

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, August 23, 2012  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00**

**Call to Order** – Senate President Elaine Berg

Recognition of Guests: Lori Buchanan, Joe Weber, Joe Schiller, Tucker Brown, Rick Christophel

**Roll Call of Senators** – Secretary Paul Nicodemus. Absent Senators: Frederick, Hayes, Hicks, Lebkuecher, Lewis, Lowrance, Maddux, Mann, Nyonna, Shipley, Sims, Stewart, and Zhang

**Request to amend today's agenda by President Berg** to add Coach Christophel and Dr. Loretta Griffy to the agenda.

**Amended agenda approved.**

**Minutes for meeting on May 3, 2012 approved.**

**Remarks**

1. Senate President – Elaine Berg
  - Welcomed new senators and thanked all for serving on Senate.
  - Reminded senators of the bylaws concerning absences—3 consecutive unexcused absences and their seat will be declared vacant. Senators should notify President Berg or Secretary Nicodemus if they cannot attend a senate meeting.
  - Thanked those who attended the Faculty Retreat and those who made presentations: Dr. Doris Davenport, Dean Greg Singleton, and Dr. Mickey Wadia. Thanked Provost's Office for providing refreshments. Asked senators to forward topic ideas for next year's faculty retreat to her or other members of Senate Executive Committee. Suggestion was made to have a presentation on ADA and the classroom.
  - Announced that the faculty lounge was now open and thanked President Hall, Provost Denley, past faculty senate presidents Deibert and Major.
  - Reported on changes to the Committee for Library & Institutional Memberships/Subscriptions Committee that were approved by the Executive Committee this summer--new name is University Library Advisory Committee. This committee no longer deals with institutional subscriptions and memberships.
  - Requested a moment of silence for Dr. James Corgan, former Chair & Professor of Geology and Chris Hardin, Associate Professor of Theatre, who recently passed away.
  
2. University President – Tim Hall
  - Presented information concerning the fall enrollment. Expecting a 2% increase, but have liked to see a 2 to 4 percent. Numbers may exceed 11,000.
  - Proposal for equity increase has been submitted and approved by TBR staff. Awaiting approval by TBR board at September meeting. Ad hoc approval committee suggested modification in the equity compensation disbursement to bring those below their floor to the minimum level for their rank and remaining funds to give everyone a percentage of their salary gap (target salary minus current salary).

- Reported that the new building for Mathematics and Computer Science broke ground for construction.
- The State Building Committee approved improvements to APSU's football stadium. \$5 million will come from the plant funds left over from end of the year and remainder from bonded indebtedness. None of the funding will come from academic funds. Remainder of funding needs will come from private donations. Expecting approximately \$3 million in private donations with only some of this going to the football stadium remodeling. Plans include boxed seats for the home side of the football field. Will use funding from boxed seat tickets to assist with any indebtedness incurred from the remodeling. APSU has the most poorly paid Athletic staff in the Ohio Valley Conference.
- Plans for additions to the Foy Center with concentration on "student health."
- Renovations and extension of the Trahern building are still planned.
- Governor Haslam met with President Hall and Provost Denley and urged that we focus on students achieving four-year degrees and not two-year degrees.
- We need to have classes available for students anytime they log on to register especially the thumbprint classes. Students should not have to select classes because they are the only ones available (leftovers). The university that solves this problem of having needed classes available when students attempt to register will be the university that gets ahead.
- Opened the floor for questions
  - A request for input concerning TBR's new policy of not requiring a foreign language in cases of high school deficiencies in this area. Dr. Denley indicated that he would be addressing this question so President Hall deferred the matter to him.

### 3. Provost – Tristan Denley

- Reported that TBR would no longer enforce the policy requiring students to complete classes in foreign language who have high school deficiencies in foreign language. Consequently this would require APSU to develop a policy of our own. Need to consider that those who are typically mandated to meet this deficiency requirement are nontraditional and out-of-state students. We decided to abide by TBR changes because in order to continue this policy we had to act quickly. Administration has no plans to cut positions in the foreign language area, but sees this as an opportunity to offer more upper level classes. Question from the floor concerning how developing university policy could be pressed forward. Statement was made that those who teach foreign languages see a need to urgently seek a solution to proposing a policy to avoid sending a wrong message of not being troubled by change. The Provost does not view a lack of urgency necessarily sending a message of no concern. Question asked about the possibility of administering a proficiency exam for foreign language upon admission. Provost said something that should be considered is those who have no high school foreign language, but have acquired proficiency on their own. Suggestions from floor: faculty nonbinding resolution stressing faculty's concerns, math and science is required for all students, but math and science majors do not have to take foreign language.
- Announced Freshman Convocation tomorrow on lawn of Browning. Approximately 1500 students will be on front lawn of campus. We are attempting to make Convocation a bookend to graduation.
- SACS' 5-year report visit
  - Small details need to be tied up.
  - Issues on assessing what is learning.

