

APSU Faculty Senate
3:30, January, 2003
University Center, Room 307

Call to Order --3:30

Roll call of senators: *present* Elaine Berg; Kell Black; Rhonda Bryant; Elaine Busey; Michele Butts; Steve Clark; Sue Evans; Richard Gildrie; Sara Gotcher; Loretta Griffy; Ron Gupton; Phil Kemmerly; Thomas King; Barry Kitterman; Susan Koch; Vicky Langston; Marcy Maurer; Mark Michael; Bruce Myers; Shirley Rainey; Robert Robison; Jordy Rocheleau; Miguel Ruiz-Avilez; Nancy Smithfield; Greg Steinberg; Janet Tracy; Mary Lou Witherspoon; Faye Zeigler

Not present: Art Carpenter; Rebecca Glass; Lynette Henderson; Adel Salama; Mohammed Waheeduzzaman; Tim Winters

President Black introduced four new senators: Marcy Maurer, Shirley Rainey, Nancy Smithfield, and Janet Tracy.

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the November 2002 meeting were approved.

As Pres. Hoppe was not yet available, VPAA Speck spoke on behalf of the administration.

VPAA Speck:

Updates

Liberal arts committee -- after holding several meetings, some improvements have been suggested. The committee will be reconvened and carry on.

SAACS:

VPAA Speck asked **Susan Calovini** to provide this update:

Good progress has been made, particularly with the compliance audit portion. In January the compliance audit committee pulled together a draft of their report. That draft is currently being reviewed by Calovini and Speck. The committee has done an excellent job of investigating, fact-finding, and document gathering. We will have a strong compliance audit report.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)--Committees have been formed and people are at work on this. The deadline for the QEP is later than the compliance audit report.

VPAA Speck: on the freshman seminar

We have ideas about the course. Jordy Rocheleau. has volunteered to head this subcommittee, which is in the process of going through recommendations, putting together

a syllabus. There are plans to teach 10 sections for the fall. Once the syllabus is in place, there will be training sessions in the spring.

VPAA. Meningall wants to have learning communities in the new living quarters under construction, perhaps have live-in professors. People once did this on our campus, long ago.

Regarding the 60 courses that will fulfill the 41 hours required in our gen ed core: TBR says, by May, we need to have these courses designated. Then we will work on putting together the 120 hours needed for graduation. Joe Filippo is working with deans to figure out what courses will be recommended for the 41 hours, and then we can look at the 120 hour component.

Sen. Clark: are programs that require unusual numbers of hours, like music or education, exempt from the 120 hour limit?

VPAA Speck: People with those problems from all the different campuses are working on this issue.

Pres. Black—When will the new dorms be ready?

VPAA Speck: Fall.

Pres. Black: Learning communities with live-in faculty? This will be purely voluntary?

VPAA Speck: yes. This would work best with new faculty, faculty who fit the need.

Sen. Gildrie: Can you bring your cats?

Pres. Black: Moving on. A public health issue--questions from across campus. Those who are immuno-suppressed are worried about the ramifications of small pox vaccinations.

The Center for disease control assures us that those who receive the vaccine are not contagious as long as they keep it covered. We will post the public health document (from Diane Berty).

CDC and Montgomery county health council says if one case of small pox is reported, all schools will be closed. Schools will be closed for 10 days to inoculate the world. Montgomery county health council will try to make information available

Sen. Kemmerly: all schools?

Pres. Black: That includes APSU.

VPAA Speck and Pres. Black: regarding courses that will fit in the 41 hour gen ed core.

We will post a document that outlines the number of courses for each part of the new requirements. Each TBR campus will put together a list, but we don't know if one master list will be compiled, or if there will be a cafeteria program where individual campuses can choose.

Sen. Gupton: Are math courses listed there?

VPAA Speck: The real purpose is to let people know how many courses they need to reduce to meet these guidelines. Deans will be contacting departments to try to find out how to make these recommendations.

Sen. Griffy--Some departments will want to propose new courses, but the campus system may keep the course from becoming a reality.

VPAA Speck: if you have a course you would like to try, put it in now, even if the course has not made its way through the process.

Sen Clark--could such a course be entered as an experimental course?

VPAA Speck : Yes, but it would have no guarantee that the experimental course would become a reality.

