

APSU Faculty Senate  
3:30, April 24, 2003  
University Center, Room 307

Call to Order --3:35

Roll call of senators: *present* Elaine Berg; Kell Black; Rhonda Bryant; Elaine Busey; Michele Butts; Michele Butts; Richard Gildrie; Rebecca Glass; Loretta Griffy; Ron Gupton; Lynette Henderson; Phil Kemmerly; Thomas King; Barry Kitterman; Susan Koch; Marcy Maurer; Bruce Myers; Shirley Rainey; William Rayburn; Robert Robison; Jordy Rocheleau; Nancy Smithfield; Greg Steinberg; Mary Lou Witherspoon; Tim Winters; Faye Zeigler

*Not present:* Art Carpenter; Steve Clark; Sue Evans; Sara Gotcher; Vicky Langston; Mark Michael; Miguel Ruiz-Aviles; Adel Salama; Janet Tracy; Mohammed Waheeduzzaman

Agenda approved  
Minutes approved

**Pres. Hoppe:**

On the budget—There is still discussion in Nashville on whether to change the proposed budget by changing the system of revenue sharing, and asking for an additional 1 percent budget cut. This move would mean an additional \$300,000 reduction for APSU. Cities and counties are lobbying hard for this change. It would be bad news for us.

On the lottery--it appears that a bill moving through the house will not have a \$100,000 income cap attached to it. It will have the need-based component to give more students money who are most in need. Private institutions have been successful in getting an equal amount from the lottery, so we will try to get the TESAC restoration removed. Some compromise may be the result. There is a lot of controversy about the differing private and public institutions and what their students can receive.

Students will need a 3.0 GPA and a 19 on the ACT to qualify for lottery scholarships.

On athletics, and enrollment caps--THEC met last week and talked about athletics and enrollment caps. TBR is proposing caps on athletic expenditures and moving part of the student fees toward a dedicated fee for athletics, possibly \$50 per semester per student. This will move some financial burden away from the state.

As for enrollment caps, THEC has removed the penalty clause for exceeding the current cap.

On library salaries:

To correct a long-standing mistake in the way we pay librarians, librarian salaries will henceforth be calculated at 50% faculty rate, and 50% administrative rate. Librarian

salaries will remain in excess of their targets. Therefore, librarians will give back the most recent 1½ percent equity adjustment, and will probably not receive across-the-board pay raises in the near future. Other than that small adjustment, librarians salaries will not be reduced.

On the African American students protest—Students certainly have the right to hold a rally or a protest. I have met with groups of African American students on more than one occasion. We tried to present facts. For example, all five individuals who are being RIFed are Caucasians. About 6% of those individuals whose jobs are being converted to 10-month positions are African American. It is not fair to say our budget cuts are disproportionately unfair to African Americans.

**Pres Black:**

Last week, according to a letter in the Allstate, a sociology teacher was replaced in the classroom. The Executive Committee took this to the President and VPAA. Explanations were given. Since then, we have been asked to look at this again, and to talk to the instructor involved. The letter stated that the professor was criticized for using the words penis and vagina in the classroom.

(PENIS. VAGINA.)

Penis, vagina

**Pres. Hoppe :** Those allegations are not true. This action took place for other reasons.

**Pres Black:** I realize it's a touchy issue because it is a personnel issue.

**Pres Hoppe :** In consultation with Richard Jackson, we asked the instructor to tape her classes, in order to protect herself and the university. We had another complaint that the instructor was not taping the class. Jackson and Speck met with the instructor and asked her about it and she said she had not been taping the class. We chose to make the change. The statements in the newspaper were not accurate.

**VPAA Speck:** Richard Jackson met with the instructor and talked about protecting the instructor and the university. She agreed to tape the class. She didn't tape the class. It was quite late in the course and she had yet to give a midterm. The students didn't know what their grades looked like. We looked at this problem for about 6 weeks. It was not a question of academic freedom, nor on how the instructor approached the material. But how can we document what was happening and make a decision, without documentation?

**Sen Rainey:** As a Sociology professor, I want to commend the administration for what they did. They acted in a professional manner.

