

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, November 29, 2007
Morgan University Center 307

Preliminary Information

The meeting was called to order at 3: 04 p.m. by Senate President Dr. Tim Winters.

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

Senators Baker, Black, Foote, Glunt, Hargrove, Shipley, Silverberg, and Vogel were absent.

The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes for the meeting of October 27, 2007, were unanimously approved.

Remarks

Senate President Tim Winters

- President Winters reminded the Senate that there should be a motion and then a discussion if an agenda or topic is brought forth during the meeting. He believes that if we are looking at purposeful action, then the Faculty Senate needs to be more diligent in how things are done.
- When items do come up, President Winters asks that the senator be pointed in his/her remarks so that the meetings are not overly long and unproductive.

University President Tim Hall

- President Hall noted that the most important thing that had happened over the last few weeks was that he had appointed a committee that would look at the issue of student retention. At the last SACS review, President Hall noted, much was written about student retention and President Hall noted some of the steps the University would take to retain more students.
- "It's been my sense," Hall said, "that the academic side has not been as engaged in those matters, and it seemed that our first step going forward was to re-engage in the academic side. I have asked Jaime Taylor to chair a committee to work with him with the goal of focusing on what can we do on the academic side to help more students to succeed."

- After meeting with Dr. Taylor, the provost, and a variety of other sources, the committee has been formed.
- President Hall noted that too many students are leaving after their first year:
 - Thirty-five percent of Austin Peay students leave after their first year. This number places Austin Peay at the bottom of TBR institutions and master's-granting universities in the South.
 - Some of these students move on to other TBR schools, but many drop out of college.
 - The number of students dropping out results in two million dollars that every year walks away from Austin Peay.
- President Hall said that as a University we talk a lot about enrollment growth, and without it, we do not have much money, so it gives us resources we would not have. However, President Hall noted that an important source of enrollment growth is retaining the students we already have.
- President Hall is very excited about what this committee might find and the recommendations it will make. He has found that academics and student life working together will help with student retention.
- The committee will have results at the end of the spring semester.
- President Hall also noted that student success requires students who are engaged—in learning and in the campus; students need to feel like they own the place. He said that it also requires a certain number of ancillary components in place. Dr. Taylor's committee has access to books (e.g., Student Success in College) which has information about other universities that have succeeded. President Hall wants the committee to only come up with solutions that faculty can offer, not with what other departments might do. He said that it seemed like a good idea to just keep the academic sides together to work toward a solution.
- President Hall has been busy trying to collect information about why students are leaving Austin Peay. They have come up with a list of separate sources about who is walking away and why they are walking away....
- In general, President Hall is not sure when the University can expect to see specific results of any retention programs put in place.

Question by Tim Winters—issue of smoothing & policy changes

- When Tim Winters was previously senate president, Dr. Hoppe decided that all policy changes would be updated online. Dr. Winters asked that all policy changes be kept in written form in the library. Though Dr. Hoppe agreed, that request was not sustained. This resulted in problems. For example, a change in policy was made to the issue of smoothing, though a document was left online that says a faculty member may choose to be

paid in December if they fill out a form; however, there is no paperwork for this, according to HR.

- The issue becomes where a document of record resides.
- Dr. Winters requests that a three-ring binder be used to track changes made to policy, and he requests that this document be kept in the library.
- President Hall says he does not like online policies because he knows how hard it is to keep things online and to make changes. Thus, he believes that a paper copy that is the official copy should be kept some place easily accessible. In the past, the library received two copies so that a document of record could be kept. President Hall says that the University “will return to that sort of thing later” and that one copy will be placed in University archives.
- With regards to smoothing, President Hall says that he does not like smoothing, and he has asked the Provost and VP of finance to rethink the rules so that faculty can be paid in a timely manner. He is confident so that the rule can be revised so that faculty can be paid in a timely fashion, and he believes that this can be done next year.

Provost Dr. Bruce Speck

- Faculty Luncheon—email was sent out and will feature President Hall; please RSVP so that there will be enough food
- Dr. Speck is going to send out a notice about a “chair’s academy” so that all of the chairs will be involved and will know of upcoming changes. Secretaries will also be asked to come because there will be new forms to be filled out.
 - Tim Hurst is working on these new forms—for example, will chairs and faculty will sign travel forms rather than seeing them go up the line to the provost.
- TnCIS (Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, Dr. Milton Grimes)
 - Dr. Grimes is a regent who was interested in international programs.
 - a consortium
 - outside of the normal TBR process
 - Board of Regents read THE WORLD IS FLAT and thus decided that they wanted to give more students the opportunity to participate in study abroad programs.
 - passed a student fee so that students can pay for international studies
 - Dr. Speck acknowledges that TnCIS is duplicating some of the study abroad programs we already offer, and their programs are significantly cheaper; programs are not tailored for our students; faculty teaching in these programs do not always have terminal degrees
 - Dr. Speck was not sure how this program will be evaluated.
 - Dr. Winters asked the following question: Faculty who teach in this

