

FACULTY SENATE

September 12, 2007

UC 215

Attendance: John Allen Hendricks, Gene Hetsel, Margaret Avard, Jane Elder, Shannon McCraw, Lucretia Scoufos, Dennis Miles, Paula Allen, William Fridley, Michael Kallam, Mike Morris, Muhammad Betz, Christopher Moretti, Ken Elder, Diane Dixon, Judy Williams, Bruce Johnson, Lawrence Silver, Charles Matthew, Patrick Reardon.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the May 9, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections noted. (Ken Elder/John Allen Hendricks – unanimous vote).

Welcome by President of Faculty Senate: Wayne Jones welcomed the Senate back into session commenting that AY 07-08 would be an exciting year. Jones noted several challenges the university will encounter this upcoming presidential transition.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Ken Elder convened a summer meeting to discuss the Faculty Forum on Shared Governance. The forum will be held Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 1:00 pm in the Union Auditorium. It was noted that the forum would be earlier in the day to generate faculty interest in the forum.

Jones distributed a document outlining the issues to be addressed at the 07 faculty forum. The issues included:

- Issue #1 Administrative announcements/rationale of changes to the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Issue #2 Salary alignment with peer institutions at the Associate Professor and Professor Rank.
- Issue #3 University deferring compensation for those receiving 12 monthly paychecks.
- Issue #4 Accreditation: What challenges exist and what is the role of the faculty senate in meeting these challenges?
- Issue #5 Challenges in realizing the Recruitment and Retention as well as the Diversity and Competence goals of Vision 2010.
- Issue #6 On-line per credit hour fees.

It was stated to encourage spontaneity there would be no formalized written responses distributed prior to the forum. K. Elder suggested if new issues have emerged that are not formally listed, they should be raised at the forum.

Charles Matthews noted movement toward addressing Issue #2 as Associate Professors received a \$300 and Professors received \$600 in salary increases. K. Elder explained the administration might have been addressing Issue #2 as the faculty senate raised the issue as a concern.

Assessment became a popular topic of discussion. Lucretia Scoufos explained that the Assessment Committee did not put forth these new standards, but had requested page limits and a template so those responsible for writing might “plug-in” information reducing time spent away from other assigned duties and as a way of shortening the overall length of assessment reports. It was noted that “some faculty don’t care if the Forum is at 3:00 am – they will be there . . . something must be done.”

No other committee was called upon to report.

Election of Executive Committee:

In new business, John Allen Hendricks was nominated for Senate Treasurer (Charles Matthews/Ken Elder – By acclamation). Bruce Johnson was asked if would consider serving as Parliamentarian. Johnson asked if there was compensation available. Much laughter ensued. Bruce Johnson was nominated for Senate Parliamentarian (Charles Matthews/Ken Elder – By acclamation). Diane Dixon’s service as Faculty Senate Archivist was noted with thanks and appreciation. Diane Dixon was nominated for Senate Archivist (Vicki Hudson/ Jane Elder – By acclamation). Earlier, Shannon McCraw was nominated for Senate Recorder (By acclamation). Jones bestowed much thanks on those willing to serve as the Executive Committee this AY 07/08.

Then, to much groaning, Jones distributed the sub-committee requests.

Old Business:

Faculty Appellate Committee

Diane Dixon reported the Committee on Committees met and nominated the following people for the Faculty Appellate Committee;

Vicki Hudson	(2009)	Glenny Beach	(2009)
John Allen Hendricks	(2009)	Dan Benco	(2009)

Dixon explained the nominations need Faculty Senate approval. K. Elder explained the Faculty Appellate Committee is a OSRHE mandated committee, 23 years in existence, and has only met five times. He went further to explain the importance of the committee in working toward resolving faculty grievances, termination issues, and the appeals

process for tenure and promotion. There was no discussion. (Muhammad Betz/Paula Allen nominated the faculty as a slate – 20 Aye – 1 Nay).

Faculty Lounge/ Coffee

Charles Matthews revisited the issue of a faculty lounge noting the University has a budget line for coffee with \$500 in the coffee account. Therefore, he explained, it is not appropriate for the Faculty Senate to pay for coffee. Several noted that the previous food service provider abused the coffee privilege, relying on the former faculty lounge as a food services lounge. It was also suggested that with a Mr. Coffee it could be done less expensively. Discussion concerning an appropriate location followed. The Union, the old Campus Book Exchange, and departmental space were suggested as possible solutions. Jones said he would inquire with Vice President Robinson about the Union and further explained the University cannot reoccupy the Campus Book Exchange without first attending to fire safety recommendations from the State Fire Marshal. K. Elder raised a concern about meeting a University goal of (re)connecting with retired faculty and he explained a faculty lounge might move that goal forward; providing a site for current and retired faculty to meet. Michael Kallum quipped that tea drinkers might enjoy equal time among the coffee drinkers in the proposed faculty lounge.

New Business

Academic Freedom

William Fridley stated the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) recently released a report on the state of academic freedom. Fridley noted people define academic freedom differently, yet the issue should have special resonance considering the currently “charged atmosphere”. Fridley requested faculty to explore the AAUP website, the AAUP report, and that the Senate talk about this issue in the future.

Green Campus

Margaret Avard respectfully requested that Faculty Senate minutes be photocopied on both sides of paper in an effort to conserve resources.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 pm. (Vicki Hudson/Lucretia Scoufos – unanimous).

Respectfully submitted: Dr. Shannon McCraw, Faculty Senate Recorder