. I hope you will count abstentions.

Wright – I will count abstentions

No further discussion –

By voice, the vote was split with even number of ayes and nays and a few abstentions. President Wright called for a division of the house asking the ayes to move to the east side of the room and the nays to move to the west side of the room. By inspection, the vote did not meet the 3/5th majority and thus the motion failed.

IX. Open Forum

None

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned, 3:26 pm