- program are not paid 1/32 like other faculty are supposed to be paid, so how are they able to circumvent their own policy?
- Have been asked to advertise on campus, but the program is not yet advertised on Austin Peay's campus
 - \$5,000 yearly fee for involvement in TnCIS
 - People who are teaching in the program will be TBR qualified, but there is an issue as to whether or not the students will be adequately taught

Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives

Academic Council (Mickey Wadia)

- Met yesterday (November 29, 2007), and they considered a variety of issues. For example:
 - Admissions policy establishing APSU Governor's School for Physics (it passed)
 - School of Education (EdD) suggested Fall 2010 for implementation
 - Revision for Engineering Technology to add Math 1530 and drop one course and also added ENG 4500 to list of approved electives
 - APSU Ft. Campbell Center conversion to five terms
 - Revision to HHP major
 - Forensic science revision—forensic biology, a new chemistry class for May 2008
 - Most of the discussion, however, focused on EdD and Ft. Campbell

TBR Faculty Subcouncil (Loretta Griffy)

- Visitor from Governor's office who spoke about a redesign of high school diplomas
 - K-12, primary focus on English and math
 - Will impact APSU
- A discussion on how many courses adjuncts are allowed to teach/year
 - Dr. Adams listened to what faculty said about how many classes adjuncts are allowed to teach, and he is investigating.
 - Austin Peay allows adjuncts to teach 21 hours
- Update on DSP redesign
 - Lots of confusion on what is redesigned
 - Dr. short said DSP redesign was not a requirement, but was a pilot program; redesign project did not eliminate traditional DSP
 - Schools that are not participating are not required to do anything right now.
- Some discussion on Association of Science and Teaching (designed to transfer to college of education)

Deans' Council (Elaine Berg)

- Michael Becraft will have a change in title—will become Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (as opposed to Special Assistant to the Provost)
 - This was decided at a vice president's meeting to give Becraft signing powers in the absence of the Provost.
- There is a new academic alert counselor—Barbara Hanson.
- Faculty meeting (December 12) where we vote to award degrees will have a different format.
- Faculty Luncheon series (January 9)—rsvp by December 19.
- President Hall is interested in a robust and profitable summer school.
 - Would like money to go back to the department
- Search for dean of extended education has been canceled and will be revising responsibilities and making it a director's position.
- Would like to promote undergraduate research

Dr. Don Dailey

- The committee reviewing online evaluations will present that information in the spring semester
- On a TBR "Think Tank" on workload calculations
 - Task force has been called to look at how workloads are calculated at the TBR institutions.
 - Just completed a draft document that shows that there is not much uniformity in how workload calculations are done across the TBR institutions.
 - Information is needed to draw some correlations on how workloads are determined
 - Idea of a 12-hour representation of our workload is not an appropriate representation of workload; gives the false impression that all we do is work for 12 hours in a week and thus the remaining 32.5 hours "we're on the golf course."
 - There is a discussion on how that needs to be reworded or rephrased
 - Four major issues: (1) Do virtual office hours count as office hours?; (2) Contact hours/credit hours; (3) Departmental chair duties and compensation; (4) graduate teaching load

Old Business

Reports from Senate Committees

Faculty White/Handbook Committee—Policy 5:029

Chaired by Mickey Wadia/Jack Deibert

- Met with President Hall and the deans, and President Hall wanted them to go to other universities to find out what they were doing. (The committee

had looked at the chairs' policy of many different schools throughout the nation and in Canada.)

- Seems like a lot of schools do not want to touch how to recall/remove a chair
- Most other schools dealt with how to deal with a vote of no-confidence
- Should have a document by March 2008 to present to the Faculty Senate

Academic Red Committee—Grade Appeals Policy
Chaired by Kell Black

- Determined that it is a broken system and that there needs to be a change because there are “too many steps in that particular chain.”

Five Terms at Ft. Campbell

- Task force has met
- Approval through Academic Council
- See their report at: <http://www.apsu.edu/senatef/Documents/2007-2008/FC%20Five%20Terms%20Per%20Year%20Proposal.pdf>
- Contracts would be August to May contracts
- Summer will be eight-week terms
- Will give options so that faculty whose contracts expire in June will be able to work so that they will not go without a paycheck in July since new contracts will go into effect in August

New Business

Director of Admissions Ryan Forsythe
(Changes in admissions policies)

- For Admission Criteria for Governor's School for Computational Physics
 - Motion to accept the new admissions policy
 - No ACT score required
 - All Tennessee residents
 - Unanimous motion to approve

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Dwonna Goldstone
Faculty Senate Secretary