

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, March 25, 2010  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00pm**

**Call to order** – Senate President Lori Buchanan

Recognition of Guests: Mitch Robinson, Lantz Biles, Michele Butts, Pat Walton

**Roll call of Senators** – Secretary Mercy Cannon. Absent Senators: Carson-Greffe, Clark, Diehr, Ellison, Evans, Goldstone, Gotcher, Griffy, Hamlin, Hayes, Markov, Myers, Rabidoux, Scanlan, Smith-Francis, Wolyneec, Winters.

Moment of silence for Dr. William Ellis, APSU Professor of Biology and Dean Emeritus; he served the University from 1956 to 1999, and was an APSU alumnus as well.

**Today's agenda approved.**

**Minutes approved for meeting of February 25, 2010.**

**Remarks**

1. Senate President – Lori Buchanan

- On April 8, Senate will deliberate on proposed revisions to Policy 5:060, which guides our Retention/Tenure/Promotion process. The Faculty Handbook Standing Committee is meeting as we speak. Once Senate approves any revisions, these go forward to Deans Council for their review and comment, then on the Academic Council for approval and final approval by President. This is an important aspect of shared governance on our campus. We have been engaged in a lengthy RTP Criteria Review process this year – a very important example of shared governance. In a few moments, Provost Denley will provide us with a status report about this process.
- We are now in an early phase in which the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 will begin to take effect. There are two aspects of this legislation that Senate President Buchanan wants to quickly highlight. We have a role to play and we need to step up to the plate.
- The first aspect of the legislation deals with the planned shift to outcomes-based formula funding for state funding of higher education in our state. In the past week, President Hall has sought input from Senate Exec regarding some of the variables being considered in the new outcomes-based funding formula – variables include the extent to which research is to be weighted, transfer activity, retention calculated according to sophomore credit rather than pre-defined cohort, and consideration given to sub-populations of students –populations such as military, adult, part-time, and underprepared.
- This past weekend, Senator Kemmerly and President Buchanan attended the TN Conference of AAUP where they heard Rich Rhoda, THEC Director, speak. Senator Perdew and President Buchanan, who are members of our University Strategic Planning Committee, will be attending a briefing about outcomes based formula funding on Monday. Senators Major, Kemmerly, and President Buchanan will be attending the Tennessee University Faculty Senates TUFSS

Spring Retreat on April 9-11, where they will further discuss this new approach to formula funding, as well as the second aspect of this legislation which deals with curriculum redesign. John Nolt, TUFPS President, will be representing faculty on the THEC Master Plan Steering Committee which first meets April 9; we need to provide John with input. The curriculum redesign deals with the 60 hours that students transfer in toward a bachelor's degree from community colleges, as well as, hours transferred between universities, specifically between TBR and the UT system. TBR has already worked out articulation agreements with community colleges. UT does not presently have articulation agreements. These 60 hours include the 41 hours of general education courses instruction and 19 pre-major or elective hours that count toward the major. The APSU University Standing General Education Committee, of which Vice President David Major is a member, will be involved in this discussion on our campus.

- **Strategic Planning Committee** has met twice in March; will meet every other week. TBR plan voted on by the Board today.

## 2. University President – Dr. Tim Hall

- Complete Tennessee College Act 2010: THEC is in charge of reviewing the new funding formula. Their first committee was composed of business officers, to which the university presidents objected. THEC listened, and the new committee now includes various academic administrators – President Hall as well. Most disturbed by measuring retention & graduation without paying attention to “inputs.” Now, THEC seems to be amenable to considering various student populations – a large step in the right direction. We serve the largest population of students with challenges in the TBR system. New formula is also dangerous to APSU in the treatment of research, which seems to be the most volatile component. May result in major shifts of funding to the research universities, at the expense of undergraduate education. Not worried about lowering academic standards—but concerned about how the formula might reorganize our approach to education.
- Questions:
  - Is there any assurance that the formula will, in fact, be funded? No, no certainty.
  - What kinds of research are being discussed? Likely, research measured in external funding.
  - Will the vast discrepancies in resources for research be considered? This is just one component of the potential outcomes, and research expectations will be weighted differently. Thus, graduation & persistence rates may mean less for UTK than for APSU.
  - What keeps us from “cherry picking”—raising requirements to get students more likely to succeed? The governor’s intent does seem to be that we raise our admission standards, with shifting remedial courses to community colleges. Yet we cannot eliminate students who need some kind of remediation, as they comprise 60-70% of our admits. We are working with Nashville State to pass off some remediation. And we are tightening up standards, especially with 21+ students (now essentially open access).
  - Discussion point – Tennessee needs more degrees.
- Budget issues – mostly covered in the memo. The bonus (3%, one time) does appear to be going through, expected to go through before elections. The

university has to pay for it. Our salary increase – we are not using the budgeted amount for the bonus; we are waiting to hear if we will be allowed to give it. There is hope that after the election, we will get raises. Might the raise be retroactive? If allowed by legislature.

