

DRAFT
Faculty Senate Meeting
December 1, 2004

Members Present: Angela Boswell, Martha Dale Cooley, Carolyn Eoff, Betsy Fulmer, David Gardner, William Henshaw, Catherine Leach, Currin Cooley (for Lynn Leggett), Charles Leming, Laura Lockwood, Herbert Matthews, Harold McAfee, Marielle McFarland, Henry Perez, Brett Serviss, George Ann Stallings, Carol Underwood, Steve Becraft (for Don Wells), and Fred Worth.

Members Absent: Aneeq Ahmad, Lea Ann Alexander, Marty Campbell, Blair Olson, Phillip Schroeder, Joyce Shepherd, Bruce Smith, Glenna Sumner, and Hank Wilson.

Others Present: Alan Wright

Call to order: The December meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Fred Worth.

The minutes from the November regular meeting were approved.

President's Report:

Dr. Worth reported on a conversation with Bobby Jones. A senator had asked that the University re-examine a recycling plan. Bobby Jones said that we have not looked at this in some time. We actually were going to have to pay to have some recycling done. He will check on it again and let us know.

Dr. Worth then reported on his meeting with Dr. Dunn. Dr. Worth told Dr. Dunn that he believed faculty morale is generally poor right now and asked him what he planned to do to address morale. Dr. Dunn felt that the planning effort should help faculty see that they DO have a voice in the direction of the university. Dr. Worth indicated that he had heard people make comments that they didn't think anything would really change and suggested to Dr. Dunn that it would be important to be willing to make substantive changes, not just cosmetic ones. Dr. Dunn explained that he felt we did make substantive changes after *Bold Strokes* but acknowledged that perhaps we didn't do a very good job of communicating those changes. In the meeting with Dr. Worth, Dr. Dunn mentioned that he brought up the topic of the mission statement in Monday's cabinet meeting. He told the deans he was open to possible changes in the mission statement. He wants to be sure it expresses who we are but also wants to try to assure that no one feels excluded by the wording. Dr. Worth expressed his pleasure that two members of the board were at the planning retreat, and Dr. Dunn mentioned that two others had planned to attend but had other commitments. Dr. Dunn expressed a desire to "engage" people on campus. He wants to help them feel valued and feel that their opinions are valued so they will see themselves in a more vital role on campus. Regarding future plans for the university, Dr. Dunn mentioned that his tentative plans (always subject to change) are to fulfill his current contract (3.5 more years) and not pursue renewal. He wants to help the university have a clear focus on "where we want to go" so the next president could be chosen with that mission in mind. Regarding cabinet minutes, Dr. Dunn acknowledged the need to get them out more quickly and he was open to considering the inclusion of a faculty member in the cabinet meetings (as a reporter) but pointed out that, since the cabinet meets for 2-3 hours on Monday mornings, it would be hard to find a faculty member who could attend. Dr. Dunn also shared the data from the governor's proposal for higher education funding. The current proposal would give us an increase of 4.2% in state appropriations. For the second year of the biennium, we would receive an increase

of 4.7%. Dr. Dunn was very pleased with the recommendations. Dr. Dunn also mentioned that Congressman Ross had notified him that a \$300,000 appropriation was included in the omnibus funding bill in Congress. That money would be earmarked for nursing, for building and/or equipment. Mr. Ross indicated he would seek to get additional money (perhaps another \$300,000) next year. The architect projected a cost of \$1.2 million for a well-equipped nursing building. Dr. Dunn has seen sample signs for the new “no smoking within 25 feet” of building doors policy mandated by the Governor but said that we are holding off putting them up until we decide whether to “bite the bullet” and forbid smoking campus-wide. There is little doubt that the Governor is leaning that way at the moment. Regarding summer salaries and fall break, Dr. Dunn said those issues are still under consideration. When asked about a week long Thanksgiving break he said he didn't think that likely to happen.

Dr. Worth then reported on his meeting with Dr. Houston. Regarding morale, Dr. Houston mentioned four areas that he felt could bring improvement. 1) As a university, we have been under a number of great pressures, particularly financial issues, for the past couple of years. That has a way of really eroding morale. We need to be able to pay and buy what we need. He wants to work to get resources to faculty in the way they need them (development, travel, equipment). He believes the governor's proposed funding would help if it indeed is passed by the legislature. 2) Dr. Houston wants to be sure that faculty have a say in the decisions that are made on campus. People need an opportunity to participate in the discussion and have input. The final decision may go counter to what they want but they need to feel they've had a chance to make their case. 3) We need more communication to get information out and stop misinformation. Dr. Houston said he would be happy to regularly meet with the senate for 10-15 minutes in order to answer questions so people can have concerns heard and possibly stop misinformation before it causes problems. 4) Dr. Houston believes faculty want to see their colleagues doing their job. He said we had several cases of people canceling their classes Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Regarding summer salaries, Dr. Houston said that, tentatively, it looks like we will go with an averaging system. If a faculty member's classes average to an as yet undetermined number (possibly 12), then both classes will run. Some flexibility will be allowed in the system to account for needs in running upper level classes or graduate classes. Some low enrollment classes could be run perhaps every 2 or 3 years. He is still open to the averaging possibly being done department-wide rather than just by faculty member. A fall break is still in discussion but will probably happen, but this might require the Fall Faculty pre-session conference to begin on Thursday with registration on Friday the week before the beginning of classes. It will probably be in mid-October. Regarding a possible weeklong Thanksgiving break, Dr. Houston believes that an October break would be more beneficial for "renewal." An October break AND a weeklong break at Thanksgiving would not both be possible.

