

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate

Minutes

Meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2007
Sundquist Auditorium, SSC E-106

Preliminary Information

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. by Senate Vice-President Tim Winters.

The roll call of senators was conducted by Senate Secretary Perdew.

Senators Black, Dyer, Eaves, Haralson, Hatch, Hayes, Hodge, Lane, Reagan, and Schlanger were absent.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes for the meeting of February 22, 2007, were unanimously approved.

Remarks

University President Dr. Sherry Hoppe

President Hoppe stated that APSU *may* receive an additional \$1.6 million in new money contingent upon the passing of the tobacco tax. If the tobacco tax does not pass, the state legislature would have to find another source of revenue if the \$1.6 million would still be granted.

Also regarding funding, there will be a 5 to 6% tuition increase.

With this increase in revenue, new position and operating requests have been considered. The new faculty positions to be added are not finalized yet. Provost Speck and the deans are prioritizing the requests. Also more money (\$1000 per faculty member) for faculty professional development funds (travel money) will be allocated next academic year if APSU gets the additional \$1.6 million.

President Hoppe also commented that the TBR presidents are deciding whether to participate in a voluntary self-audit that EPA has offered to higher education institutions. A drawback is the requirement to remediate any deficiencies found, within 60 days.

Dr. Hoppe stated that there have been a lot of queries made to the registrar's office regarding the transition from Blackboard and Web CT to Desire2Learn (D2L). The website <http://www.apsu.edu/d2l> has some information. APSU may receive a special dispensation to keep Blackboard because of E-Army-U.

Then President Hoppe took questions.

Sen. Myers asked if Blackboard made a bid when TBR was deciding whether to convert.

President Hoppe said only D2L submitted an acceptable bid.

Sen. Winters asked if faculty should contact legislators regarding the approval of the additional \$1.6 million.

President Hoppe encouraged individual faculty members to contact legislators. She also commented that whether the senate itself did so might depend on the senate's view of the tobacco tax.

Sen. Winters also asked how the deployment of Fort Campbell soldiers may affect the 5-6% tuition increase.

President Hoppe stated the deployment may start in the summer. Also, at Fort Campbell there is no longer the rule that 50% of enrollment consist of soldiers so there may not be a backlog of other students to makeup for the lower military enrollment. Admissions applications generally to the university are down 8% from this time last year. President Hoppe said APSU is looking at additional marketing to turn it around and said, if Fort Campbell enrollment declines, APSU could be in trouble fast.

Sen. Winters asked about the impact of another university moving into the area.

President Hoppe said Troy State has had little impact. APSU's graduate program has grown more than other areas. There was no impact from Troy State in that quarter. Also E-Army-U is worldwide so APSU's participation in that could help a lot.

Sen. Winters asked about fund raising.

President Hoppe stated that a bank is wishing to set up a foundation to provide \$100,000-\$200,000 for students in Montgomery County first of all with any remainder for students in other areas where the bank has branches. The monies will be for students with scores of 30 and up on the ACT with some for students with scores of 24-26 on the ACT.

Regarding the campus smoking policy, President Hoppe stated the President's cabinet would do a straw poll vote in April to decide if APSU will have a no-smoking policy on campus, except in personal vehicles.

Regarding recent changes to the Salary Equity Policy, President Hoppe stated that the equity model will be done every three years rather than every year. This will keep salaries from significant variation from data on just a single year. The changes will be averaged over the three-year period. APSU will still give employees equity each year if able; the target salary will only be adjusted every three years, however. This proposed change has gone to TBR's compensation committee for their approval.

President Hoppe also stated that there may be at least a 2% equity raise next fall. The state currently plans for a 1% raise and 2 % bonus. The state may move 1% of the bonus to the salary base. APSU will fund at least much as the state.

It was announced that end-of-year money has been allocated. Sen. Berg asked about notices on year end allocations. President Hoppe stated that all allocations have been made but notices may not have been sent out yet.

Provost Dr. Bruce Speck

Provost Speck stated that an announcement was sent out about Faculty Professional Development Assignments. A faculty member would know in fall 2007 if he or she can get spring 2008 off for research.

Provost Speck also thanked people for their work on searches to fill new faculty positions. Also Provost Speck stated that the Hawkins award committee had made their decision. The winner will be announced later. He also said faculty are doing a stellar job on research.

