

## Minutes of October 6 Faculty Senate Meeting

Senators present: Adams, Adkison, Burt, Carter, Copeland, Cothren, Engman, Farmer, George, Givan, Holbrook, Holt, Jester, Judy, Leach, Lock, Miller, Mosser, Pant, Poblete, Sabaj, Tchoi, Valentine, Warren, Wittig, Worth, Zmaannipour.

1. Call to Order (3:18 pm)
2. Approval of minutes: September minutes (Motion and second. Approved unanimously.)
3. President's Report -1. Issues were raised about the process of students earning certificates and being awarded those. This process needs to be done through the registrar's office.  
A task force on advising has been formed and is being chaired by the registrar Dr. Elwyn Martin. Dr. Hunt will remain here through the Academic year.  
The third party vendor in charge of the retrenchment process will start after HLC  
Discussed with Dr. Borsig the concerns about mask laziness in hallways. Infractions should be reported to administration. Standards will be upheld.  
Advising has moved temporarily to Womack 1<sup>st</sup> floor.  
There is no financial reporting to share.
4. Report of Committees
  - a. Operations and Handbook Committee  
No report.
  - b. Representative to the Board of Trustees  
The representative attended the September Board of Trustees meeting.

The representative submitted the following written report:

Dr. Welch offered the President's report.

He was very brief. He said the fall semester started on all campuses. The pandemic has not allowed it to be as normal as we would like. He thanked the trustees for electing to require face coverings. He thanked the faculty and staff for keeping the students safe while providing the best experience possible. He said that the campus in Mexico is back in session, has the largest enrollment ever, and conducted its first graduation in August. He mentioned that Dr. Jim Borsig was not with us but was continuing to assist Henderson State University. He said that the search was formally launched for a permanent Chancellor. The review would begin at the end of the month, and there had been 20 applications so far.

Julie Bates presented the financial report from HSU. She said that audits lag behind. The most recent audit was approved the day before in the sub-committee and that morning in the full committee.

FY 20:

- 8/20/19 – 16 million dollars was financed for the energy performance contract
- 10/24/19 – vote to merge
- 1/1/20 – fully insured health insurance
- 2/14/20 – Moody's stabilized credit
- 3/11/20 – Covid 19 emergency was declared by the governor

- 4/17/20 – Act 30 allowed 6 million to be converted to a loan
- 2/1/21 – Act 18 completed the merger
- 2/17/21 – Moody's upgraded rating to stable

As of June 2019 – there was 7 days of cash on hand.

As of June 30, 2020 – there was 30 days of cash on hand.

FY 21 – consolidated with the system audit

342,199 net tuition decreased

Operating expenses decreased from 64 million to 61.9 million.

Federal Covid funds definitely assisted.

Be cautious about false hope based upon increased cash on hand. Some of this is federal money.

Chancellor Report –

Dr. Welch gave the HSU Chancellor's report –

July HLC was on campus for a follow-up visit concerning the merger. This went exceptionally well. The Chair mentioned to Dr. Welch that not one person expressed regret concerning the merger.

1.6 million was granted to HSU by the Wingate Foundation for need-based scholarships.

Agenda items pertaining to the system were approved.

Agenda items pertaining to HSU -

Renovation Caddo Center Capital Project – grant-funded – Resolution approved.

Voluntary retirement system - approved.

Revision of academic admissions into undergraduate programs to not require ACT scores – approved.

Adjourn to Executive Session at 11:15.

Upon the return to the general session, many academic and non-academic appointments, assignments, re-assignments were approved.

Stacy Crawford was recognized for 5 years of service on the board as she is leaving.

Dr. Tim Langford resigned as a trustee due to taking a position at UAMS. He was thanked for his service.

- c. Executive Committee Report
  - Discussion of the Excellence Committee language issue in by laws.
  - Agenda for today's meeting.
- d. Academics Committee
  - No Report.
- e. Building and Grounds committee
  - Chair reports the committee is down 2 members so no meeting was held.
  - The Senate discussed the issues with lack of anonymity on the survey request from maintenance. It was suggested that putting in placeholder answers to maintain anonymity was a plausible response.