### 3. Provost – Dr. Tristan Denley

- RTP criteria review update. The Christmas deadline wasn't completely met, so this has delayed the process. Has reviewed all documents, will be holding conversations with departments. Implementation will likely not occur until Fall 2011. Question: will the appeal process (for grandfathering) still be available? Yes. New hires will be judged under old guidelines? Not necessarily, depending on department consensus. For some departments, implementation may occur earlier. Will email re. revised timeline.
- Legislation issues. Because of the way we are required to treat developmental classes, conditional admits will be amended. If students only have one remedial course to take, they will be considered conditional. If students have two out of three areas that need developmental courses, they are also considered conditional. A very slight change.
- Core curriculum legislation: transfer students have been able to satisfy core requirements at other institutions. Now, the departments may have other requirements that mean the core is not satisfied. This becomes a confusing and contradictory issue for students. Proposed change: asking for prerequisites for major courses.
- Dean's search – Dr. Jaime Taylor now Dean of College of Science and Mathematics. In negotiations with candidate for Dean of Business. Other searches will be suspended for now.

### 4. Parking and Transportation – Mitch Robinson

- *Documents for Review on Senate website*
- Our rapid growth has caused parking issues on campus. Looking primarily at commuter parking (not faculty/staff & residential) to determine what problems may or may not need to be addressed. Working on an inventory of spaces in & around campus (street parking).
- Parking has been displaced by new buildings. Even with new parking lots under construction, there is still concern about adequate parking.
- Looking at "best practices" at peer institutions. Evaluating alternative possibilities.
- Inventory online—listed by user groups.
- Frequently heard comments & questions (see full report): inconvenient, not parking near buildings, not enough enforcement, prohibitions on freshman cars would hurt enrollment, what about a parking garage?
- Parking decals, graph online demonstrating percentage of inventory & decals issued.
- In Fall 2010, losing First Baptist (temporary) parking and adding newly constructed lots.
- Possible parking: Ford Street, Helen Street, continued agreement with First Baptist. Also, identified possibilities for parking garage (enormously expensive! \$19+ million – would lead to \$300+ parking decals)
- Question—an electronic alert system to show full lots? Interesting possibility.

- Question about creating an auxiliary department—increase in parking fees? Not necessarily, but would be a budget change.
  - Question—relationship between parking & online courses? Yes, our enrollment increase hasn't created a major parking crisis, perhaps attributable to online.
5. Campus Safety and Security – Lantz Biles
- Issues of safety raised by previous Senate President, Tim Winters.
  - Training for “active shooter” situations becoming available, will roll out in Fall. Faculty involvement is critical.
  - Other training geared toward undergrad population (i.e., self-defense)
  - Question re. attempted abduction—Report filed 12 hours after incident; victim was not available for questioning for 24 hours, and information was vague. Alert sent out, but there was no immediate and present danger, as the event had passed.
6. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives:
- Dean's Council – Senator Bill Rayburn
    - Admissions for 21+ students, ongoing discussion. Possibility raised: using COMPASS instead of ACT scores. Cut-off scores may be established. This could help retention rates. Looking at sister institutions.
    - Faculty hiring: more leeway for deans & chairs in salary.
    - Banners (gonfalons) will be ready for May graduation.
    - Legislation on state level recognizing completion of core. This may impact programs that require specific core requirements. Provost suggested tying specifically required core courses to major courses as prerequisites.
    - Deans asked for plans to address DFW rates over 35% in classes that have 100+ students.
  - Academic Council – Senator Phil Kemmerly
    - No report, meeting rescheduled. Will be posted to website when available.
  - TBR Faculty Sub-council – Senator Loretta Griffy – no report

### Old Business

- Senate ad hoc Advising Committee – Dr. Michèle Butts
  - *Full, detailed report available on Senate website.*
  - Spring 2008, SASI task force recommended advising be studied.
  - Technical issues were a major concern, particularly communication between faculty & staff. Banner terms = language difficulties.
  - Finding advisors another major difficulty for students.
  - Suggested: faculty liaison to communicate with registrar's office.
  - Students generally satisfied, but more information desired (trad/non-trad; gender; college/dept.) Students want a central advisor to answer quick questions.
  - Faculty feedback – 84 faculty responded. Learned that faculty loads vary widely, among departments, colleges, and campuses (MC & FC).
  - Recommendations, 8 major problems – listed in Table of Contents of full report. One sample issue: registrar's office notify student of major problem, but advisors aren't alerted until it's too late.

- Valuing advisement – recommending one annual award with the same status as a teaching or research award.
- Need for department-level advising plan, and qualitative evaluations.
- Advising is a shared partnership between faculty & student – want to establish a list of student responsibilities in advisement.
  
- Vote on Bylaws Revision to Academic Council Nominations
  - New wording on website.
  - Wording approved by unanimous vote.
  
- Update on Compensation Plan
  - See email posted to website

### **New Business**

- Standing Committee Preferences
  - Ken Shipley will be chairing committee. Email will be sent out soon.
  
- Nominations for Senate
  - Call for nominations will be sent out in the next week. IT will be contacted to set up elections.
  - 12 members will be rotating off Senate. There will be no changes in representation.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.**