

Faculty Senate Minutes
May 1, 2013

Senators Present: Barbara Landrum (for Lea Ann Alexander), Stephanie Barron, Marck Beggs, Kristen Benjamin, Carolyn Eoff, David Evans, Daniel Fitzroy, Steven Knight (for John Greene), Megan Hickerson, Jana Jones, Patricia Loy, Beth Maxfield, Janice O'Donnell, Malcolm Rigsby, Ingo Schranz, Patrick Wempe, Penny Whelchel, Paul Williamson, Fred Worth.

Senators Absent: Lea Ann Alexander (sabbatical), Beverly Buys (sabbatical), Nathan Campbell, Steven Carter, John Greene, Allison Harris, Carolyn McClure, Lonnie McDonald, Richard Miller, Richard Schmid.

Others Present: Clint Atchley, Angela Boswell, Glen Jones, Wayne McGinnis (for Carolyn Eoff), Maralyn Sommer.

1. Call to Order: President David Evans 3:16
2. Discussion with Guest Speaker President Glen Jones.
 - A. Legislative Session update: major good news is no budget cuts.
 - B. New items include working on standards, admissions criteria, growth; new programs approved; working hard to raise admissions criteria for Fall 2014.
 - C. Faculty representation on the President's Cabinet is "not in the best interests" of the university at this time.
 - D. Please keep Dr. Charles Dunn and his family in our thoughts and prayers, as he is gravely ill. At this point, the agenda was suspended to present a resolution of gratitude from the Executive Committee. This resolution, quoted below, passed unanimously, and the family was notified immediately after the Senate meeting concluded. The document is also attached to these minutes.

Resolution of Gratitude to Dr. Charles Dunn

WHEREAS, Dr. Dunn served as President of Henderson State University for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Henderson transformed physically into a 21st Century campus, and academically into Arkansas's Public Liberal Arts University; and

WHEREAS, he served as Distinguished Professor of Political Science for five years; and

WHEREAS, he epitomizes *The School with a Heart* through his warmth, friendliness, concern for, and devotion to the entire Henderson community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the entire Henderson community offers its gratitude, respect, and appreciation to Dr. Charles Dunn.

3. Discussion with Interim Provost/VPAA, Dr. Maralyn Sommer
 - A. Hard work is being put into raising admissions standards for Fall 2014 term.
 - B. Sharon Gardner's retirement reception is upcoming.
 - C. Large graduating classes mean few faculty will be able to attend commencement ceremonies.
 - D. Dr. Sommer indicated when asked that she will return to Ellis College as Dean for one more year.

4. Approval of April 2013 and Special Meeting Minutes by Acclamation.
5. President's Report
 - A. Some salary information is online by law for transparency purposes (e.g. salaries); contact David Epperhart with questions regarding W2 information online.
 - B. Incoming Provost Risa Dickson has indicated that she is reviewing our faculty handbook and says that the faculty can expect more involvement in the academic arena. She asked about sitting in on Senate meetings.
6. Reports of Committees
 - A. Executive Committee: The following resolution was brought forth: "Whereas, the faculty have, for years, requested representation on the President's Cabinet, be it resolved that there should be a faculty representative at each cabinet meeting. Representatives shall be appointed by the faculty senate president." Some discussion was followed by the resolution being withdrawn. Previous discussion is noted above.

At this point the agenda was suspended again for a discussion of +/- grades.

 - i. The matter of +/- grades was on the agenda for "Old Business," but in the interest of time, the discussion ensued at this point. Quite a bit of discussion followed. Some matters brought forth include the following: effects on medical school and other types of post-baccalaureate applications, optional ways to use the system, departments favoring and opposing (seemed roughly equal). With no quorum, no proposals could go forth, so the matter was sent to the Academics Committee with senators being charged to poll their constituents and mull over the summer to report back in fall.
 - B. Academics Committee: The committee is still investigating but had the following report:
 - i. Online course proctoring: The matter is still under consideration, but new information was reported that institutional policies must be established and they are being formulated now by a Technology Committee. Matters of academic freedom were brought up, and many questions were asked. Much more consideration and clarification are needed.
 - C. Buildings and Grounds Committee: Not much new was reported. Please notify Megan Hickerson or Bobby Jones if you see improvement or see areas that need improvement.
 - D. Finance Committee: The committee reported that the new budget "attempts to direct funds to emerging priorities" that include personnel, planning, and academic excellence.
 - E. Operations Committee: Nothing new.
 - F. Procedures Committee: Nothing new.
7. Old Business: See above.
8. New Business: None.
9. Adjourn 4:44

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Maxfield