- Of the programs (schools) evaluated by SACS, 44 were required to complete same request as APSU.
  - First monitoring report for SACS indicated that one semester of data was not enough and we were told we need to analyze and plan.
  - Second monitoring report will be required to assure we use data to improve.
  - In March 2013 we will need to provide new continuous improvement report. Must show that we are using data for this purpose. Provost wanted to make certain that we understood this. We have to tie this back to departmental outcomes and close the loop.
4. Dr. Tucker Brown – Center for the Study of Military Life
- Center is currently under the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.
  - Need publicity to increase visibility.
  - APSU's journal that was developed for the area has a national call for papers.
  - Inform practitioners in the fields related to counseling and military science that the journal is now seeking submissions for journal.
  - Encouraged those who are interested in conducting research in this area through Ft. Campbell to enroll on mailing list and complete the form.
  - Make contact with those may be interested in assisting in research projects.
5. Coach Rick Christophel
- Said he is proud of what is happening with our students and mentioned the two APSU students who received the Goldwater Fellowships.
  - Encourage students to review website to see what is happening.
  - Have 5 graduate students on the football team.
  - Goal is to make faculty proud of the football program.
  - Asked faculty to contact his office if problems arise in class. He makes certain someone is always available.
6. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives
- Dean's Council – Senator Mercy Cannon (Dr. Loretta Griffy reported)
    - Met twice this summer in offsite locations.
    - Some professional academic coaching products are available: Student Voice
      - a) you provide questions and they will be dressed up, b) data stored through surveys for students, faculty, and others
    - Visited the Springfield campus. There is now a coordinator on this campus.
    - D2L going through major upgrades. It will look different from how it looks now. Changes to occur during Wintermester (TBR system-wide).
    - Changes will be implemented according to D2L schedule not ours.
    - Plans are to work with faculty during Wintermester to show what it looks like.
    - Attempts to grow the number of opportunities for Wintermester.
    - Administrative assistants can add to requirements for online courses.
    - Students upset about differing requirements for different online classes.
  - Academic Council – Senator Becky Starnes
    - Reported the Academic Council had not met

- TBR Faculty Sub-Council – Dr. David Kanervo
  - Sub-Council met on July 20,2012
  - Chancellor Morgan met with Sub-Council.
  - Governor Haslam met with the Sub-Council and discussed findings from industry.
  - Industry reports gaps between what students have and what industry needs to fill jobs.
  - Paula Short resigned and has been replaced by Kay Clark on an interim basis. He plans to continue initiatives that Paula Short started.
  - Discussion on proposal concerning academic freedom. Revised proposal said faculty members’ speech would be protected if language took place within an official university organization, such as, formal group processes in academic or administrative programs, departmental, colleges or universities.
  - Voted down by TBR academic officers at their meeting.
  - Student in TSU’s enhanced math classes were given grades of *incomplete* by their professors because while they were passing the classroom portion, they were failing the lab portion because they were not attending it. Administration decided that if student was capable of passing class then why should they be forced to do the lab work for a deficiency.
  - Reported that the standardized GPA proposal in which a GPA will not follow transfer students to another university was tabled with indications that it will probably not be implemented until summer of 2014.
  - Reported that the common calendar implementation will be fall 2014.
  - TBR has renewed contract with D2L for another 5 years.
  - Discussion of the interpretation of academic freedom when it is not part of university organization – does this mean that we do not have freedom of speech rights as individuals? Dr. Kanervo reported that Paula Short was unwilling to give approval for faculty to say anything they want to say. Rights do exist according to her if they are in a university organization. He further indicated that Christine Modisher, legal staff, backed out of the agreement. Resulted in quite a debate from the Sub-Council. Ended with the TBR legal representative leaving the room.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

- President Berg provided orientation for new senators.
- Support organizations for faculty who need advice
  - Ombuds.
  - AAUP-- advocacy for situations where faculty member feels that due process has been violated.
- Senate committees – President Berg  
Committees have been approved by the Executive Committee and Chairs and co-chairs have agreed to serve. Motion and second to approve Senate committees. Motion passed.
- University Tenure and Promotion Appeals Board member – President Berg  
Faculty Senate selects a member to this board. Motion made and seconded to accept Jordy Rocheleau. Motion passed.

- TUFs meeting report – President Berg
  - Reported discussion on how much input we have in the content of our faculty handbook.
  - Vice-President Brooks and President Berg attended.
  - Discussions included
    - More efficient systems in higher education
    - Students interested in stem program
    - Shift to providing workforce training
    - Higher education gets rapped on graduation rates
    - Failure to produce product
    - Higher education to market what we need
    - Consumer paying considerable amount for education
    - Shifts in funding
    - Governor Haslam bringing good jobs to Tennessee
    - Most other schools were heavy in administration and not adding faculty
    - Faculty salaries imbalanced with difference from peer universities in administration and faculty
    - Legislative liaisons reported that higher education continually loses funding to other entities. They expect to lose most state support for funding.
    - Proprietary schools are coming into Tennessee quickly.
  - TUFs working on two resolutions for endorsement by faculty senates. Resolutions deal with TBR policy on academic freedom and university searches in which names are confidential (new Tennessee legislation passed this summer).
- Policy 5:003 Discrimination & Harassment – Complaint & Investigation Procedure – President Berg
  - President Berg wanted senator to be aware of this policy, especially the statement concerning instruction and the classroom. Make sure that statement stays in the policy. President Berg will take comments to the policy committee.
- RASI – Dr. Loretta Griffy
  - Pointed out website information with encouragement to consider submitting a proposal.
  - Encouraged all to take advantage.
  - The current level of funding may not exist after this year.
  - Will continue to accept proposals, but may not be on the present level of monetary support.
- Additional comments
  - Senator Winters encouraged faculty to attend student events.
  - Question asked if Senate would host football tailgate event again this year at Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day. Yes, we will. President Berg will announce date at the next Senate meeting.
  - Language faculty will investigate a possible resolution to mandate a foreign language for students who have a high school deficiency in this area.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.**