

**Minutes Faculty Senate
Meeting April 6, 2022**

Attendance

Senators present - Carolyn Jester, Aaron Calvert, Janna Lock, Deepak Pant, Matthew Gross, Catherine Leach, Richard Miller, James Engman, Robert (Matt) Breece, Michael Loos, Beth Wyatt, Holly Cothren, Carly Cate, Connie Phelps, Mark Mosser, Torri Ellison, Brian George, Fred Worth, Jonathon Barranco, Carrie Flora, Dever Norman, Steve Adkison, Patrick Wempe, Shannon Wittig, Jane Adams , Megan Hickerson, Shari Valentine

Senators absent with no alternate present - Darrel Farmer, Sally Crain

Alternates present with senator absent - Don Kelly (For first part of meeting, served as senator until Shari Valentine arrived)

Alternates present with senator present - Margo Duvall, John Price, Joe Campbell, Marck Beggs, Allison Divine, W Martin James, Thom Copeland

Staff Senate Representative - present - Tommie Campbell

Guests present - Lacy Klinger, Stephanie Barron, Tina Hall, Christopher Todd, Lacy Wolfe, Christy McDowell, Carrie Burt, Jennifer Maddox, Trudi Sabaj, Holly Boyette, Heather Thayer, John Greene, Suzanne Kordsmeier, Alan Blaylock, Charlotte Wright, TaLisha Givan, Shelley Austin, Nevada Mills, Rodney, Kasten Searles, Greg Gibson, Lisa Massey, Millie Bowden, A. Margarita Peraza-Rugeley

- I. Call to Order - Dr Engman called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes - motion to approve, seconded, passed as written
- III. President's Report - see addendum 1
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee - Discussed temporary expansion of eligibility window for Outstanding New Faculty Award.
 - B. Academics Committee - The Academic Committee received feedback from the Registrar concerning single course withdrawal dates and will be meeting shortly to discuss the feedback and the larger question of withdrawal dates.
 - C. Board of Trustees Representative - see addendum 2
 - D. Building and Grounds Committee - see addendum 3
 - E. Finance Committee - see addendum 4
 - F. Graduate Council - see addendum 5
 - G. Operations and Handbook Committee - no report
 - H. Procedures Committee - see addendum 6

- I. Shared Governance Committee - no report
- J. Exigency committee - see addendum 7
- IV. Old Business - none
- V. New Business - two proposals were presented but withdrawn
- VI. Adjournment - motion, second, meeting adjourned 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Worth, secretary

Addendum 1 - Faculty Senate President's Report

April 6, 2022

Meeting with Chancellor Ambrose, April 5.

I met with Dr. Ambrose and had a series of questions to ask.

First, we dealt with some "old business," items that we had discussed previously and that he was looking into for the Senate.

- The question had been raised regarding whether or not Bobbie Lee had received a \$20,000 salary increase as her areas of responsibility were changed. Dr. Ambrose reported that she had. He stated that this took place before he arrived at HSU, and that he probably would not have done that.
- Last month, we discussed a report that athletics teams have been using Sodexo catering to feed athletes on the weekends, in the Formby Center and in the Field House. They are served the same food that is available in the cafeteria that day, but the sports program is charged standard Sodexo catering prices, which are greatly inflated, especially considering that most of the athletes have meal plans and could eat in the cafeteria. Dr. Ambrose looked into that and reports that it is no longer taking place.
- In the past, some athletes were being allowed to take their math courses other institutions online. There was great concern over the integrity of those courses, and the Senate worked with the Office of the Registrar to discontinue that practice. Dr. Ambrose confirmed with AD Shawn Jones that this is not being done.

New matters.

