

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2022

Convene 1:03PM

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Attending: CHASSE – Anson, Barrio Vilar, Blevins-Knabe, Carter, Cheatham, Cox, Groesbeck, Hagins, Hamilton, Harris, Hunter, Scheidt, Scranton; CBHHS – Atkins, Bajwa, Felan, Golden, Knight, Lewis, Ruhr, Sadaka, Solomon, Staley, Woolridge; CSTEM – Blanton, DeAngelis, Deng, Hardeman, Khodakovskaya, Milanova, Nichols, Sharma, Woolbright, Wright; LIBRARY – Macheak; LAW – Silverstein, Woodmansee ; EX OFFICIO – Drale, Bain, Matson, Bradley, Forcum

Absent: CBHHS – Solomon; CSTEM – Woolbright, Wright; LAW – Boles

II. Review of Minutes from April 29, 2022

Postponed to next meeting to allow review

III. Overview of Faculty Senate meeting structure and procedures -- Joanne Matson

Poll on interest in information session on Roberts Rules; majority interested

--added procedure for Senate -- clean copy back to Executive Council

IV. Announcements

LBV ATLE sessions will be regularly offered; Monday Morning Mentor; link to ATLE

V. Airing of Grievances and Congratulations (2 minute limit)

Woodmansee: Beautification projects at Bowen are great; come see

DeAngelis: Earth Sciences has lost two faculty; Beth X and Laura Ruhl—the former a consequence of reduced salary (below salary of 6 years previous)

Congrats to colleagues Renee Lewis and Josh Spindler for shouldering load since departures

Anson: Gratitude to Interlibrary Loan staff in Ottenheimer

Cheatham: Glad to be back on campus teaching after 2 years on online teaching; concern of appearance of Stabler Hall; request that Facilities inform all faculty of expectations for maintenance schedule, e.g. door permanently locked to SH rear staircase

Matson: Appreciate weekly announcements from Facilities

VI. Introduction of New Topics (2 minute limit)

DeAngelis: Plan to introduce bill re: unfair policy of pro-rating faculty workload for under enrollment in course levels 3000 and above. Enrollment beyond faculty control. Interested in co-sponsors.

Khodakovskaya: Graduate Council request to discuss issues

Matson: FYI, new legislation may be introduced in many ways;

Nichols: As a result of ongoing negative interaction with student stemming from multiple issues (work ethic/anger/not progressing/statistically ineligible for academic probation); need to discuss policy

VII. Election of Senate Vice President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian

Ruhr motion: Atkins for Secretary; 2nd

- Cheatham motion: Elect by acclamation
- Accepted by acclamation

Hagins motion: Cheatham for Parliamentarian; 2nd

- Hamilton motion: Elect by acclamation
- Accepted by acclamation

VIII. Election of Faculty Senate representative to Faculty Governance Committee

Defer to next meeting

IX. Election of Administrator to Faculty Appeals Council

Defer to next meeting

Cheatham: Suggest that nominations/nominees under consideration be shared with President Matson

X. Reports

- a. Executive Committee - Joanne Matson, President of Faculty Senate
- b. Chancellor's Report – Christy Drale, Chancellor

Congratulations to Mark Baillie and MIST team on \$2M grant

UA Little Rock honored for on-line offerings

Congrats to Women's Volleyball Team for Academic Achievement Award

Current issues:

- E-STEM traffic; Public Safety responsible for coordination, working on resolution; please keep admin in loop
- Salaries/raises are a topic of concern and always on Chancellor's agenda

Strategic Planning continues; will report at University Assembly

Projects: Library Plaza and Trojan Way begin October 17; former Education building to be razed in late October—requires asbestos abatement first

Construction noise and other inconveniences are inevitable; please be patient; result will be transformational

Centennial Campaign (capital raising) begins 10/19

8/28 Tailgate for Women's Soccer at Coleman Sports Complex

BOT meeting 9/9-9 in Fayetteville

University Assembly 9/16

11/13 Coach Joe Foley commemoration

Anson: Question about new program Acadeum

A: Will be presented during Provost's Report by AVC Finzer

Hamilton: Education is entering third year with an interim director; need permanent director for sake of faculty and students

A: Concur; Provost and Chancellor agree that number of interim positions across campus needs to be remedied

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

Thanks to Senate for service and to SGA President Forcum

Glad to see presence of students and sense of momentum on campus

Looking at civility statement and also undertaking a comprehensive review of campus policies, headed by Darryl Rice

Just Communities for Arkansas/DEIB training for leadership

Looking to consolidate email communications to reduce inbox traffic

Thanks to ATLE

Thanks to AVCs in Provost's Office

AVC Montague: Update on WorkDay

Line-in prototype near readiness; new phase, Architect and Configure

More town hall sessions planned; updates via Provost's newsletter

AVC Finzer: [Simple Syllabus](#) and [Acadeum](#)

Q Anson: What is the cost of Acadeum?

A: Approx. \$19000 initially; annual amount is \$14,919. Compatible with Blackboard

Q: Must faculty comply?

A: Yes; software brings all syllabi into ADA compliance, consistency, etc.

Hamilton: Can format/order be adjusted in SS syllabi?

A: Yes

Carter: Is SS a done deal or a trial?

Finzer: Faculty willing to use SS can do so for Spring '23; goal of full implementation for Fall '23

Silverstein: Students do not read syllabi; syllabi continue to grow because of compliance issues; can size of SS be reduced by using hyperlinks rather than full policies?

Finzer: Acadeum an online platform that serves as a marketplace for course sharing.

Pilot in Spring 23 with 5 departments that have expressed interest.

