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September 14, 2009 AASU Faculty Senate Minutes

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**Armstrong Atlantic State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of September 14, 2009
University Hall, room 156, 3:00 p.m.**

I. Call to order

3:05 p.m. Please see Appendix A for a roster of attendees.

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 24, 2009 senate meeting.
Senator Hollinger moves to approve: approved.

III. Welcome from President Bleicken

President Bleicken reports that she has received a warm welcome to campus and that she perceives a positive attitude on campus, despite the dire financial situation. Additionally, as enrollment is up, she states we are in a uniquely good situation as one of the few “businesses” whose product is in demand; individual faculty are teaching more, though, due to budgetary restrictions on hiring.

The president went on to laud the HOLA student organization and STEM Symposium team (from the College of Science and Technology) for the monetary contributions to campus in the form of scholarships through HOLA and grant monies through STEM.

Dr. Bleiken reflected upon the inspirational words from State Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond during a recent speech and stated that despite our challenges we’re still fortunate from a number of perspectives. She stated the faculty are the heart of AASU, and she’s happy to have the opportunity to work with us.

Questions:

Sen: Is expanded programming anticipated to allow us to keep up with the additional enrollment?

A. We’re directing some tuition money into that. Andy Clark (Office of Institutional Research) has some daunting figures however we are trying to stay steady, and trying to get an accurate sense of where the programs are really growing to get funding to them.

Sen. follow up: Given the instructional mission needs, how can money come to that from other functions on campus?

A. Double proportional cuts on non-academic units.

IV. Approval of membership for Committees of the Senate and Standing Committees

Sen. McGrath moves to approve: approved.

V. Old Business

- a. Constitution and Bylaws Committee suggested language clarifications (App B)

Sen. McGrath moves to approved: approved.

- b. Proposed constitutional amendment suggested by the 2008 – 09 Steering Committee for one-year terms for all senate alternates (App C)

This will have to go to full faculty vote.

Sen. McGrath moves to approve: approved.

- c. eFACE adopted over Summer term, 2009

Andy Clark: we launched in summer to try and work out the glitches, the response rate was not good at about 27%. A survey has gone out to try to surmise how to get response rates up. There is an automated system in place for Fall that should make a difference along with the corrected time stamping.

Discussion:

Sen.: are auto e-mails going to school addresses?

Mr. Clark: yes.

Sen.: can faculty find out response rates?

Mr. Clark: will check w/ CIS

Sen.: how about a pop up at SHIP or Cove?

Mr. Clark: Cove yes, ship no. Trying to sort that.

Sen.: pop ups assume student's will be on the site. Why can't unsigned comments come directly to us?

Mr. Clark: We're working on that with CIS.

Sen.: the unsigned are intentionally supposed to come only to us.

Sen.: will we go back to pencil and paper if this doesn't improve?

Mr. Clark: we hope not. We're looking for a 45% response rate.

Sen.: what was pencil response rate?

Mr. Clark: 70%

Sen.: we worked on this in Executive Committee, the concern was the idea of bringing a coercive element to evaluations – will that happen?

Mr. Clark: no.

Sen.: it's poorly designed. We need to re-examine the instrument and work on the response rate. There should be additional pieces of the assessment.

Sen.: more consideration to an entirely different assessment tool.

Mr. Clark: changes in the form were always a big cost; electronic format mitigates that.

Sen.: we certainly need to go this direction but we need to re-examine it.

Sen.: supports the re-examine. She gave personal survey as well as electronic, personal yielded greater response – much better than the reaction to the eFace.

Sen.: different how?

Sen.: different rates of response and better information.

Sen.: how was the personal survey administered?

Sen.: Survey Monkey (electronic web site)

Sen.: we talk about student evaluations, but we over emphasize them. And, need to look at other methods of faculty evaluation beyond the student.

Sen.: lower response rate is not answer. Improving the form and getting a higher response rate is the answer.

Mr. Tamer Amer (Pres. SGA): SGA can help. The timing is a bigger question than the quality of the tool. Online access makes it more of a “choice,” but it’s a valuable tool.

Mr. Clark: we won’t go fully electric until the end of Fall semester.

d. Charge to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to study the issue of Ex Officio

membership in the senate. Chair Knofczynski is asked to please continue. Senate would like resolution by the November meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Furloughs and pending budget cuts on campus

Discussion:

Sen.: why did the BOR take faculty money instead of staff money? BOR essentially says they don’t care it’s disproportionately affecting faculty.

Pres. Hampton: they tried to not differentiate and this is the unfortunate event.

Sen.: are they going to address that?

Sen.: someone somewhere needs to be made to realize this is not fair.

Pres. Hampton: consider facts and figures. Grad rates, retention rates; take these to the legislature and say ‘when these are cut, this is what happens.’

Sen.: there are two problems here, one, furloughs are counter-productive, and two, not equitably distributed. We shouldn't have to accept that iniquity, even if we do have to accept furloughs.

