



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2021

1:00 PM until adjournment

Synchronous Online

Present: CHASSE – Baylis, Blevins-Knabe, Cheatham, Condran, Groesbeck, Hamilton, Heil, Matson, Mitchell, Nahrwold, Scheidt, Scranton, Smith, Tate ; CBHHS – Atkins, ten Bensel, Golden, Hendon, Jones, Leonard, Ruhr, Sadaka, Solomon, Teague, Woolridge ; CSTEM – Baillie, DeAngelis, Deng, Kattoum, LeGrand, Milanova, Pidugu, Ray, Turner ; LIBRARY – Macheak ; LAW – Cain, Woodmansee ; EX OFFICIO – Drale, Bain, Nolen, Wright, Henslee, Dekay

Absent: CHASSE n/a; CBHHS n/a ; CSTEM – Scott Woolbright ; LIBRARY n/a ; LAW – Anastasia Boles ; EX OFFICIO n/a.

Convened at 1:03 PM

I. Welcome and Roll Call

II. Review of Minutes from January 29, 2021

III. Announcements

Hamilton SGA Mural approved; designs submitted; deadline 2021-2-26

- Voting to choose a finalist opens next week
- Students will paint their own design if selected

IV. Airing of Grievances (2 minute limit)

Kattoum: Common issue of drop date before Spring Break; crunches midterm for students. Why is final drop not after Spring Break?

Nolen: Purview of Calendar Committee; challenge of multiple term offerings. Will look into matter.

V. Introduction of New Topics (2 minute limit) Hendon: Evaluate Inclement Weather Policy

Nolen: Will raise this in President's Report

VI. Reports

A. Committee on Tenure – Rob Steinbuch

Recap of issue re: Annual Review and Post-Tenure Review Policies

Committee sees neither justification nor need for further compromise

Leonard: Affirms Steinbuch's conclusion

Steinbuch: Not in conflict with Board policy 405.1; in compliance with state law

Nolen: No proposal to cut Tenure and Promotion committees out of process

Drale: The issue is the appeal process being proposed by legislation, nothing more

Nolen: What is feeling of Committee given limited remaining number of Senate meetings?

Steinbuch: Cautiously optimistic that Committee is close to vote/consensus

Wright: Request Chancellor to address 2 questions

- Q: Issue is 11 d?

- A: Yes

- Q: Something still must be resolved concerning legislation?

- A: Two policies must be reconciled (annual review v. post-tenure) Wright:
Vetoed legislation must be re-considered, cannot just be re-submitted.

- One vote to reconsider or reject; a second vote to accept

Nolen: Must be modified policy

Nahrwold: Speaking as Committee member, we are taking this very seriously

Nolen: All appreciate that approach

B. Executive Committee - Amanda Nolen, President of Faculty Senate

1) Reminder: two scheduled meetings remain on Spring schedule

2) Reminder Senate and Faculty how items can be included on the Senate agenda

- a. Items signed by 5 faculty or a single senator submitted one week prior to a meeting can be brought to the floor

- b. Individual senator may bring an item to the floor

- c. Bring forward your ideas!

3) Referral to Awards Committee to look at creation of new awards

4) Referral to Faculty Professional Development Committee to study teaching evaluations and best practices and to conduct a campus audit to be presented in April

5) Inclement Weather Policy is under review

- a. Recommendation to uncouple campus closure from matter of class being cancelled

6) Interpretation of Legislation on unintentional omission in Academic Transfer Policy

- a. Move to adopt/2nd

- b. Discussion opened

- c. Passed

- d. Legislation will be brought to March meeting

7) Re: language in legislation concerning use of teaching evals during Covid-19

- a. Chancellor will address concerns in their report

C. Chancellor's Report – Christy Drale, Chancellor

1) E-mail re” storm damage on campus

- a. 20 ruptures across campus including Benton Center; water restored by end of week

- b. Review of damage and preventative measures

- c. Insurance applies; \$250 deductible per break/failure
- 2) Inclement Weather Policy under review
 - a. Executive Committee, Staff Senate asked for input
- 3) Budgeting for FY 2022
 - a. Will use Workday
 - i. Personnel budget and reserves will roll over from FY2021
 - ii. Maintenance budget numbers will be pulled from FY2020
 - iii. Rationale: best way to get to a balanced budget
 - b. Input from members of University Assembly will be sought
 - i. Budget will be presented shortly; needs to be submitted in May
- 4) Meeting w/Chancellor's Advisory Committee
- 5) Action items drawn from Black and Brown Faculty Committee, CAC, and other input
 - a. CHECK 1:03 for lists of statements
 - b. 1 BIPOC on search committees and Faculty advocate
- 6) Support faculty legislation on Covid-19 student evaluations but has some concerns:
 - a. BOT policy expressly requires student evaluations in faculty annual reviews
 - b. Concern that language is overly broad; consider what elements in evaluations can be used?

