

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, October 27, 2011  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00pm**

**Call to order** – Senate President Jack Deibert

Recognition of Guests: Sue Evans, Inga Filippo, Donna Price, Steve Ryan, Greg Singleton, Mickey Wadia

**Roll call of Senators** – Secretary Pat Perdew. Absent Senators: Bonnington, Cervelli, De Young, Frentzos, Haralson, Hayes, Jator, Jones, Lebkuecher, Lewis, Meyer, Myers, Pitts, Stewart, Thompson, White-Major

Amendment to Agenda to add Greg Singleton, Dean of Student Affairs, as one of the speakers to the TBR Academic Classroom and Misconduct Policy item was approved.

**Today's amended agenda approved.**

**Minutes for meeting of September 22, 2011 approved.**

**Remarks**

1. Senate President – Jack Deibert

- Welcome and congratulations to new senators. Thanked Vice President Elaine Berg for recruiting and overseeing the special fall senate election. Thanked former President David Major for setting up ballots on the web.
- Announcements: On November 5 faculty/staff and family members may attend the football game for free. Senate will have a booth there. On November 9 President Hall will have a reception at Archwood for faculty senators.

2. University President – Dr. Tim Hall

- Welcomed new senators. Spoke of the great importance of faculty senate in shared governance.
- Recently attended the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) state council of delegates. Tennessee is in a better position than other states. There are large cuts in higher education in other states; a 45% downturn at New Hampshire was the highest. No one else is receiving salary increases.
- Regarding facilities, the work on new dorms is underway. Drane St. will be closed. The new math and computer science building is at the planning stage. The state is making a five-year plan for facilities construction. APSU's Trahern renovation is on the list. Governor wants a way to get the community or university to contribute toward funding. APSU could give 25% toward the Trahern renovation. APSU has a need for faculty offices and classrooms in the 50 - 75 capacity range. We also plan to rebuild the football stadium.
- Offered to take questions.
- Comment made that once a work order is submitted to physical plant we don't get notice that it's been completed. The President made a note to check into that.
- Asked to give an update on faculty hiring. Since he's arrived, 45 new faculty members have been hired, 25 last year. The faculty to student ratio had previously

gone from 1:18 to 1:21. Trying to get to 1:19. A problem this year is that we predicted 4% enrollment growth but have 2%. We expected to hire 20 faculty, but will hire only 10. The faculty to student ratio is now at 1:20 with the goal to get that lower. Comment made that hiring fewer faculty than anticipated is a lot better than hearing positions would have to be cut. President Hall stated that when enrollment was higher we were conservative on spending and have preserved all jobs.

- Question about fund raising. APSU just had the best year in our history with \$8 million raised last year.

### 3. Provost – Dr. Tristan Denley

- Absent due to presenting a paper.

### 4. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives

- Dean's Council – Senator Loretta Griffy
  - Had one meeting.
  - Salary memos have gone out. Equity increases were given to 46% of faculty.
  - Advertising for positions was discussed.
  - The first College Completion Academy is upcoming.
  - Push for enrollment in Fall II Ft. Campbell term.
  - Fast track campaign for APSU. All satellite campuses will be on eight-week schedule by fall 2012.
  - Articulation agreement with Central Texas College is currently under development. Central Texas College is one of the institutions most commonly attended by military students.
  - Policy 5:029 regarding chairs is being reviewed.
  - Programs for new faculty are being reviewed.
  - Regarding Grants and Sponsored research, 2011-12 is projected to have 200 activities, a substantial increase.
  - Dr. Dixie Dennis, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, is looking into ways to increase graduation rates for graduate students.
  - Academic scholarship awards for ACT performance have been adjusted so students scoring in the 26 - 28 range will be attracted to APSU. There had been an enrollment decline in this group with the previous award process.
  - There will be a Winter-mester five-week term. Classes will be online and primarily general education core. These will be funded by Distance Education at the summer pay rate and will not count toward the cap on extra compensation.
  - Question: Why are branch campuses going to eight-week terms? Only Dickson isn't currently holding eight-week terms. It's hoped this will increase enrollment.
- Academic Council – Senator Carrie Brennan
  - At the September meeting, the following were approved: Social Work, revision of their major; Computer Science, revision of two concentrations, revision of a minor, creation of two new minors; Theatre, creation of a new minor.
  - At the October meeting, the following were approved: Theatre, creation of three new concentrations due to the planned separation of Theatre from Communication (these had been tabled at the

September meeting); Leadership, revision of the minor; Astronomy, revision of the minor.