Sen.: what part of my responsibilities are being reduced? Clearly not my teaching, but what then to go with the pay reduction? Any acknowledgement of the fact that our job cannot be fully performed is needed. Also, we should've met sooner.

Pres. Hampton: we felt it was aligned with other institutions to not meet until September.

Sen.: what input does the Senate have regarding the budget? Or anything?

Pres. Hampton: regarding the 2011 budget, the Planning, Budget, and Facilities Committee is having input on that. Other initiatives are underway, like technological, that the senate and senate committees participate in. The timing of the budget crisis has worked against participation though. \$2.5 million cut in 5 days leaves no time for discourse.

Sen.: we could've called a special meeting. But that's gone. We need to go forward and a resolution is a good idea if we can get it in by the first of Nov.

Pres. Hampton: ad hoc committee?

Sen.: joint session?

Motion from V. P. Craven: create a Joint Committee of the Planning, Budget, Facilities Committee with Faculty Welfare and Student Success Committees with and Mr. Clark. Their charge will be to create a resolution due by the October Meeting. Approved. (App D)

b. From Sen. Carpenter, on behalf of herself and Sen. Nivens (App E)
Sen. Carpenter makes a motion we recommend the pres call two faculty meetings a year. Motion passes 20 to 8.

Discussion:

Sen.: why do we want this?

Sen.: to provide an opportunity for the full faculty to introduce new faculty as well as a forum for faculty face-to-face interaction.

Sen.: we don't need the BOR manual to ask the President to do this.

Sen.: maybe the senators for the departments who are *not* requesting full faculty meetings are doing a better job of reporting senate activities.

Sen.: camaraderie is lacking; that first fact meeting with the introductions is missed.

The senate should host that meeting with the President.

Sen.: the monthly faculty meeting of yore had a governing function, what would we suggest the function of this faculty meeting have?

Sen.: fun and...

Sen.: informational.

Friendly amendment submitted to strike BOR language from the motion, reflected in attached copy.

VII. Announcements

a. Sen. Nivens, from the Research & Scholarship Committee (App F).

b. Sen. Scott: College of Science and Technology merged departments. This may effect the current Constitution and Bylaws. Constitution & Bylaws Committee should address this.

c. Sen. McGrath: summer academic calendar changes.

Discussion:

Senators generally express feelings of being inappropriately marginalized by the top-down nature of decision making regarding this matter. Specifically, faculty is in a unique position to bring an informed opinion and have a positive impact on this decision. General consensus seems to be that faculty are being alerted much too late in the process. It is revealed that Department Head's were privy to this information in April of 2009, and charged with the task of dissemination.

Further, the survey available to faculty through Pirate's Cove offers two choices for summer term configuration as well as a space for comments and feedback.

VII. Adjournment

5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jewell Anderson

Appendix A

Senators Present	Senators Absent
<u>College of Education</u> Linda Ann McCall Joan Schwartz Michael Mahan Beth Childress Greg Wimer	<u>College of Education</u> Brenda Logan, Alternate Ken Fields
<u>College of Health Professions</u> April Garrity Bob LeFavi Joey Crosby Laurie Bryant Michelle Butina Helen Taggart Pam Mahan Andi Beth Mincer Gloria Strickland Rhonda Bevis	<u>College of Health Professions</u> Carole Massey, Alternate Susan Sammons
<u>College of Liberal Arts</u> Kevin Hampton John Jensen Becky daCruz Daniel Skidmore-Hess Richard McGrath June Hopkins James Todesca Karen Hollinger Hans-Georg Erney Kalenda Eaton Ana Torres	<u>College of Science and Technology</u> Frank Katz, Alternate Azita Baharami
<u>Library</u> Jewell Anderson Kate Farley	Guests Tamer Amer, President SGA Andy Clark, Dir. Inst. Research Linda Bleiken, President AASU
<u>College of Science and Technology</u> Kathryn Craven Scott Mateer Delana Nivens Suzanne Carpenter Daniel Liang Priya Goeser Sean Eastman Greg Knofszynski Vann Scott	Ex-Officio Present Ellen Whitford, VPAA Russell Watjen, Asssoc. VPAA David Carson, VP Business & Finance Michael Donahue, VP External Affairs Shelley Conroy, Dean COHP Laura Barrett, Dean COLA

Appendix B

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Proposed Clarification of the Bylaws of the Senate

To be brought forward for full faculty for vote:

I. Article X: Operational Framework for the Standing Committees of the Senate

~~Section H: Where committee structure provides for student membership, student members shall be selected by the Student Government Association for one-year terms. They shall be voting members of the committees.~~

Where committee structure provides, students shall serve on Standing Committees of the Senate for one-year terms. Unless otherwise specified in the individual Bylaws of each Standing Committee of the Senate, 1) students shall have voting rights on all Standing Committees of the Senate which allow for student members; 2) undergraduate student members will be nominated by the Student Government Association, and graduate students will be nominated by the Graduate Student Council.

Rationale: The issue of how student representatives are appointed to Standing Committees of the Senate may vary in different committees. Some committees will have graduate students serving on them. The issue of voting rights of student representatives will vary for different committees.

