

Revised
Draft
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 5, 2003

Members Present: Mitzi Bass, Vonna Cranston, James Engman, Laura Festa, Angela Boswell (for John Graves), Julia Hall, Wray Jones, Travis Langley, Jules Mollere, Phillip Schroeder, Bruce Smith, David Stoddard, Martha Dale Cooley, Carolyn Eoff, William Henshaw, Lynn Leggett, Laura Lockwood, Marielle McFarland, Blair Olson, Connie Roberts, Brett Serviss, Joyce Shepherd, George Ann Stallings, Glenna Sumner, Don Wells, Fed Worth.

Members Absent: Kevin Durand, Richard Miller

Others Present: Professor Emeritus John Hall, Sandy Denning (Staff Senate Representative)

President Travis Langley called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 3:16 p.m. Minutes from the January meeting were approved as amended.

President's Report

In reference to questions about college classes being taught at the Arkadelphia High School, Dr. Langley reported that Superintendent Prothro initiated the project to primarily serve lower socioeconomic students and encourage them to attend college. He (Prothro) was reported to have indicated that he had similar programs in other areas and that they had been successful and increased enrollment for the participating college. The high school faculty teaching the courses will use the syllabus and text books "we" choose and we can observe the classes. Currently three classes are scheduled for the fall trial period, Freshman English A, College Algebra and History. The individual teaching College Algebra has taught for Henderson State before as an adjunct. The individual teaching the Freshman English class has taught adjunct at OBU for many years and the person teaching history has a masters degree and has taught at OBU but little else is known about this person. It was further reported that Arkansas State University has a similar program with a number of local school districts. There were apparent indications that if HSU didn't agree to do it they would go to another institution. The classes must be materially different from regular high school classes and issues covered on campus must be covered there.

Langley reported that Dr. Dunn acknowledged that this program is not part of the collegiate experience and that he has some discomfort with the program as well as with classes taught online as they are also not part of the collegiate experience either. He further stated that the availability and price of curricula online will hurt us all.

It was stressed to President Langley that department chairs will have quality control over the high school classes for college credit with every supervisory right they have for on campus classes. This program will be on a trial basis only. Prothro is quoted as saying that the same objections raised at Henderson State were raised at Arkansas State University but the result was a dramatic increase in the percent of students from his high school in that area that went on to college. We would not be making money from the project but not losing money either according to the report.

In reference to question about minutes from the Cabinet's September report, Ms Weeks has been unable to locate her notes on the meeting.

In reference to the following related questions: Why there wasn't a wider search for Shannon Fleming's replacement? Is there no requirement to advertise such positions? Why do we have to advertise faculty position even when we have a person (adjunct maybe) chosen? Why are there two different standards in terms of replacements?

Dr. Dunn was quoted as saying he asked the same questions to the General Counsel. Mr. Gyllin had been on that tract anyway. The original plan was for Mr. Fleming to take over the vice presidency from Ms. Doris Wright. Mr. Choate was quoted as saying an internal promotion does not require an active search, i.e. you don't have to advertise externally when it is a promotion. It was pointed out that this also happens with faculty when chairs are named from the faculty in a department without an external search.

In reference to questions about assessment, Dr. Langley reported that Dr. Houston plans to expand the Assessment Committee which presently consists of academic personnel because the issue is bigger and includes Maintenance, Financial Affairs, and the Presidents office which also need to be assessed. Houston was reported to have asked others to participate in the process in an effort to make the committee representative of the entire university as well as requesting Business Office input. He feels we will ultimately have to hire someone to deal with assessment on a day to day basis as there is too much for Dr. Houston to deal with in addition to his other duties. Dr. Houston welcomes participation of any faculty members who have assessment expertise and wish to become involved and would be "delighted" to negotiate released time for them.