- TBR Faculty Sub-council – Senator David Kanervo
  - October 14 meeting.
  - Program approval policy: For creation of new programs the Letter of Intent must now include the full program package. Concern of time involved to do all this only to have it denied. Paula Short, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said the department chair and provost should contact her first and get feedback regarding whether the new program has a chance of approval.
  - Committee studying the common calendar will report in January. Concerns had been solicited last year to be passed on to the committee. Most regarded the possibility of more local control over the calendar by individual campuses.
  - A task force has made four recommendations regarding adjunct faculty (see document archive for the full report). TBR is creating four action teams to study the four recommendations.
  - Academic freedom is being studied with the aim of protecting faculty members' rights to speech in on-campus meetings.
  - The Academic Misconduct policy was adopted by TBR Sub-council. Modisher, the board attorney, said the policy still allowed assignment of an F as the course grade. A subcommittee will review the policy to clarify wording that a student can be given an F in the course. Review may take 18 months.
  - Recommended legislation to the General Assembly that faculty who are wrongfully dismissed get back-pay when reinstated. Teachers in K-12 are eligible for such back-pay currently.
  - Sub-council also discussed that a legislator asked MTSU for 80 syllabuses. Reason for this is not completely clear, but it's thought the legislator wanted to know what courses at MTSU dealt with Islam. Dr. Short didn't appreciate this action and didn't expect to tolerate it in the future.
  - During the question period, the following topics regarding the common calendar were brought up: a possible Thanksgiving-week break, the differences in breaks with the public schools' calendars, APSU's large non-traditional student population and the impact of their children's breaks differing from theirs.

#### 5. Director of Student Financial Aid & Veterans Affairs – Donna Price

- A major change in Financial Aid for fulltime, undergraduate students: When repeating a passed course, students will only receive financial aid one time for that course. No further attempts on the course will be paid for by financial aid. The reason is a desire to improve graduation rates and reduce student indebtedness.
- There will no longer be any summer Pell Grants.
- The Hope Scholarship can be used summer 2012. This should encourage summer enrollment and faster degree completion. This will not decrease a student's Hope Scholarship amount for regular semesters.

#### Old Business

- None.

### **New Business**

- TBR Academic Classroom and Misconduct Policy – President Deibert/ Wadia, Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee/ Singleton, Dean of Students
  - Background: The proposed changes discussed at the last senate meeting have since been handed down by TBR. As previously mentioned, we may still give a course grade of F. In a recent memo, TBR states that institutions must give students due process for an appeal of a grade due to academic misconduct and states minimum provisions the policy must provide. APSU is the only TBR institution that doesn't currently have such an appeal policy. Faculty Senate is working in conjunction with the Faculty Handbook Committee and Dean Singleton to craft the policy and get it approved through appropriate channels by January 1. However, TBR says we must currently operate with this due process provision even though we don't currently have a policy in place. The proposed policy will be brought to senate at the next meeting.
  - The discussion today pertains to a student appeal of a grade due to academic misconduct. Recommendations regarding what provisions and procedures should be in this policy are sought from the senate.
  - After much discussion, the following points were made regarding concerns and potential steps in the envisioned appeal process:
  - For due process, the student must be notified about the grade due to academic misconduct and then the process be triggered. (Modisher, board attorney, has said if due process doesn't exist, the faculty member is potentially liable. If the institution has due process it's a protection for the faculty member.)
  - Dean Singleton said currently, once the faculty member files a complaint and forwards corroborating documents, the student is called in. Students can choose to have their hearing before Dean Singleton or the University Hearing Board consisting of five members including faculty, staff, and students. The vast majority choose to be heard by the Dean of Students. Students may have an advisor or attorney present at the hearing. If a student doesn't appear, the hearing is held with the student in absentia. Judgment is made based on the preponderance of evidence. In the last five years, about 60 cases have been referred. None was ever decided in opposition to the faculty member. Beyond the grade due to the academic misconduct, the Dean of Students may issue further penalties ranging from a warning to expulsion. A student may appeal the dean's or board's decision to the Provost. A database is kept to record all academic misconduct instances. Any formal offence remains in the student's record for up to four years.
  - Regarding the process, senators suggested the following: establishment of a timetable for the appeal process, desire to allow for an informal resolution without a report to the Dean of Students that would go in the student's record, wish to have a web form to report academic misconduct with a copy going to the student.
  - Discussion also involved grades: If a student wins the appeal, the assignment would be re-graded. However, the TBR memo states "no one can force a faculty member to change a grade." If academic

- misconduct occurred on the final exam, what is the appropriate course grade? Suggestions were for grades of I, F, IP, or NR.
- Due to the immediate requirement that students be informed of their right of due process, the Provost or Senate President will communicate this to faculty very soon.
  
  - Facilitation or Collusion is a type of Academic Misconduct – Wadia
    - Motion to add “Facilitation or Collusion. Assisting or attempting to assist another to violate a provision of the institution’s student code of conduct regarding academic misconduct” as another kind of Academic Misconduct in the Code of Student Conduct, and any policy concerning Academic Misconduct.
    - This type of academic misconduct is currently in the code of student conduct at other institutions.
    - Motion approved unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.**