

Faculty Senate Meeting
November 5, 2003

Members Present: Mitzi Bass, Carol Underwood, James Engman, Laura Festa, John Graves, Julia Hall, Wray Jones, Travis Langley, Jules Mollere, Phillip Schroeder, David Stoddard, Martha Dale Cooley, Carolyn Eoff, Penny Ferguson (for Bruce Smith), William Henshaw, Currin Cooley (for Lynn Leggett), Laura Lockwood, Marielle McFarland, Blair Olson, Connie Roberts, Brett Serviss, Jim Schuff (for George Ann Stallings), Glenna Sumner, Don Wells, and Fred Worth.

Members Absent: Kevin Durand, Richard Miller, and Joyce Shepherd.

Call to order:

The November meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Travis Langley and the minutes from the October meeting were approved with minor typographical corrections.

President's Report:

Dr. Langley reported to the Senate that this month it looks more favorable that faculty and staff will receive a bonus in part due to some leeway in the budget due to under spending around \$174,000 on scholarships.

Langley reported that HSU was up in transfer students and that Junior and Senior retention rates appeared to be up.

In reference to a question concerning changing base pay for academic ranks, Langley reported that the figures being discussed were \$50,000 for Professor, \$43,000 for Associate Professor and \$36,000 for Assistant Professor.

Dr. Langley indicated he had discussed our proposal last month for adjustments in adjunct pay with Dr. Houston and that Houston said the administration was looking at several plans, including some sort of adjustment for adjuncts who had worked for Henderson for five years or more.

Dr. Langley reportedly asked Dr. Dunn about rumors that individuals were moving into the "President's House" and Dunn was quoted as saying it was "not going to happen ever, ever, ever." Dunn was reported to have said he was hoping for some private donations at some point of around \$200,000 to eventually provide for needed renovations of the house.

Langley reported prices for the used laptop computers that Henderson is offering for sale were set by the "state" and might not be realistic for the condition of some of them.

Dr. Langley reported that Mrs. Sharon Gardner was going over the Faculty Handbook line by line as well as checking board minutes to ensure that it is up to day when it is put on the web page.

Langley also reported that the Staff Handbook was being revised to clarify staff taking courses during the duty day. He indicated that the new language would be words to the effect that staff could only take three clock hours a week during the day business hours. He further suggested we might want to look at the wording in the Faculty Handbook as well.

In reference to some discussions last month of matching offers for scholarships for student applicants from Saline and Pulaski Counties, Langley indicated that if faculty dependents got better offers from other Arkansas universities they also can request a match as well and that it "likely would be granted".

Langley reported on discussions of compensation for on-line courses and indicated a final decision hasn't been made. One suggestion being considered is that if faculty member got a \$3000 stipend to develop a course they would be required to teach it a set number of times after which it would become part of load.

Langley reported that an additional recruiter was going to be hired for the rest of the academic year.

On the issue from last month of cost of the student evaluation program, Langley reported that currently it cost \$1500 per semester but that if we went to fall and spring this figure might be less. Langley indicated that Dr. Houston would like the Senate to consider doing student evaluations of classes both fall and spring.

In reference to signage for buildings on campus Langley reported that he would have to check the figures but apparently it would be expensive to do.

Langley reported that an issue of non-tenured faculty being encouraged to write letters for tenure and promotion of their colleagues had been resolved and that the handbook would be followed (i.e. only tenured faculty would write the letters).

Langley announced that there would be a December meeting of the Senate as there is business to address.

Langley then suggested that the Faculty Senate President in the future should attend the University Academic Council meetings and that in his opinion should be able to vote on it. He indicated it had been helpful when he served on the body as a faculty representative while also on the Senate and could address issues for the senate.

Items for the President to Address in the December Meeting:

The following were items that members wanted addressed at the next meeting:

1. To ask Dr. Houston his perspective on the Arkansas State University problems relative to promotion.
2. How much is being spent on the Image Campaign and what results are we seeing so far.

Langley then reported that the two percent bonus was hoped to roll over as a raise to base pay as of July 1 but that while Drs. Houston and Dunn were optimistic it would depend on funding being available.

Committee Reports:

Academics Committee:

Dr. Phillip Schroeder, chair of the Academics Committee indicated that he expected to have a recommendation on advising to the senators a week before the December meeting for consideration at that meeting. His committee has met with various administrators and plans several other meetings before the committee completes its final recommendations to the senate.

Finance Committee:

Dr. Julia Hall, chair of the Finance Committee, provided a correction to the figures from last month's proposal to increase the adjunct pay. The correct figures she reported should have been that currently the rates are \$1600 for non HSU with Master's Degree, \$1850 for non HSU with terminal degree, and \$2000 for retired HSU.

Dr. Hall is also chair of the Fringe Benefits Committee and reported that committee is recommending to Dr. Dunn that we keep the same policy as we currently have. She explained that it was a difficult decision but that the committee felt the current plan was superior to a proposed one.

In reference to a request to increase the faculty membership on the Budget Committee it was reported that Vice President Jones said no, that the committee was too large as it is.

Operations Committee:

Mrs. Mitzi Bass reported that on the issue of faculty/student relations the committee request that the campus Human Relations Committee reexamine the language to recommend any changes.

Mrs. Bass reported that her committee had met with Mr. Epperhart on October 16th to discuss the issue centered around administrative evaluations – security and individuals evaluating administrators outside their areas. One proposed solution to the second issue might be assigning pin numbers so that the administrators would know whether the person was from their area or not. On the question of security Mrs. Bass indicated that the Faculty Handbook provides for the Faculty Senate President to appoint an ombudsman for faculty evaluations and that Mr. Epperhart didn't have a problem the ombudsman being used for security for administrative evaluations as well.

Mrs. Bass then presented the following resolution for the Senate.

The Operations Committee recommends a \$10,000 increase in the funds for the Excellence Awards with specific adjustments to be determined later.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Building and Ground Committee:

Mrs. Connie Roberts, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee reported that she had contacted Mr. Bobby Jones and Mr. Corley relative to some concerns about cleanliness around and in buildings on campus and had been assured that corrections would be made.

A concern relative to lights not being on in the evening due to the time change was expressed and the committee was asked to look into it.

Procedures Committee:

Mr. Wells had no report from this committee.

Executive Committee:

Dr. Langley presented the following resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee:

Adjunct faculty, visiting faculty and artists in residence should be invited to participate in the faculty lunches.

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Dr. Langley asked about the examination of the student evaluation forms and Dr. Bruce Smith is working on it and was not present at the Senate meeting.

New Business:

- a. Faculty Handbook concerns regarding tenure and promotion were referred to the Operations Committee for consideration and recommendations in the spring.
- b. Concerns about smoking near building entrances was referred to the Building and Grounds Committee.
- c. Pre-Summer session concerns were referred to the Academics Committee for consideration.

Announcements:

There was a brief discussion of the suspension of a student for off campus behavior and information is being requested on the case. Dr. Langley stressed that without knowing the definite facts of the case, the Faculty Senate could not discuss this issue.

There was a brief discussion of the Student Government's request for a fall break.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.