In addition it was reported that the National Survey of Student Engagement provided comparative data on how our students rate us on specific issues compared to others. Overall we rated under average in most areas. One area we excelled in was faculty involvement with students. The NSSE was a source that indicated over all we have done poorly in getting our students to write in the past. We are participating again this year and hope to continue to track progress over time.

When asked if Ms Wright is still Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement and if there will be a search for the position, Dr. Dunn was reported to have said there will not be VP of Institutional Advancement after this year. Public Relations will continue to report to Ms Doris Wright (as does Computer Services and Institutional Advancement) and Development will report directly to Dr. Dunn. He is looking for a more clear and accurate title for the position occupied by Ms. Wright.

When asked "How can an institute of higher learning have four Vice Presidents, only one of whom has a terminal degree", Dr. Dunn was reported to have replied that it will be three, not four and while he would prefer that the Student Services Vice President have a doctorate, he doesn't expect the present Vice President Hankins to earn one any time soon.

When asked what he was doing in the area of fund raising, Dr. Dunn discussed his working with advancement, the Gala, cultivation of donors through social events, athletic contests, concerts, etc. In addition he spends a lot of time on the phone and visiting and dining with potential donors. In addition he has to deal with the legislature. Dunn reported that we cannot expect increases from the legislature at the present but he is working to insure we are getting treated fairly and will ask for capital funds if they become available.

Dr. Dunn was also asked about his adding Dr. Houston as ex officio member of the Graduate Council without discussing it with them. He felt that adding Dr. Houston to the Graduate Council was valuable and pointed out Houston has no vote but is just a voice and source of information for the council. He further noted that we don't normally consult with committees or councils about membership and he (Dr. Dunn) generally signs off on the Committee on Committees recommendations, (i.e. goes with whatever they recommend .999 of the times).

When asked about the Admissions Proposal, Dunn indicated that he believed the initial proposal presented to him would not have been approved by the Board of Trustees and also that the University Planning Committee worked on it for a year after he received the proposal from the Faculty Senate, Student Government and University Academic Council and that we knew what the proposal would be back in the spring of last year. The Board approved the change in admissions standards six months ago.

Dr. Langley reported that he had asked Dr. Houston why students were allowed to register five days after the deadline for registration. Dr. Houston reported that we had not foreseen every contingency and that the problems centered around students financial problems. The fall fees had not been paid for the five international students. He further indicated that it is not as simple as it is for local students who can go home more easily. If an international student falls "out of status" that person must leave the country. In this case they showed they could at least make the fall payments. Had that been refused they would have been walking around in the U.S. with \$3000 in pocket.

This semester we have put in place FACTS for all students. With a 25 dollar deposit and an account with the bank all students may now make deferred payments. Houston further reported that next year international students would be required to make full payments before leaving their home countries.

There were further factors in this year's problems concerning meeting the deadline in that Mr. Jones wasn't on campus on the last day to give approval for the student plans.

When Dr. Houston was asked why international students had to keep a 3.0 grade point average every semester, he replied that he didn't think they did. To keep the out-of-state fee waiver they must have a 2.75 or better (it used to be 2.5). He further indicated that we are phasing out the existing international scholarships because of budget concerns. We don't have enough money in the program to give every qualifying student a scholarship as most of them keep a 3.2 or better GPA.

There was some general discussion after the President's Report. One senator shared with the faculty that instead of three courses at the high school as it appears above there will be at least five (Freshman English A & B, College Algebra, and two History courses). It appears only three classes will be taught a term and Prothro wants to eventually have 27 hours at the Arkadelphia High School for students before they graduate. There were concerns about what is happening to the preparation for college courses at the high school with this proposal.

Some senators expressed concerns about students coming to Henderson State with college credit and low ACT's where the student would be taking remedial course here (as we have seen in the past) after completing apparently regular college courses. There were also concerns expressed by members of the senate about lack of compensation for extra responsibilities of chairs for the high school courses who may need to monitor the courses. Other concerns of senators centered around assessment of the courses and who would be involved in deciding whether they worked.