Supplement/stopgaps for curriculum/required courses through partnering with other institutions. Faculty may "shop" for alternate courses.

Fall 23, students at other institutions may "shop" courses at UA Little Rock.

Students will have full disclosure.

DeAngelis: Is this a way to avoid hiring new faculty?

A: Goal is to attract more students for faculty that we have. Will be used by departments and faculty that wish to use the program; not intended to be imposed. Easier to implement on the home side than the partner end. HLC-assumed practice that faculty control curriculum.

Anson: Same conversation being held at other institutions; concern with loss of students. Can a program participate and then withdraw?

A: Yes.

Anson: What is the cost?

A: Dean Whitman paid for first year out of foundation account; should pay for itself. Will share proposal.

Byrne-McCollum: Can units decide a max number of these courses allowed per degree? Impact on a student's residency requirement? Negative impact on unit SSCH?

A: Yes. No. No.

Harris: Do faculty who teach on our campus have to change their curriculum to a set model per their standards? Or will we still have the ability to design courses that are best for our students?

Matson: Need to defer further discussion to more appropriate forum.

Baker: Supportive of Acadeum as means to increase enrollment.

Finzer: Will provide planning processes info via email.

Bain: Process established for *justified position requests* comes through Unit to Dean to Provost to Cabinet. Have a Provost's reserve; try carefully to use monies to fund faculty positions.

Cheatham: Is there a time frame on position requests?

A: No. Monday of each week/rolling process.

~~DeAngelis: Tech fee requests submitted in July.~~

~~A: Any requests submitted by July 1 should have been approved.~~

Correction: Any requests submitted were approved.

- d. Student Retention Initiatives/CARE Team -- Tyler Harrison, Associate Director

Student Success website: <https://ualr.edu/studentsuccess>

Peer Mentoring Request: <https://ualr.edu/studentsuccess/peer-mentor-program/>

Referral Link: <https://forms.gle/tzBCfb8YkomNvSsY6>

Contact: studentsuccess@ualr.edu

Non-binding poll on preference for Senate meetings (in-person, virtual)

XI. Old Business

none.

XII. New Business

A. Motion FS_2022_21. Executive Committee (Recommendation. Majority Vote at one Meeting, no second required. Resolution on salaries

Whereas a merit raise was last provided for the full-time faculty at UA Little Rock in FY 2017, and for staff in FY 2016, and

Whereas faculty and staff are essential to assuring student retention and success, and

Whereas enrollment declines are stabilizing, and

Whereas the cost of living continues to increase significantly,

Therefore, be it resolved to request that the Provost and Chancellor, working with appropriate university level faculty councils and committees as well as administrators, address merit raises for full time faculty and staff during FY 2023 in order to provide funding for increases in faculty and staff salaries in FY 2024.

Commentary: Versions of this resolution were approved by the CHASSE and CBHHS Assemblies on August 18, 2022; and by the DCSTEM Assembly on August 19, 2022.

Discussion

- DeAngelis: Salary a factor in loss of faculty; new visiting faculty member being hired at higher salary than tenured associate professor.
- Nichols: Raises exclusion of GA salaries; motion to amend to include GAs
- Matson: Adds part-time faculty

Cheatham motion to approve; 2nd Barrio-Vilar

- Cheatham: Resolution, not legislation; more latitude in terms of language; note in minutes.

Motion FS-2022-21 passed

B. Motion FS_2022_22. Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority Vote at one Meeting, no second required) Revision of Policy [404.4](#), Class Attendance and Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal for Non-Attendance, Non-Payment, or Emergency

It is the responsibility of a student not intending to attend a class or classes to withdraw before the 10th day of class (or equivalent date for non-full-terms) in order to receive a full 100% tuition adjustment. In some situations, the student may be administratively withdrawn by the university if they have not ~~On or before the 10th day of classes, students who have not attended class or who have not met their payment obligations. may will be administratively withdrawn.~~

Additionally, students may be withdrawn from a class by the instructor at any time during the semester due to extenuating circumstances, such as medical or family emergencies or excessive absences. Students must be notified that they will be withdrawn from a class, and may appeal that action through the grade appeal process, provided that they file the appeal within five business days of the notice. The withdrawal will not be final until the appeal is completed, and students may continue to participate until the final decision is made.

Student and Administrative withdrawals are subject to the tuition adjustment schedule established in Policy 303.3 and available each term on the Bursar's website under refunds.

Effective Fall 2022.

Commentary: If a student withdraws or is withdrawn before the 10th day, they can get a full tuition refund; after the 10th day, they must pay all or a portion of their tuition per the policy. However, not all non-attending students are withdrawn by the 10th day since it is not an automatic process. Students are saying they relied on this policy to be withdrawn and so they should get full tuition refund, even if they weren't withdrawn. This modification should clarify it is the student's responsibility to withdraw to assure the 100% tuition refund.

Commentary, Amy Frets, Bursar's Office

- Distinction between *adjustment* (account balance) and *refund* (return of tuition monies paid)

Barrio-Vilar moves to accept friendly amendment; 2nd Cheatham

- Passed

Motion FA-2022-22 passes on voice vote

XIII. Open Forum

DeAngelis: Regarding new software implementations. Townhalls not the appropriate forum to determine decisions; need to be brought to Senate.

Hamilton: Bothered by tone from provost office acknowledging faculty fatigue while changes continue to be implemented relentlessly. Would like a moratorium on new policies to allow for equilibrium to be established and policy changes subject to vote. Need to preserve well-being of faculty and establish respect for self-governance.

XIV. Adjourn 3:30 PM