

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, November 17, 2011  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00pm**

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

Recognition of Guests: Beverly Boggs, Lori Buchanan, Sheryl Byrd, Steve Ryan, Mickey Wadia, Telaina Wrigley

**Roll call of Senators** – Secretary Pat Perdew. Absent Senators: Gray, Hayes, Jones, Lowrance, Meyer, Myers, Rocheleau, Shipley, Thornton

**Today's agenda approved.**

**Minutes for meeting of October 27, 2011 approved.**

**Remarks**

1. Senate President – Jack Deibert

- Information items: A letter has been sent to Chancellor Morgan in support of legislation to give back-pay for wrongfully terminated faculty.
- UC 103A will be set aside as the Faculty Lounge from 11:00am – 1:00pm for the spring semester. This has been sought by the Executive Committee and the Provost as a place for faculty to gather and share ideas.
- Spoke with Linda Weeks, the faculty regent on TBR, regarding APSU's salary issue. She conveyed the concern to Chancellor Morgan. President Deibert also sent Chancellor Morgan a letter about low faculty salaries. The Chancellor forwarded it to the TBR regents. There may be action regarding this at TBR's December meeting.

2. University President – Dr. Tim Hall

- Spoke with Chancellor Morgan and the TBR faculty regent about the salary issue. We may be allowed to use an additional 2% toward salary increases.
- Fall 2011 enrollment is 10,873. In fall 2007 it was 9084. This is a 20% increase. New faculty have been hired to go along with the increase and we plan to hire nine new faculty for next year.
- APSU's six-year graduation rate has passed 40%. The rate had been 27% in 2007. This is a remarkable increase. The campus community came together to achieve success in increasing persistence to graduation. This cooperation toward the goal of increased student success was already present at APSU when the new funding formula, which incorporates aspects such as graduation rates, was introduced.
- APSU is first among institutions on the funding formula. According to the performance-based funding formula, three universities should receive funding increases because of above-average improvement: Tennessee Technical University - funding increase of 0.6%, UT Knoxville – funding increase of 1%, and APSU - funding increase of 2.5%. APSU desires to be funded based on the formula, and that funding no longer remain such that institutions are "held harmless" for poor performance.

- Question: Will APSU continue to do well with regard to the funding formula in the future? APSU should continue to reap benefits with the funding formula. One reason for this is that the greater challenge of graduating nontraditional students has been recognized in the formula weighting. This has gotten us to the top of list.
- Question: Is there a plan to enclose the pool? University Recreation is working on a 10-year plan, part of which involves covering the pool.

### 3. Provost – Dr. Tristan Denley

- An outdoor theatre with a semicircular stage area will be built behind Memorial Health by spring 2012.
- Regarding an aspect of the funding formula, APSU plans to increase our external grant money from \$4.5 million to \$8 million by 2015. Last year we had 103 grant proposals. We've already had over 80 grant proposals this academic year. While other universities have more external funding like this, our percent increase will be higher for this category in the funding formula.
- The first Tennessee College Completion Academy was held. Student success initiatives were discussed. (See the file in Document Archive.) Three things universities have implemented that increased graduation rates are an orientation course, an early-alert system, and learning communities. APSU has done the first two and we wish to implement learning communities through linked classes to form student cohorts. Other goals: incubate success at the local high school level and for nontraditional students, and engage faculty, staff, and students in success strategies. Since President Hall has been here, faculty and staff have already been engaged in retention and persistence to graduation strategies. Due to this we are in a better position than our sister institutions. To achieve greater student engagement we will create a student advisory council with broad student representation.

### 4. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives

- Dean's Council – Senator Loretta Griffy
  - Hasn't met since the last senate meeting.
- Academic Council – Senator Carrie Brennan
  - Hasn't met since the last senate meeting.
- TBR Faculty Sub-council – Senator David Kanervo
  - Sub-council hasn't met since the last senate meeting. However, there was a conference call regarding the disciplinary policy. Some on the sub-council want to clarify the wording so that it is clearer that faculty can give an F for the course grade for academic misconduct. This is being addressed currently.

### Old Business

- Academic Classroom and Misconduct Policy – President Deibert/ Wadia, Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee
  - Background: the Faculty Handbook Committee wrote this policy, taking into consideration the discussion from our last meeting. The Faculty Handbook Committee worked with Greg Singleton, Dean of Students, and Sheryl Byrd, Vice President of Students Affairs, as well as both the university's lawyer and TBR's lawyer. Mickey Wadia, chair of the

- Faculty Handbook Committee has worked many hours on this.
- Due to TBR requiring certain provisions, its legal aspect, and its approval deadline of January 1, this policy is unlike academic policies that come before senate. The senate doesn't have the time or flexibility to modify this policy. If we don't approve a policy by January 1, TBR will write one for us. We are the only TBR university without such a policy. This policy must also go to Academic Council and Dean's Council for approval.
  - There is not much new in the policy. Students already have these rights. We just must ensure they're informed of their right to due process. The Executive Committee and Faculty Handbook committee endorse this policy.
  - There was a motion and second to approve the policy.
  - There was a brief discussion.
  - After a comment regarding some wording, it was pointed out that the phrase was one of the provisions TBR stated must be in the policy.
  - It was stated that the policy may be reexamined in the spring if necessary, bearing in mind TBR's requirements concerning this policy.
  - The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **New Business**

- None.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.**