Deans council:

Sen Berg: Dean Hunt wanted to bring before the senate the idea of a dead week. 7 days prior to final exams, there would be no tests, no papers due. Student affairs might not plan any social activities.

Pres. Black: This should be an item of discussion for next month's meeting. At Alabama, teachers cannot introduce new material in the last week.

Sen Berg: the cap on adjunct hours has been increased both on main campus and Ft Campbell. Main campus goes from 15 to 18 per academic year. Ft Campbell from 18 to 21.

Sen. Gildrie : so decline continues, deterioration escalates.

Pres. Black: last year TBR was looking for increasing the role of adjuncts, decreasing the role of full time faculty.

Sen. Berg: Ft Campbell's Gerald Beavers made a plea for permanent faculty, especially in English and math.

The registrar's office has lifted restrictions on run numbers, giving faculty greater access to pin screens, with instruction on that screen coming. Hopefully, this will be ready for registration this spring.

A motion passed (again at deans council) to pay summer school according to student credit hours rather than teaching load credit.

Pres. Black: in changing to student credit hours-- will that mean more money is available to faculty, or not?

Sen. Berg: this recommendation will not change the way faculty is paid (ie 1/32 of salary per credit hour).

VPAA Speck: There is much yet to be figured out.

Pres. Black: A question about raising cap on adjuncts—will there be any change in benefits for adjuncts?

VPAA Speck: At the last subcouncil, there was some talk about offering insurance to adjuncts and grad students. There are big issues in administering such a change, but the issue is still being considered.

Pres. Black: Sen. Berg's information will be put on line.

There was more discussion of the vaccination issue. Pres Black said the CDC web page is very informative.

Academic council: Sen Robison

The Academic Council voted as follows:

To alter the womens studies minor

To approve the Latin American studies minor

To approve two changes in psychology, changes chemistry and others
(for further details, you may contact Sen Robison)

Sen. Bryant: when will Latin American studies go into effect

Answer from somewhere: this fall

TBR subcouncil: no report

President Hoppe arrives and speaks:

APSU is better prepared to handle what we are facing than in the last three years. We were conservative in our initial budget, and deliberately did not program our tuition increase into program growth. That's the good news.

The bad news is:

Though we were given information that we need to send in cuts at two and a half percent and 5 percent, the word is that we will need to cover a 5 percent impoundment. We had 600 thousand in new tuition revenue. We know we have half a million at our disposal, which would have covered the 2 and half percent impoundment. If we need to cover 5 percent, we'll have to take that half million, plus the lapsed salary funds, and somehow find a way to cut 750,000 dollars.

In July, we have been told that higher ed should plan for an 8.8 percent reduction (total). This is a 2.7 million reduction in our base budget, a permanent reduction. We have to submit our plan for this reduction by Feb 7th, and we must do this in the next few days, for a 2 and half percent reduction and a 5 percent reduction.

President Black: Will this affect hiring for new positions?

President Hoppe: We don't know. We need to fill positions, but how can we make up this loss? At this stage, we may not be able to fill any of those positions

Senator Michael: What about money for travel?

President Hoppe: Travel is such a small part, I'd like to say we should just go ahead and do it. I can tell you, the state has not told us how to balance our budget. Anyone who has bought an airline ticket, will not be left hanging. My preference would be not to freeze travel, but I don't know what the state will say.

Sen Clark: Will the lottery possibly negate some of these problems?

Pres. Hoppe: No, the language for the lottery spells out what the money can be used for. It can't be converted to balance the budget.

Sen Griffy: Is there any talk about tuition increases?

Pres Hoppe: That has been discussed. We will probably get an increase July 1.

Sen Robison: Any discussion of summer school?

Pres. Hoppe: We could say no summer school. But that would save a little, and then result in a loss of enrollment. Problems result in the future.

We could temporarily save money by staffing summer school with adjuncts, so that we don't lower enrollment. There are hard decisions ahead.

Sen Gotcher: In theater, we have a summer program, Center Stage. Does all of this say such a program can't go ahead?

Pres Hoppe: THEC will tell us soon what cuts need to be made to centers of excellence.

Sen Robison: Any discussion at state levels about how this will affect accreditation?

Pres Hoppe: All states in this region are going to suffer the same fiscal dilemma, and SAACS will understand.

Sen Kitterman: Any advice about those of us who are in the middle of a hiring process?

Pres Hoppe: Don't schedule any interviews.