- Dr. Ambrose has repeatedly told the faculty that there is an anticipated deficit of approximately \$12M for the end of this academic year. I asked if that figure is still roughly correct, and he confirmed that it is. I then asked about his letter to the Higher Learning Commission, dated March 1, responding to an HLS letter, in which he states the following:

"First, your letter states that cost-savings measures were recently announced to "avert a cash shortfall of \$12.5 million in the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2022." Unfortunately, while this amount has been repeated in multiple media reports, it is not accurate. A gap of approximately \$12.5 million would exist if federal stimulus funds were not available in this fiscal year. However, those stimulus funds are available in this fiscal year and HSU's share of those funds is approximately \$6.0 million. While it is true that a deficit was poised to exist in this fiscal year even with inclusion of stimulus funds, the Strategic Cash Flow Financial Planning Proforma (with updated versions publicly available at <https://www.hsu.edu/pages/creating-the-future-of-collegereimagining-henderson/>) shows this amount to be far less than the reported \$12.5 million."

I asked if he could explain the apparent contradictions of these statements. He stated that it has to do with the use of stimulus money. He also stated that ASU "had a hand" in the drafting of the letter. I did not understand his explanation, and asked for clarification, but I still do not understand how the faculty can be

told to expect a cash shortfall of \$12M while the HLC is told that figure is not accurate. I have emailed a request for further clarification. Maybe someone with more financial background than I have can help sort this out.

- I discussed concerns being expressed that the administration has already made definite plans regarding cuts and elimination of programs, but that the HSU faculty are not being informed of these at this time. One example was a report that an OBU faculty member met with band students at a local high school, and allegedly told them that there was no point in them coming to HSU major in music, because all of the HSU music majors would be taking their classes at OBU. Dr. Ambrose stated that this decision, and other similar decisions, have not been made. He did discuss that the possibility of using partner institutions, including OBU, to assist in offering classes, has been discussed within HSU, and with multiple partner institutions. I followed up with a question that I had, based on a discussion with an OBU faculty member. That faculty member stated that many at OBU are concerned about how they could handle large numbers of students from HSU, at a time when their enrollment has grown so much. Dr. Ambrose replied that much of the partnering that would be anticipated could be from relatively low enrollment HSU programs, such as music, so that the burden on the partnering institution would not be a heavy one.
- We discussed the Open Checkbook information on the HSU website. Arkansas state law requires that universities maintain open records in a manner that allows anyone to look at all expenditures. HSU's Open Checkbook does not appear to contain any information for the current calendar year, the last information being from December of 2021. This is perceived by some as a lack of transparency. Dr. Ambrose replied that this is a result of reductions in staff, compounded by the ongoing difficult transfer to the Banner software. He said that it will eventually be updated.
- I asked about the implications of a loss of all of HSU's mental health counselors; all of them have moved on to other jobs. This is at a time when many on campus are experiencing stress, depression, and have significant concerns about the future. He said that this is an important matter, and that HSU is pursuing alternatives such as telemedicine and third party providers, and that there will be more information soon.
- It seems obvious that many current programs are going to be restructured in ways that require substantial modification of their curricula. I asked if he anticipates there being a functional and relevant University Academic Council as that process moves forward. He stated that instead, he sees the formation of a "tactical team" to streamline such decisions, and that the team would function in ways that are totally different, easier, and less cumbersome than the current structure allows.

- We discussed the decision to keep the format of graduation as it has been recently during the pandemic, with students and their guests showing up at pre-specified times, in relatively small groups. He portrayed this as a difficult decision, but one that was driven by the positive comments of students and their guests. As opposed to the more traditional graduation format, the modified form that was used in December, for example, allows students to bring many more guests, without the issues of how many people can be accommodated in the field house. The earlier format frequently resulted in some guests being excluded from directly observing the ceremony.
- We discussed the Faculty Exigency Committee. Dr. Ambrose expressed his appreciation for the serious approach that the committee is taking to their difficult task, and in particular the excellent job that Catherine Leach is doing as chair of that committee. He characterized a good working relationship between Dr. Hunt and the committee, and noted that the Huron group has provided the committee with the data-based “tool” to assist in the decision making process.