The following is the report submitted by the chair, Dr. Warren.

### **Current Campus Recycling 2021**

SSC (Physical Plant) continues to recycle clean cardboard by picking it up from designated areas on campus and working with the Human Development Center for pick-up and processing. This is also the group we work with on the paper and plastic recycling. We will be picking up from the custodians on campus and bringing to the bins we have here at the SSC plant. Once these bins are full, SSC contacts Eric from Human Services and he arranges for the transfer to the processing facility.

Department of Human Services. They handle cardboard and plastic for us.

Human Services does not except aluminum. If any is found in bins we donate it to the Humane Society.

There is not battery recycling at this time. The Chemistry Club was recycling batteries, but at this time it is not happening.

### **Campus Drainage questions (Black)/answers (blue) for Rita Fleming.**

I am currently serving as the Building and Grounds Chair for the Faculty Senate.

I was directed by the senate to reach out to you for guidance with the following questions. If you feel I need to contact someone else, please let me know.

During one of our meetings the following questions came up concerning flooding issues on campus.

Is the drainage system on campus working? [I've checked with SSC, our out-sourced physical plant, and there have been no complaints that we are aware of related to the drainage system, with the exception of an issue with broken pipes at Reddie Villas.](#)

One possible solution could be to have the drains checked to see if they needed to be cleared in order to allow water to flow down and not collect on the grounds. [SSC tells me the grounds crew checks the drains daily to make sure they are cleared of debris and functioning.](#)

There is a possibility that the campus drainage is insufficient and may require reevaluation by the administration.

This leads to the next question that came up in our meeting.

Is there any plan for upgrades/redesign for the campus infrastructure or is the focus more on maintaining our existing situation? [Given our financial situation there are no funds to put into upgrades to or redesign of our campus infrastructure system.](#)

f. The Finance Committee

The finance committee chair reported a discussion about whether it was possible to combine fees into a general fee that did not separate out athletics with such a high percentage of the fees. Separating out athletics leaves open the complaint for students who do not participate in any athletic events as participant or spectator.

g. Procedures Committee

The committee chair presented the following proposal for a vote.

Resolution to amend the current Faculty Senate Handbook and Faculty Senate Bylaws in regards to the Faculty Excellence Awards Committee

"Whereas the Procedure Committee wishes to propose three amendments to the Senate Faculty Handbook and Faculty Senate Bylaws. Specifically, the Procedure Committee proposes:

- 1) Change the language for the membership of Faculty Excellence Awards Committees: "Each of the five awards committees shall be composed of five members, with no more than one member from any single department or discipline" to the amended language of "Each of the five awards committees shall be composed of no greater than five members consisting of no more than one member from each department (or division) serving on the Faculty Excellence Award Committee."
- 2) Change the following language of "For the purpose of excellence awards, faculty serving in the library or student services shall be considered with the School of Business." To the amended language of "For the purpose of excellence awards, faculty serving in the library and aviation shall be considered with the School of Business."
- 3) Add additional language of clarification for "below the level of chair" as we now have an assistant chair. The current language states "These awards shall be made within each college (or division) by an awards committee composed of faculty below the level of chair from that college (or division)." We propose to add the following language to the current language: "For the purpose of the excellence awards, assistant chairs shall be considered below the level of chair and shall be included in the ballots for the Excellence Award Committee." Thereby, the Procedures Committee

Resolves to amend the current language located in the Faculty Senate Handbook and Faculty Senate bylaws based upon the amendment submitted by the Procedures Committee.

Please see Faculty Handbook section III, subsection N.2 for specific current language.

All three sections of amended language passed with no objections.

h. Shared Governance  
No Report

i. Graduate Council  
No Report

5. New Business

Dr. Worth moved that the Excellence Committee elections required to be held in October be moved to November since the language confusion had made October elections unfeasible. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously (3:59).