Pres Black: The outstanding positions are an obvious place to look to cut costs. Where else?

Pres Hoppe: Next fall, some parts of the college may not be open. Some people will be converted to nine month salaries, or to 35 hours a week.

It is important to remember that we have a fair number of personnel funded through student activities fees, ie the intramural position. We may need to shift some positions covered by state appropriations to student activity fees. Remember there are different sources of funding.

Sen Bryant: Is the NYSP externally funded?

Pres Hoppe: Yes.

One part of higher education that won't be cut is Geier funding.

Pres Black: In the immediate future, are we to have discussions with our respective chairs about how to cut our budget by 5 percent?

Pres. Hoppe: Wait until we get the information to you.

VPAA Speck: If we cut all operating expenses at the department level, that would have no real effect.

Sen Robison: 7 and a half percent has been mentioned. Are we blessed not to have meet those figures?

Pres Hoppe: We need to find 2 and half percent or 5, rather than 7 and a half.

Sen Bryant: Would a loss of hours result in a loss of insurance benefits?

Pres Hoppe: No, we will avoid that.

Sen Griffy: Will faculty need to take a cut in work week, too?

Pres Hoppe : It is hard to say. It is conceivable that we will go to 15 hours a week. Nobody wants it. Tell me the method you think would work best. I would like a wide-spread input.

Prof Browder: Send information to the chair level. Let us discuss it and hold meetings, then send it on to deans.

Pres. Hoppe : Okay, within the time constraints.

Prof Browder: I have concerns about travel. Is there a provision that allows us to keep contractual obligations?

Pres Hoppe : There was a time that we were told to simply reimburse people for out of pocket expenses. Anyone who does not have a signed travel form in place, don't count on it.

Sen Clark : Is there money for the new merit pay?

Pres Hoppe : No money will be set aside, but we are obligated to send the plan forwards to TBR.

Sen Ruiz Avilez: What about summer study abroad?

Pres Hoppe : We would have to sit with the coordinator of each program and make those decisions.

(Motion was made and approved to extend the meeting)

Sen Robison: Has there been any discussion about personnel actions.

Pres Hoppe : All second year people have been acted upon, so we won't have that problem.

Sen Anonymous: What about promotions?

Pres. Hoppe : It is possible to give promotions with no stipend. We need to balance the small savings with the morale and the PR impact.

Pres Black:
Old business

Elections --Sen Butts

We have elected a series of new senators, and have a tie that the senate must decide. The run-off will be done via email. Candidates are William Rayburn, Jerry Plummer.

Reapportionment

How are we to conduct the may elections?

Under the old system, or under a new system?

Is it still evenly distributed if we don't change things?

Next question--do we reapportion by occupied positions, or by faculty lines?

Sen Kemmerly: It is important to pick a date and make the choices by faculty "slots".

Sen Butts will go from this discussion and bring a plan to us next time.

Sen Kemmerly: Set a cut off date, say Aug 2001, and work from the situation that existed at that time.

Pres Black

Reorganization will go before the senate at our next meeting

Attendance

The new policy will require all faculty to take attendance, but the question of how attendance is used for grading purposes is up to individual faculty.

This is a financial issue; the registrar needs a legal document for refunds, and for financial aid figures.

Sen Gildrie: Are the parameters such that I have to take roll every day, rather than once a week?

Prof Ryan: I was on academic council when the FA grade was first approved. We refused to accept the FA grade if this meant daily attendance would be required. I don't believe that we are contractually required to take attendance. I think this is a pressure put on us because many believe daily attendance will increase retention.

Discussion took place whether attendance should be taken. Some faculty spoke in favor of taking attendance, others in favor of letting faculty make their own decisions.

Prof Ryan: Is this issue going through academic council?

Sen Berg: It hasn't come before us yet.

Pres Black: Do we have the right to decide these things ourselves?

Sen Gildrie: Let's find out what the policy actually calls for, by contracting Jane Pennington.

Sen Myers: What about online courses?

Pres. Black agreed to invite Jane Pennington to our next meeting.

Pres Black on the bookstore :

The Follet Bookstore: There have been lots of complaints about Follett. Pres Hoppe and VPAA have put Follett on notice. They must show significant improvement by the end of the year, or we will find a new vendor.

Pres Black: My apology for the length of the discussion of the small pox vaccination issue.

Adjourned--5:15

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