Secretary Kitterman cautioned Sen Rainey not to say too many positive things about the administration. "It only encourages them."

**VPAA Speck** on the liberal arts proposal--It will not be implemented this year. Faculty members have written a grant so they can get some money so they can write a grant. Many details can't be answered now--who will teach, etc. We will bring the proposal to academic council and ask them to vote on it.

On the First-year course—we have had training for that, it is a pilot, a great deal of data show that these courses are good for retention. Sen Jordy Rocheleau has been working on a committee to put together a master syllabus.

(VPAA Speck yields to Sen Rocheleau).

**Sen Rocheleau:** There are two concerns for the course--introducing skills for life at the university, and an introduction to the liberal arts. We are working to bring these components into the course.

**Sen Kemmerly:** I heard conversations about the training session: yoyos? and bubblegum?

**VPAA Speck:** People might find those sessions to be “Mickey Mouse.” But there are a number of things we will do in this course that we might not do in academic courses. Part of the reason for these activities is to build community. The whole course will not be comprised of that.

**Sen Kemmerly,** to the senate: Those of you who attended that? What was your experience with that? It does seem rather bizarre.

Senators allowed that the sessions were nonacademic, but as VP Speck said, they were supposed to build community. The activities were informative, trying different active learning activities. All very active.

**Sen Bryant:** Faculty have focused on the academic side. We need to focus on the development of the whole student. Throwing balls would not comprise an academic course, but these activities might mean something to incoming freshmen.

**VP Speck:** The activities were just meant to be 10 minutes of class, not an entire class period.

**Pres Black:** Faculty do see the need for community building, but there is some concern in calling this an academic course. Could this be a mandatory noncredit course? Will this course go through the usual review process?

**VP Speck:** Yes, we need to go through the process of going through the channels. Remember these are freshmen, and they are still kids, and we need to reach them.

**Sen Kemmerly:** The issue of retention comes up with a lot of people I've talked to. Why doesn't student affairs make a public relations campaign to get students to attend class

regularly? The biggest single thing that would increase retention would be to make a serious effort to get students to attend class.

**VP Speck:** I talk to students at every opportunity and tell them it's important to go to class. We have students who come from a different academic milieu. We need to look carefully at how we can help them, how to be successful at college. Time management, for example.

**Pres Hoppe:** Faculty must set the attendance policies.

**Sen Robison:** Is there any way as the liberal arts school of the state, we can get an exemption from the 120 hour limit for these added courses? Can we raise our limit to 142?

**VP Speck:** Probably not.

**Sen Robison:** As a freshman advisor, how do we advise freshmen re this course?

**VP Speck:** We will do this the first time in transition advisement periods. Next time, we will advise accordingly. We will promote this course shamelessly.

**Pres Black:** Is this course only for first time freshmen?

**VP Speck:** This course is designed for first time, traditionally aged students.

**Sen Witherspoon:** Is there something in the course to help students understand the importance of advisors, and advisement?

**Sen Rocheleau:** Yes we did include that information.

**Sen Winters:** I'm slightly suspicious that the students who will select this course are the ones who need it least.

**VP Speck:** Possibly. It's difficult to get a truly random sample. We can't mandate the course.

**Sen Bryant:** How will the class work for somebody in DSP, with the DSP studies skills class?

**VP Speck:** we don't have that completely worked out at this point.

**Sen Maurer:** What will the course cap be?

**VP Speck:** 25. That means we will enroll about a third of our first time full time people.

**VP Speck** on RODP--TBR is proposing a masters in education in RODP

**Sen Gildrie:** Why not just contract all that out to Phoenix and forget about it?

**VP Speck:** I'm not sure we have a lot of options here. If we vote it down, it won't help us in any way.

**Sen Bryant:** How will this affect our education people?

**VP Speck:** Don Luck could answer that better. But RODP will try to satisfy the need we have for more teachers. There are some virtues to it: online learning has progressed. Phoenix is successful, and their quality has gone up over time. They know how to meet students needs.