Open to questions; legislation in question shared on screen

Nahrwold: How can one discern a C-19 related comments from a non-related comment? E.g., change of modality necessitated by Covid-19.

Drale: Difficult but identify the nature of each problem.

Wright: Legislation was hasty owing to deadline for annual reviews. But C-19 issues not the same thing as an example such as job abandonment. Too difficult to disentangle. Language can be refined or better defined, however.

Drale. I would be fine with that.

Cheatham: Echo Wright's suggestion. Motion to suspend; 2nd; passed Motion to withdraw the legislation—opened for discussion.

Nahrwold: Example of campus closure/weather policy bridges matter of student evaluations

Wright: Friendly amendment to motion; refer to Executive Committee to bring back to March meeting

Passed; legislation withdrawn and referred

D. Provost's Report – Ann Bain, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

1. Funded Student Retention and Success awards for another year; have extended the deadline for this year to April.
2. Academic Deans and Assembly Presidents committee on role of coordinators on campus.
 - a. Spectrum of conditions for 75 coordinators
 - b. Review underway to ensure equity within these positions
3. Budget: While Workday has been challenging, financial planning aspect will be transformational
4. Chancellor has provided additional funds to help reach a more diverse pool of applicants for academic and administrative positions

5. Asks Erin Finzer to provide update on Commencement planning and Prior Learning Assessment
6. Finzer: Has assembled a large committee to plan a Hybrid Commencement.
 - a. Describes plan for safe assembly including entrance and exit, events, etc.
 - i. Will provide an individualized experience for students receiving their diplomas.
 - ii. Message and communication campaign will begin early March
 - b. Video Commencement will also be created; released on June 5.
 - c. Prior Learning Assessment
 - i. Building out processes and marketing
 - ii. Work with employers
 - d. 4 types of PLA
 - i. Military
 - ii. Testing
 - iii. Senate expanded to include national and state recognized assessments
 - iv. Portfolio assessments
 - e. Transparent database/clear course to degree
 - f. First course has been administered
 - g. Portfolio assessments requires substantial amount of investment of time by faculty
 - h. Will work with departments to facilitate

E. Undergraduate Council - Joe Felan, Chair (not present)

- Upcoming town hall events on UGC process/workflow

F. Graduate Council - Laura Ruhl, Chair

- Library Resources
- Portfolios
- Interviewing
- Info: gsa@uale.edu

G. Core Council - Belinda Blevins-Knabe, Chair

- No report

H. Planning & Finance – Andrew Wright

- P&F Committee a subset of IEC Committee. IEC will become a University Assembly committee and not responsible to the Senate; P&F will be conduit for information

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

- A. Motion FS_2021_03** Council on Core Curriculum and Policies (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting, no second required.) Council on Core Curriculum and Policies Operating Procedures

Be it resolved to amend FS_2012-13_11 to include the following clause regarding the [Attachment A for new language *in situ*];

When an existing course, which has never been in the University Core, is approved for inclusion in the University Core there may be students who took the course previous to the date of core approval. In these cases, the degree completion window of 6 years specified by ADHE will be used to determine whether the course will count for the core requirement. The newly-approved core course will count for the core requirement if it is taken six or fewer academic years before the date of implementation of the core course. Courses approved for core are implemented beginning the fall of the next academic year after they are approved.

Commentary: The UA Little Rock University Core was implemented in January 2015. At the December 2015 meeting, the Faculty Senate adopted an interpretation of legislation (Attachment B; FSM-2015-6) addressing transition issues that involved students whose catalog year pre-dated the implementation. FS_2021_03 updates the grand-father clause defined in that memo while also explicitly adding the principle to the Policies and Operating Procedures of the Core Council. This rule applies only to existing courses which have never been part of the core and later are approved for core. The proposal gives wide latitude for counting courses in the core, without counting courses for core when material is significantly out of date. The academic year begins in fall and ends in summer. All core courses are required to provide students with a test-out option so a student also has that choice.