Senate President Dr. John Foote

Sen. Foote had a meeting on the presidential search committee and also was not feeling well. These things prevented him from attending most of the meeting, but he did announce that the list of presidential candidates had just been cut to 15 and that the search committee would meet again on April 3rd.

Sen. Winters conducted the following announcements:

Dr. Bill Rayburn is studying reapportionment prior to Senator elections.

He stated that there are 43 senate seats and 19 will need to be filled in the upcoming election. Both Sen. Winters and Sen. Blake encouraged faculty to nominate faculty members. Sen. Rayburn stated group I will need to elect 3 senators, group II, 0 senators, group III, 9 senators, group IV, 1 senator, group V, 3 senators, group VI, 2 senators, and group VII, 1 senator. Some of these seats need to be filled because of senators whose term is complete, others are due to reapportionment.

Faculty preferences for University Standing Committees (solicitation in April by co-chairs Kay Haralson and Carmen Reagan).

Sen. Winters stated that a notice would soon go out asking faculty to indicate their preference for university standing committee assignments. In late April or May the senate will make recommendations to the president.

Special Senate meeting to deal with Faculty Handbook Issues: Thursday, April 12, 2:30PM, SSC 106.

Sen. Winters suggested that the senate consider suspending the normal rules, which is standard practice, to allow this special meeting to run smoothly. He also stated that Sen. Wadia, chair of the handbook committee, and the committee itself will be well prepared so that items will move quickly.

Faculty Senate Vice President Tim Winters to revise Senate Constitution and Bylaws to reflect recent amendments

Sen. Winters said he will present this in April. The recent amendments concerned election rules and moving the section on representation from the constitution to the by-laws.

Reports

TBR Subcouncil Senator Griffy

Sen. Griffy stated there were two main things discussed. The TBR redesign of DSP has started with the pilot phase well underway. Dr. Houston Davis wrote the FIPSE grant. Information will be out soon on approval of pilots. The other main item concerned the conversions to D2L and Banner.

Academic Council Senator Ziegler

Sen. Ziegler stated that a master's degree in social work was approved for fall 2008, as well as a computer science minor. Sen. Ziegler also stated that Dr. Calovini, dean of CoSM, discussed the redesign of DSP. Another item concerned changing the credit hour requirements to 1-29, 30-59, 60-89, and 90+ for freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classifications, respectively.

Deans Council Senator Haralson

Sen. Haralson was at a conference. Michael Becraft mentioned the agenda items including the possibility of a middle college at APSU and options in the event of a midterm resignation by a graduate assistant.

Old Business

Misconduct in Research and other Scholarly Activity (Policy 99:013), Dr. Jack Deibert

(This item was discussed during the February 22, 2007 meeting. See the senate website for the minutes for more information).

There was a motion and second to approve the suggested changes to the policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grievance Committee Member Qualifications

Sen. Winters stated that, as the policy is written, it is possible for an untenured faculty member to be on the grievance committee. The faculty senate executive committee thinks it should just have tenured faculty members on the committee. Sen. Winters said the senate would vote next month on this issue.

During discussion, Sen. Said stated he shares the executive committee's view. Sen. Schiller stated the perspective of an untenured faculty member may be different. Sen. Wadia stated that ideally it is good to have different perspectives, but as with retention and tenure, some committees only have tenured faculty members. People are not brought into a committee for perspectives but then not permitted to vote. No action was taken by the senate on this issue at this time.

Faculty Professional Development Leave (Policy 2:006), Michael Becraft

(This item was also discussed during the February 22, 2007 meeting. See the minutes for more information.)

There was a motion and second to approve the proposed changes to the policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

Faculty Handbook Issues, Dr. Mickey Wadia

Preview of special senate meeting on April 12, 2007

Sen. Wadia stated that the special meeting typically takes 2- 2 ½ hours. At the last faculty handbook committee meeting there were about 17 items and there will be more by the time of the meeting. This does not include the suggested e-dossier related changes which were discussed, but not voted upon, at the last senate meeting. The material for the special meeting will be posted. The blue text will indicate new language; strikes-outs indicate deletions. Sen. Wadia stated there are no substantive changes, but small changes mainly. The items in the special meeting are normally voted upon in groups of 5 or 6 at a time. He also stated that involved discussion could drag out the meeting and that the faculty handbook committee had already examined the issues extensively.