**Pres Black:** There are concerns from education, chiefly that this committee is not being asked to approve, but told to approve. The school of education has a quality product in terms of numbers and success. Why would we want to undermine this successful school. Are we in danger of seeing the education school go away in the future?

**VP Speck:** I have convened them and given them the information. I am not telling them they have to pass it. I am explaining the situation, and pleading for votes. No coercion on my part or in terms of TBR.

**Sec Kitterman:** who is voting?

**VP Speck:** graduate council, and academic council.

**Pres Black:** Does this undercut our program?

**VP Speck:** I haven't heard that. The purpose of RODP is to provide opportunities for people because we have a teacher shortage.

**Pres Hoppe:** As Dr. Speck says, it is the prerogative of the groups involved to vote how they think best. But if we choose not to participate, and the other five universities vote to do so, that might move to the detriment of our school of education.

**VP Speck:** the fear that the ultimate outcome is to do away with the school of education doesn't ring true. We are in a crisis in terms of having teachers.

**Sen Rayburn:** Do you know any thing about how much the courses cost?

**VP Speck:** RODP courses are 40% higher than our regular courses.

**Sen Witherspoon:** University of Phoenix is now advertising wonderful courses that are 30% real classroom, which is what students have asked for.

**VP Speck:** As we make our decisions in these areas, we need to be aware that we in academia have a lot of bad press that we are trying to work with.

**Pres Black:** Are there questions for the VPAA now about reorganization?

**Sen Robison:** Has the reorganization been presented to the president? And has she approved it?

**VP Speck:** yes to both questions.

**Sen Robison:** when are faculty due back?

**VP Speck:** Aug 11.

**Sec Kitterman:** Can you comment on the proposal to move faculty members to Ft. Campbell, from Math and from Lang and Lit?

**VP Speck:** These recommendations were made in the hope of doing something when we can. Nothing is in the works at the present. Gerald Beavers says when people are dedicated to Ft Campbell, that works well.

**Sen Griffy:** Where would those people be housed?

**VP Speck:** I don't know.

**Pres Black:** Dr. Hoppe, is there any new information on a tuition increase?

**Pres Hoppe:** In mid-may, we hope the board will call a special meeting. We believe that the increase will be 10-12%.

**Pres Black:** Thank you Pres Hoppe for clearing up the library salary question.

Nominations have been received for open senate seats. This process was orchestrated by Michelle Butts. Several seats will remain unfilled due to a lack of nominations. Reggie Wooden will do this election as an online election.

A special election may be held in the fall to fill any seats that come vacant over the summer.

Voted to extend the meeting. (All members voted to extend except for Sec. Kitterman.)

**Pres Black:** One update: at the last meeting, I reported that hires were going poorly. But the positions are being filled. There are still 5 positions that are open and cannot be "offered" until July 1, possibly.

**Sen Witherspoon:** A question about searches: at what point is it decided that there is a failed search? How is the information made known?

**Sen Kemmerly:** When we interview people, it may be that after the interviews the candidates are not felt to be adequate. Then you can formally notify the dean that the search has failed. That decision must be approved by the dean and VPAA.

**Sen Witherspoon:** how do you find out whether a search is over, whether it failed, etc.

**Sen Kemmerly:** the people involved know.

**Sen Black:** it's my understanding that depending on the search, the next level up can decide that a search has failed. Faculty can feel a search is successful, but the next level can feel differently.

**Sen Henderson** expressed concerns about searches that have failed in her department.

**Sen Kemmerly:** I would make the following motion: Early in the fall, the new faculty senate Executive Committee will ask the administration to work with the Executive Committee to develop a policy to declare academic searches failed.

Passes unanimously

**Sen Griffy** on the TBR subcouncil:

The Chancellor said the cuts we are making are the equivalent of closing the doors at ETSU and APSU. That was scary.

Sen Griffy will email her notes.

Deans Council, **Sen Berg** :

Sheila McCoy has notified us of a couple of mistakes in the exam schedule. She will do an email directly. Everything else I will send out.

To give a final early, you must have the dean's approval  
You must go ahead and hold a class meeting during final exam hour.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.