Also one senator stated we apparently may have students taking on line courses in mathematics at other institutions who do quite well on line but can't pass a class with an instructor to help which questions the quality of the on line courses.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee

Phillip Schroeder presented the following revision of the proposed mission statement to the faculty senate:

Proposed Mission Statement
Academic Affairs Committee

Faculty Senate
Henderson State University

Henderson State University is Arkansas's public liberal arts university. Henderson is dedicated to providing excellent undergraduate curricula and graduate programs in selected areas. Henderson is primarily a regional, comprehensive university with a growing international student community. Henderson is committed to a program based on the liberal arts, regardless of the individual student's specific educational interests. Through a common core of courses, as well as through the more specialized curricula, the university fosters the maximum growth and development of each student. Henderson endeavors to provide an education that will nurture in each student the capacity.

- To think logically and critically;
- To speak and write effectively;
- To appreciate the complexity and diversity of world cultures;
- To understand the physical universe;
- To participate as a concerned, intelligent citizen;
- To acquire mastery of a particular field of study;
- To mature intellectually, emotionally, and physically; and
- To learn and use appropriate technology.

Henderson's primary mission is to excel in undergraduate education, always striving to enrich the quality of learning and teaching. In pursuit of this goal, the university seeks a culturally rich and diverse student community, actively recruiting, challenging, supporting, and motivating students to achieve academic success. Quality in education is fostered not only by a positively motivated student body, but also by a faculty and staff distinguished for their continuing commitment to excellence. Henderson is committed to a strong Honors Program, attracting students from all academic areas. University care and concern, positive student response, small class sizes, and a personal, friendly atmosphere – these characteristics are the heart of Henderson.

The university encourages excellence in teaching and supports scholarly and creative endeavors on the part of both its faculty and students. These endeavors form the foundation upon which Henderson builds appropriate programs in response to the needs of various communities that it serves. In close concert with these communities, Henderson applies its expertise to develop those programs that will promote the preservation and improvement of the quality of life in Arkansas.

After discussion including a very thoughtful presentation by Professor Emeritus John Hall that included an alternative first paragraph there was a call for the question and the above proposal was passed with 18 voting for the proposal and six opposed.

Finance Committee

Drs. Julia Hall and Fred Worth presented the following salary proposal to the Senate:

**Salary proposal from
Senate Finance Committee**

Rank	Mean Salary for Rank	Proposed Salary Increase for Rank
instructor	\$35313.73	\$1,441
assistant professor	\$39065.23	\$1,594

associate professor	\$49507.16	\$2,020
professor	\$55625.89	\$2,270

In each case, the proposed salary increase is 4% of the mean salary for that rank.

It should also be noted that these numbers are not based on complete data. Some variation in the numbers will occur due to salary data that was not in the budget book.

After some discussion the proposal was passed with 23 voting for it and one against.

Operations Committee

No report

Building and Grounds Committee

Building and Grounds Committee has met but had no report for the Senate.

Procedures Committee

It was reported that replacement of alternates had been completed and an updated roster of Senators and Alternates is now on the web page.

New Business

- a. A proposal for Summer School was referred to the Finance Committee
- b. A concern relative to creating a complete policy manual where all policies are available in writing was referred to the Operation Committee.
- c. A concern about apparent differences between the Faculty Handbook and the on-line version of the Faculty Handbook was referred to the Operations Committee. Mr. Wells indicated he would check on the web version.
- d. Concerns were expressed concerning after hour security for classroom buildings and the issue was referred to the Building and Grounds Committee for a recommendation.
- e. Dr. Fred Worth presented the following proposal to the Faculty Senate to hopefully improve communication and dialogue between the Senate and the Deans:

The President of the Faculty Senate will appoint a Senate representative to visit with each of the four deans on a monthly basis and make a report to the Senate.

The above proposal was passed with 15 voting affirmative and 5 opposed.

- f. The concern over continued grade inflation was referred to the Academics Committee for a recommendation.

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.