APSU 1000 and Study Abroad evaluations and summer session evaluations

This issue was discussed at the last senate meeting. Currently, policy says to include all evaluations. Sen. Wadia asked how the faculty felt about the issue.

Sen. Ziegler said the nursing faculty felt APSU 1000 evaluations should be included, and any evaluation generally.

Sen. Deibert said that geology and agriculture faculty also wished to include APSU 1000 evaluations. Regarding summer sessions, they felt just fall and spring evaluations should be conducted.

Sen. Wadia stated he had asked Sen. Winters to have the Faculty Red committee further examine the issue. He also mentioned there is concern due to the form for evaluations of APSU 1000 containing some questions that relate to content, rather than instruction of the course, and that the form may be revised to separate those areas.

The Faculty Red committee will consider this issue.

APSU Policy 5:060 revision, inclusion of “It is the primary responsibility of the faculty member under review to make sure that his/her e-dossier is well organized, up to date, and accurate.”

This item was discussed at the last senate meeting. There was a motion and second to approve the revision

During discussion, concern was expressed by several senators about placing responsibility with the faculty member, due to technical problems with their e-dossiers which were beyond their control.

Sen. Said stated a technical error occurred last year that messed up his e-dossier and that some things were still not corrected.

Provost Speck acknowledged this issue and the need to protect the integrity of previous dossiers. He also mentioned the possibility of hiring another person to help with the e-dossiers.

Sen. Pirkle and Sen. Snyder also mentioned problems encountered with their e-dossiers last year. In fact Sen. Snyder’s entire e-dossier was lost. Sen. Snyder stated that this revision says it is the faculty member’s responsibility, period. However, two entities work getting e-dossiers constructed, faculty and technical personnel. He stated there should be joint accountability and the policy should protect faculty members from technical disasters.

Sen. Winters stated the faculty handbook committee cannot address the technical side of the issue; it is only for faculty members not technical personnel. He stated that the executive committee will take that part of the issue to academic affairs.

Sen. Winters asked if the primary concern with the revision was that the language does not allow for technical glitches that may occur after the e-dossier has been submitted by the faculty member. The concerned senators assented.

When voted upon the motion failed.

Sen. Wadia said it would be taken back to the faculty handbook committee and there will be new language for this revision for the special meeting to take into account technical personnel accountability.

Proposed nomination committee for next year’s senate officers: John Blake, Pat Perdew, and Carmen Reagan

After no other nominations were voiced from the floor, Sen. Griffy moved to accept the committee as slated. Sen. Myers seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Future of Printed Class Schedules, Ms. Telaina Wrigley

Ms. Wrigley stated that class schedules will no longer be printed. This decision was made after speaking to deans, and also conferring with other institutions who do not print schedules. Ms. Wrigley noted that 2000 printed schedules were destroyed last semester. So for efficiency, the class schedules will only be available online in the future. This will also give departments an additional week to make changes.

Sen. Steele asked if classes in the schedule can only be accessed online by typing in the department.

Ms. Wrigley stated that the entire class schedule can be accessed at once, without just looking at class lists by department. Also faculty will be able to see the number of seats available and the faculty member who is teaching the class. Currently access is through the Web for Faculty webpage. Ms. Wrigley stated that Ed Nushardt is the contact person and questions could be emailed to him.

Sen. Baker asked if there would be another Banner training session.

Ms. Wrigley said there would be another one in the summer. She also noted that registration will shut down for two weeks in order to convert academic history to Banner.

President Hoppe paid tribute to Telaina and her staff and others who are converting software to Banner. She said they have worked very hard. President Hoppe also stated it will be a year-long cycle to work out all the bugs and encouraged people to be patient.

Compensation for Faculty to Convert web courses from WebCT to Desire to Learn (D2L), Provost Bruce Speck

There was no information at the present time regarding this item. More information should be forthcoming.

Before closing, Sen. Winters reminded senators again about the special April 12th meeting. He stated that issues can be volatile as seen with the item regarding faculty responsibility concerning e-dossiers. The meeting could be long. The proposed changes in the items to be considered will be posted. Sen. Winters encouraged senators to read the items and write out suggested changes for friendly amendments if believed necessary.

The meeting adjourned at about 4:05 p.m.

Patrick Perdew
Faculty Senate Secretary