II. Article IX: Committees of the Senate

Section A: Steering Committee

Membership: Membership is composed of the officers of the Senate. In addition, one Senator each from the College of Arts and Sciences **Science and Technology**, the College of Education, the College of Health Professions, and the ~~School of Computing~~ **College of Liberal Arts** shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the Senate at its first meeting in the fall. The Parliamentarian shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member. The President of the Senate shall chair this committee.

Rationale: Colleges were restructured.

Appendix C

Steering Committee

Proposed change to the constitution regarding senate alternates

Faculty Senate Constitution Original Text
SECTION G. Terms and Elections

Senators and alternates shall each be elected for a three-year term. Each department shall have an alternate for each Senator. The alternate may vote only when substituting for the Senator. Should a Senator be unable to fulfill his or her duties, the alternate will replace that Senator for the term. Each department shall adopt a procedure for the recall of a Senator and shall submit the procedure to the Secretary of the Senate.

Each department shall elect its Senators and notify the Secretary of the Senate not later than March 1 of each year. Senators begin their term of service at the beginning of the fall semester following their election to the Senate.

Special elections may be called if a Senator and alternate are not able or eligible to fulfill a Senate term.

Article 1-Section G – Terms and Elections – Proposed changes to Paragraph 1:
Senators shall be elected for a three year term and alternates shall be elected to a one year term. Each department shall have one alternate for each Senator. The alternate may vote only when substituting for the Senator. Should a Senator be unable to fulfill his or her duties, an alternate will replace the Senator for the remainder of their term. Each department shall adopt a procedure for the recall of a Senator and shall submit the procedure to the Secretary of the Senate.

(no changes to the rest of Section G)

Rationale:

There has been confusion over the number of alternates a department should have, this change clarifies, one per Senator. One year terms for alternates encourages the willingness of faculty to serve as alternates, makes it possible for recently retired Senators to become alternates and should facilitate filling vacancies for Senators in small departments.

Appendix D

From: Kevin Hampton
President, Faculty Senate

To: The Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee, Mr. Doug Frazier, Chair; the Student Success Committee, Ms. Angela Ryczowski, Chair; and the Faculty Welfare Committee, Dr. Clifford Padgett, Chair

RE: Faculty Senate Resolution

Dear Doug, Angela, and Clifford:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Faculty Senate to request that you call a joint meeting of your committees for the purpose of developing a resolution concerning the recent implementation of furloughs. The resolution should be addressed to President Linda M. Bleicken with the request that she forward this resolution to Chancellor Davis.

The resolution should contain the concerns outlined at the September 14, 2009 Faculty Senate Meeting:

- the disparity of financial burden between 9, 10, and 12-month employees
- the use of campus data from the last budget reduction (2002), and its subsequent effect on graduation and retention rates, incorporating the following information
- the comparison of full-time, tenure-track positions eliminated
- the increase of part-time instruction that occurred
- the loss of well-qualified faculty to other institutions outside the state of Georgia as a result of such reductions
- what method will be used to calculate an appropriate reduction in faculty workload relative to the percentage reduction in salaries
- what is the anticipated duration beyond the current academic year that the language of furloughs will be included in faculty contracts

Please bring the resolution forward at the October 19th meeting of the Faculty Senate. If you have any questions concerning this charge, please do not hesitate to contact me. In advance, thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Appendix E

From Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Policy Manual

<http://www.usg.edu/regents/policymanual/300.phtml>

302.05 FACULTY MEETINGS

Each faculty shall meet at least once each academic term and at such other times as may be necessary or desirable, except at those institutions which have a council, senate, assembly, or other such body, in which case the faculty shall meet at least twice a year. Each faculty shall appoint a secretary who shall keep a record of the proceedings.

9/14/09

Motion to make the following recommendation to the President:

The Faculty Senate of Armstrong Atlantic State University requests that the University President (or designee) call a meeting of the faculty at least twice a year ~~in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy Manual, Section 302.05.~~

Appendix F

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH and SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

For Senate Information and Dissemination, summary of minutes from Sept 9 meeting.

During our most recent meeting of the committee, we passed a motion that:

The Student Research and Scholarship Symposium be scheduled to take place on the Wednesday (during the activity period) two weeks prior to the Honors Convocation.

The winners of the symposium will be recognized at the Honors Convocation.

The Student Research and Scholarship Symposium will have a dual format that includes the option of poster presentations or oral presentations.

Rationale: The committee wants to establish a set date for the symposium for 2010 and future years to avoid confusion about scheduling and conflicts that occur at the end of the academic year. We also want to allow the students receive proper and better recognition of their achievements by giving the awards during the Honors Convocation. Previous attempts to change formats have been tried with various degrees of success. Thus, to mimic what happens at most professional conferences, we will give students the option to select an oral presentation or a poster presentation. This should also facilitate judging since faculty with students in one session could judge the other session. We anticipate that there will be separate prizes for oral and poster presentations.