Dr. Worth then gave the “Annual report from the Faculty Senate President.”
Over the past year, the Faculty Senate has accomplished a lot.

- Summer school salaries look like we're going to get averaging of classes
- We got significant senate input in the pre-session conference planning
- Additional faculty representation on the UAC and Budget Committee
- Salary study committee to try to accomplish fair salary adjustments
- Increases in adjunct salaries
- Advising proposal
- Updated honor code
- Short term disability policy
- Resurrection of the technology committee

- New faculty excellence award
- Adjustments to promotion/tenure policies
- Incomplete grade form

Some things we failed to accomplish

- Getting significant faculty input on the web redesign
- Getting faculty to participate on the technology committee

There is a lot yet to accomplish.

- Development of a single source for university policy. Preferably, this will be done via a web page on which Flora Weeks is still working.
- Some things relating to academics that were placed on the back burner due to the large number of other issues that the committee had before them
- Seeking to establish a real system of joint governance
- Work within the structure of the strategic planning process to improve the university

Dr. Worth then specifically thanked the chairs of Faculty Senate committees, the Senators, Dr. Houston, Dr. Dunn, and Dr. Phillip Schroeder.

Election

Due to Phillip Schroeder's resignation from the Faculty Senate, nominations were taken for the position of President-elect. Mike Matthews was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

No report.

Academics Committee:

No report.

Finance Committee:

Dr. Matthews reported that the committee took no action on the issue of summer school contracts because Dr. Houston and others are discussing recommendations.

The Faculty Senate Finance Committee recommends that the Chairs of the University Development Committee and University Research Committee discuss with the Deans of Ellis College, School of Business, and Teachers College-Henderson an appropriate date for making awards so that travel funding by the colleges and schools can be better coordinated with funding dates by these committees.

Procedures Committee:

Dr. Boswell, Chair, reported the results of the at-large elections for Senators:

Professor: Jules Mollere (alternate Michael Taylor)

Associate Professor: James Engman (alternate David Stoddard)

Assistant Professor: Kenneth Taylor (alternate Ken Green)

Instructor: Celya Taylor (alternate Mitzi Bass)

Operations Committee:

No report

Building and Grounds Committee:

Dr. Serviss, Chair, reported that the committee had met with Bobby Jones regarding several issues. Each building will receive two identical signs (many of the signs are already erected on the campus). We will also be getting two campus directories that will be placed in two strategic locations on campus. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet in the near future in order to determine the best two locations, and Dr. Serviss asked for Senators to send suggestions.

According to the Governor's Policy Directive 15, issued May 18, 2004, smoking is not allowed within 25 feet of any entrance to a state building. We will move all smoking receptacles so that they are in compliance with this directive. Apparently, there may be a push for the HSU campus to be "smoke free" in the future.

Gary Taylor will again check the lights behind the Wells Center. The Buildings and Grounds Committee feels that more lights are needed, and must be added to the Wells Center area. The construction rubbish behind the Wells Center seems to have been cleaned up.

Bobby Jones is going to discuss with John Corley the possibility of "sodium lights" being used on the HSU campus. He is not sure what the cost would be versus what we have now. OBU does not have as many large trees as we have on our campus and this may be the reason that it looks brighter at night to Hank Wilson when he flies over campus.

Bobby Jones does not have the money in his budget at this time for sidewalk construction along Richardson Street. The cost is almost \$8,000. Jones said the he would keep this on his list of things to do. The Building and Grounds Committee feels that a sidewalk along Richardson Street is critical, and will push for it during the next fiscal year.

Bobby Jones, John Corley, Rick McDaniel, and Brett Serviss will meet to discuss the trafficking problems with the parking lot on 12th and Henderson Street.

Campus beautification appears to be an important issue, and a tentative plan is in the making. Bobby Jones, the grounds crew, Lea Ann Alexander, and Brett Serviss will be directly involved in the process.

Other issues discussed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

1. Paper recycling program on campus. Can we get such a program started? Several points on this were discussed, but the Buildings and Grounds Committee feels that an attempt should be made to implement a paper recycling program again at HSU. Cost and logistics seem to be the main hurdles to a campus paper recycling program.
2. The two leaning pine trees adjacent to the Reynolds Science Building should probably be removed. One is on the south side of Reynolds between Arkansas Hall and Reynolds, and the other is at the northeast corner of Reynolds across from Evans. The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends that these trees be removed.
3. Handicap access ramp entering Russell Fine Arts possibly needs new carpeting. Dr. Serviss looked at the ramps entering the building, and two had no carpeting, and one seemed to have rubberized flooring or floor coverings.
4. Potential for repainting the cross walk at the intersection of 12th and Henderson Street. The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends that this does occur.

5. There is or was a muddy entrance to Arkansas Hall on the side of the building that faces Henderson Street. As far as we know, the problem has been alleviated. (William Henshaw added that the entrance still remains muddy and slippery from the runoff of soil when it rains.)

A discussion of possible beautification projects ensued. The Senate also discussed potential approaches to recycling.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Angela Boswell, Secretary, Faculty Senate