

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2012  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00pm**

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

Recognition of Guests: David Guest, Patti Orr, Stephanie Reeves, Steve Ryan, Mickey Wadia

**Roll call of Senators** – Secretary Pat Perdew. Absent Senators: Bonnington, Brennan, De Young, Frentzos, Garber, Hayes, Johnson, Jones, Kanervo, Meyer, Myers, Nicodemus, Rayburn, Snyder, Starnes, Stewart, Sutt, Thornton, White-Major

Amendment to Agenda to move the Rules Committee item to the end of New Business was approved.

**Today's amended agenda approved.**

**Minutes for meeting of February 23, 2012 approved.**

**Remarks**

1. Senate President – Jack Deibert
  - TUFSS meeting is upcoming.
  - An announcement regarding the Staff Award will be sent out soon. April 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for nominations. The award will be presented at our May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. University President – Dr. Tim Hall
  - In Washington, DC attending the American Association of State Colleges and Universities meeting.
3. Provost – Dr. Tristan Denley
  - “Good news” items.
  - Projected that enrollment for new freshmen will be up 8 - 9% in fall 2012. This would give an overall enrollment increase of 2.5 - 3%.
  - State budget: Across-the-board raises of 2.5% are in the governor's budget.
  - Under the THEC funding formula, we improved the most and will get more funding. Also THEC recommended that allocations for higher education overall increase \$19.4 million. They want the legislature to recognize excellence based on the criteria in the funding formula, and fund universities based on their improvements in those areas. This is expected to pass in the legislature. However, the governor has proposed an across-the-board cut of 2% in higher education.
  - As an end result, APSU will get \$1.3 million in more funds. With these funds, APSU can also give additional amounts for raises beyond the across-the-board raise. There will also be new staff positions. Since the Provost has been here, 70 new faculty have been hired. However, we have not hired more staff. Our growth necessitates adding staff positions strategically to increase efficiency.
  - APSU will also have revenue growth from a probable tuition increase of 4-5%.

Also enrollment growth will give more revenue.

- Once we know the fall enrollment, we will put new faculty lines in the October budget to maintain the current student to faculty ratio at about 19:1.
- Our improvement in the funding formula begs a question: Does our improved performance mean we're doing a great job or had more ground to makeup? With information provided to us, we can objectively say that APSU is very successful; we are doing an excellent job. Among the six universities, we are first on student progression rates past the 24 and 48 hour marks, even without taking into account demographics.
- Question: How was Wintermester? Answer: we had an enrollment of 400 students in 27 classes. It was a great success. We will do it again. Departments are looking at what courses could be offered in this format.
- Question: What improvements were made on the D, F, W rates in the fall? Answer: We are focusing on improving success rates in gateway courses. Twelve of these courses had A, B, C rates increase by 5%. Of those, five were up by 10% or more.
- Question: How do we improve effectiveness of email communication to students? Answer: Put a read notification on some emails. Effectively use distribution lists. Also, we may use other forms of communication to notify students which may include apps and texts.
- Question: What is the status of block scheduling? Answer: The Provost received the first draft from the Registrar's Office today. One bundle will have English 1010, history, and APSU 1000. Bundles may be have the same time every day, be MWF only, etc. Students will be informed of these bundles at summer welcomes. Those bundled sections will be hidden when looking for classes individually in Banner. There are a total of 24 bundles and about 500 seats. Near the end of the enrollment period, restrictions will be taken down to fill up any open remaining sections.
- Child care will be available in the spring for classes after 4:30 pm at the Child Learning Center. Whether this may be available for faculty teaching those sections is yet to be addressed.
- Question regarding progress on target salaries. Answer: Our proposal to use more funds toward implementing the compensation plan is going before a TBR committee on Monday. If passed, it will go to TBR at the end of the month. As previously mentioned, for next year an across-the-board raise, with APSU using additional funds for raises, is planned.

#### 4. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives

- Dean's Council – Senator Loretta Griffy
  - Had not met.
- Academic Council – Senator Carrie Brennan
  - Had not met.
- TBR Faculty Sub-council – Senator David Kanervo
  - Had not met.

#### Old Business

- None.

## New Business

- Conflict of Interest Policy (5:056) – Stephanie Reeves, University Lawyer
  - (See Document Archive for the draft of this policy revision.)
  - Patti Orr chairs the Conflict of Interest and Intellectual Property and Rights Committee. Based upon some issues that had arisen, this policy was re-examined. Patti Orr worked in consultation with President Hall and Stephanie Reeves and reviewed the policies of other TBR institutions.
  - Comments were made regarding use of a professor's own textbook in a class.
  
- Chairs Evaluation Form – President Deibert
  - (See Document Archive for the form.)
  - Policy 5:029 requires annual evaluation of chairs. However, forms were not consistent.
  - Fifteen of the items on this new form came from the senate's Faculty White Committee chaired by Senator Pitts.
  - After discussion a motion and second were made to approve. The motion was unanimously approved.
  
- Items from Faculty Handbook Committee - Mickey Wadia
- 1. Inclusion of Service-Learning section within the Handbook and a brief sentence in 5:060 to indicate that service-learning activities are acceptable for credit within the RTP process. Language for the service-learning description needs to be approved including the statement related to it in 5:060.
  - (See Document Archive for the text in the Faculty Handbook and the statement for Policy 5:060.)
  - Motion and second were made to approve this item.
  - After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.
  
- 2. A faculty member's presentation at APSU within the Provost Lecture Series shall be considered an Area 3 activity for credit within the RTP process.
  - A motion and second were made to approve.
  - The rationale for this proposal is that there is no peer-review of these presentations as is customary of area 2 items.
  - Comments made that some departments do allow non-peer reviewed items in area 2.
  - Comments that it was unclear whether one of these presentations would fit in some department's criteria for area 3.
  - Comment that some departments state that such a presentation doesn't count anywhere in the dossier.
  - After much discussion, a motion to table the motion was made and seconded.
  - The motion to table was approved.
  
- Rules Committee – Vice President Berg
  - (See Document Archive for the Bylaws revisions.)
  - The Rules Committee recommends that a senator filling a vacant seat serve for a full three-year term. This change will require the passage of

- an amendment to the senate constitution.
- Bylaws change recommended that the ad hoc nominations committee may be selected at, or prior to, the April meeting.
- Bylaws change recommended so that the areas are stated in article V. section F., and delete “occupational studies” in number 7.
- These Bylaws changes will be voted on at the next meeting.
- A request was made that Leadership Sciences be grouped in an area. The Rules Committee does not recommend this be done at this time because this and similar programs (e.g., PELP, Women’s Studies, etc.) cross disciplines and no faculty are assigned to the program. The faculty are assigned to departments that are in areas for senate representation. If a faculty member is only assigned to a program and not a department, in the future, then the program will be assigned to an area.
- Faculty Senate elections are upcoming. The nomination form is on the website.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.**