Meeting with Dr. Hunt, April 28, 2022

- I discussed the situation regarding the music major (see similar discussion with Dr. Ambrose, above). Dr. Hunt explained that music is a very expensive and low enrollment program, but he is not aware of any definite decisions that have been made at this time. He does not know on what information the OBU faculty member who met with high school students would have based their statement.
- At our previous meeting, Dr. Hunt had asked about the formation and operation of the Shared Governance Committee. At that time, I had referred him to Dr. Talisha Givan, who chairs the committee. I reported to him that the committee has met, and that the goal of the meeting was to populate the various committees. Dr. Hunt and I discussed the anticipated need to alter the committee structure based on changes that have taken place (such as the elimination of deans), and changes that will take place in the future.
- Many individuals on campus have asked what sorts of answers they should be given students and others at Reddie for Henderson events this spring. Dr. Hunt said that he is receiving the same sorts of questions from faculty and staff, and that the most important answer is that if the students come here, they should plan on being supported by the university so that they can complete their degrees. That does not necessarily mean that they will complete all of their classes on the HSU campus with HSU instructors, but that partner institutions could be involved.

Addendum 2 - Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Report 3-11-22

Welch gave a system report noting that tuition revenue was down 8.5 million but state appropriations were up 4.3 million. Also discussed that HSU has \$40 million plus in debt but no new debt in 2021. Cash up from 7 days in 2019 to 21-43 now.

Also reported a \$412,000 grant to ASU Three Rivers for Workforce training on HSU campus.

Ambrose reported to the Board the following:

Thanking ASU for Banner help. Discussed extending graduation with help from ASU Jonesboro. Discussed filling gaps. Mentioned the Workforce collaboration with Three Rivers. Noted that applications for enrollment are up 20% over last year at this time. Discussed 6200 students with Accounts receivables and working with them to produce degrees by working with sister institutions.

Welch presented a resolution to refinance bonds for ASU and HSU. It was approved.

The Board went into executive session. Academic appointments were approved, though none were submitted from HSU. HSU nonacademic appointments were approved.

Board adjourned.

Special Board meeting 3-28-22

Welch put forth a resolution to give flexibility on refunding the bond issue. To allow funding all 3 or any combination thereof. It passed with no objections.

Welch offered a resolution to have the board certify financial exigency to begin at Henderson per the the procedures and timelines outlined in the Faculty Handbook. The motion to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned at 10:07

Addendum 3 - Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on March 8. As a follow up of our previous meeting, we received the report that the handicap parking space next to the library is damaged. Aaron took pictures of the damage area and shared those among B&G committee members for documentation.

The committee decided to create a form to gather any other B&G issues across campus. Brian George has created the form which will be shared among faculty and staff through campus email.

The committee also discussed a plan for campus walks for safety concerns.

The next meeting will take place on April 7, 11:45

Addendum 4 - Finance Committee

- I am not actually looking for discussion or necessarily any answers in this senate meeting, but these are questions needing to be on the record "somewhere"

1. Who is making the budget? 2. When will it be available? 3. Will there be any transparency in the process?

- We are also asking for some transparency on furloughs. Under "My Henderson" we were able to search paystubs for any University Employee. Now that function in Banner is "unavailable/not working." Concerns were raised in our subcommittee meeting about not "all being equal with 20% cuts."

Does anyone else have examples of different pay between furlough check #1 and #2?

Addendum 5

Old Business (2nd Reading): approved second reading of a course change proposal from the Business School: to offer the Special Studies in Management (MBA) as a one, two or three-hour course.

New Business (1st Reading): approved first reading of a new program proposal from the Teachers College: 30-hour Educational Specialist degree-CPA Special Education Supervisor.

Addendum 6 - Procedures Committee

Faculty Hearing Committee Results 2022				
Role	College/Department	Committee Member	Alternative Members	Term Expires
Faculty	Ellis College, Fine Arts	Michael Taylor	Paul Glover	2025
Faculty	Ellis College, Humanities and Social Sciences	Thomas Copeland	Douglas Heffinton	2025
Faculty	Ellis College, Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing	Judy Caryle	Miranda Franco	2025
Faculty	School of Business, Library	Eunice Akoto	Brian George	2025
Faculty	Teachers College Henderson	Jessica Allen	Bryon Martin	2025

Addendum 7 - Exigency Committee

The Financial Exigency Committee has been meeting weekly with Huron. Huron is creating a spreadsheet tool to be used when making our decisions. The data for the tool is Henderson's data along with data from the Arkansas State University System. Huron is expected to deliver the tool sometime today (April 6th).