Blevins-Knabe makes motion to accept

- Furnishes background/context for legislation
- Wright: How will previous courses be differentiated/discerned in terms of eligibility?
- B-K: Six year window begins at start of each term. Motion passes.

B. Motion FS_2021_04 Faculty Governance Committee (Legislation. 3/5 Majority vote at two meetings of the Faculty Senate - second vote verbatim to the first vote, no second required, first vote.) Modify Article III of the University Assembly to change AIGC committee member terms of service.

Be it resolved to amend Article III of the Constitution of the University Assembly as follows (underline indicates addition, strikethrough indicates deletion)

Appointed Committees

Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee: The Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee hears specific grade appeals and hears, on appeal and referral, cases involving certain academic offenses. The Academic Integrity and Grievance Committee comprises fifteen (15) faculty and three (3) faculty alternates to be appointed ~~each May annually in the spring~~ by the Committee on Committees of the Assembly and seventeen (17) students and three (3) student alternates to be appointed ~~each May~~ no later than the beginning of the fall semester. Twelve (12) voting and two

(2) alternate undergraduate students will be appointed by the Student Government Association and five (5) voting and one (1) alternate graduate students will be

appointed by the Graduate Student Association. Appointed faculty members shall serve three-year staggered terms and students shall serve one-year terms and may be reappointed. ~~The term of office begins with the fall semester. and continues for twelve months.~~

Be it further resolved, that if approved, these modifications will be effective July 1, 2021.

Commentary: The issue of staggered terms for AIGC was initially proposed by that committee in April 2019 and subsequently referred to the Faculty Governance committee for review and recommendation. The Governance committee is proposing three-year, staggered terms for faculty inasmuch as a period of training is required and experience is valuable. Additionally, appointed committees commonly have staggered terms in order to insure some level of continuity in committee understanding of responsibilities from year to year.

Cheatham moves to approve ○ Result of unresolved business in April 2019.

- Important committee; composed of faculty members from various colleges (no quotas determining representation)
- Important for continuity and fair and equitable processes
- Recommending that committee be re-structured to have 3-year staggered terms; reasonable guarantee of experience from year-to-year.
- Nothing being struck out will change composition of committee.

Motion passes

- I. Open Forum
- II. Adjourn at 3:00 PM

ATTACHMENT A: Core Council Operating Procedures [FS_2012-13_11]

B. Operating procedures of the UALR Council on Core Curriculum and Policies

1. Any course already approved by UGC is eligible to be considered for inclusion in core. Any new or modified courses must first be approved by UGC before being considered for inclusion in core.
2. When an existing course, which has never been in the University Core, is approved for inclusion in the University Core there may be students who took the course previous to the date of core approval. In these cases, the degree completion window of 6 years specified by ADHE will be used to determine whether the course will count for the core requirement. The newly-approved core course will count for the core requirement if it is taken six or fewer academic years before the date of implementation of the core course. Courses approved for core are implemented beginning the fall of the next academic year after they are approved. [FS-2021-03]
3. No chair, assistant dean, associate dean, dean, vice provost or vice chancellor shall serve as a voting member of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies.
4. Given the 3-year terms for faculty, one-third of the initial faculty members will serve for one (1) year, one-third for two (2) years and one-third for three (3) years, to be determined by lot.
5. The members of the Council will annually elect the chair from among its members, with the term of chair being one (1) year. A Chair-elect will also be elected annually. Chairs may succeed themselves for a total of three (3) terms.
6. The Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall provide staff support to the committee, scheduling meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and providing such other support as may be required.
7. Student input is valuable for developing and maintaining the UALR Standard Core. If the numbers of elected undergraduate students willing to serve are less than the number of positions to be filled, then nominations for these positions will be solicited from the university community.
8. The Council will report regularly to the Faculty Senate and university community, with the actions taken at each meeting disseminated through the provost's office within five business days of each meeting.
9. If the Council rejects an application, the committee must provide a detailed, written explanation to the author(s) explaining why the proposal was not accepted. The author(s) may address the Council's concerns and resubmit the proposal within the same semester to the Council; said course will not need to be resubmitted to the Undergraduate Council. If the resubmission is not accepted, the author(s) may appeal the decision of the Council to the Faculty Senate. The author(s) will apply in writing to the Executive Committee within 10 business days of the notification of the Council's decision. The final decision on course inclusion resides with the Faculty Senate.

This document may be amended by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies and ratification of those changes by the UALR Faculty Senate.

ATTACHMENT B: [FSM_2015_6 Grand-fathering Courses Across the UALR Core](#)