

**Austin Peay State University  
Faculty Senate  
Meeting of Thursday, October 30, 2008  
University Center, UC 307  
3:00 pm  
Minutes (unapproved)**

**Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Senate President Winters at 3:05 p.m.

**Recognition of Guests** – Pres. Winters recognized the following guests in attendance at today's meeting: Loretta Griffy, Matt Kenney, and Patrick Perdew.

**Roll call of Senators** – The following senators were absent from today's meeting: Roy Baker, Sue Evans, William Glunt, Dwonna Goldstone, Mike Gotcher, Sergei Markov, Jocelyn Martin, Thomas O'Connor, Greg Rabidoux, Michelle Robertson, and Melan Smith-Francis.

**Approval of today's agenda** – Sen. Kemmerly made a motion to approve today's agenda and Sen. Emery seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

**Approval of minutes for meeting of September 25, 2008** – Sen. Wadia made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 28, 2008, meeting and Sen. Scanlan seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

## **Remarks**

- 1. Senate President – Pres. Winters** The senate is trying to address various issues. He asked Pres. Hall to address the current budget issues.
- 2. University President – Pres. Hall**
  - Enrollment is up by about 5% overall. It's the largest increase in TBR. APSU is no longer the smallest university in TBR. We are now larger than TSU. This is good news especially with the current budget situation.
  - He hopes that next fall we'll be able to add \$400,000 in faculty and other support to the growth. This amount is half of the tuition brought in by the 5% growth this fall.
  - APSU has responded to an impoundment of 1.1 million dollars with lapsed salary money, enrollment growth monies from this year, physical plant/maintenance budget reduction. He expects the same amount in an impoundment in spring 2009.
  - Pres. Hall expects a permanent budget reduction in summer 2009. As long as the tuition increase is the same as the amount of budget reduction, we should be okay. We cannot be absolutely certain that tuition will increase.

- The worst-case scenario is going to be if we don't get a tuition increase-- what do we do? He will meet with Faculty Senate Budget Committee and University Vice-Presidents. He really doesn't want to be in position of laying-off people. If we have a severe cut and no tuition increase, cuts will have to come from personnel monies. He prefers to look at personnel lines that are currently unfilled. Doesn't want to cut positions with people in them. They will talk about freezing many of our current open lines temporarily. Until we know that we will get a tuition increase, we'll freeze unfilled positions. Trouble with freezing faculty lines is that they will not be filled in the fall. May still hire temporary folks. He doesn't think it will be that bad, but wants to prepare for the worst. With increase in tuition, the brunt falls on the students' shoulder.
- The Provost search is underway. Pres. Hall asked for Senate's thoughts on whether we should put all or some of the following searches on hold: dean positions currently occupied by interims, Vice-President for Student Affairs, and the new dean positions created under the new academic reorganization plan. Should we hold off on filling them for another year? There is concern that we will have a new provost & new deans learning the university at the same time.
- Springfield site signed an agreement allowing APSU to offer courses for next five years in conjunction with Volunteer State. Springfield is paying the overhead for the facility. Also, APSU classes will be offered in Dickson. There was concern that that we would cannibalize the main campus enrollment by offering classes there, but it will help us in the long run because of space—as long it doesn't cost us more. A question was asked about what courses will be offered. Pres. Hall responded that it will probably be courses in the professional studies program. Departments have to be agreeable to offering in courses in these locations. Another question was asked about how will they be managed? Pres. Hall said not everything is sorted out at this point. Sen. Bruster suggested offering education courses there that it could attract students into the education programs here. The President mentioned that they might try distance education arrangements—could offer online courses. May put permanent faculty there full-time or part-time. Pres. Winters mentioned that faculty who live in Nashville may like idea of teaching there. A question asked about how the hiring freeze will affect currently advertised faculty positions. There aren't that many faculty positions advertised right now. May need to think about doing without a position if we've done okay without it for awhile. Sen. Pirkle mentioned that the grant writing person is good to work with and grants are a good way to get additional monies.

### **3. Interim Provost – Dr. Denton**

- Dr. Denton discussed the budget as it relates to faculty lines. He has met with deans and asked each dean to prepare a document in which they answer the question *if you could release one faculty position to be filled, which one would it be*. He wants to use the document for strategic planning. He will be looking at budget issues on a weekly basis. We are not likely to know any budget information from legislature until May or June. It will be hard to conduct tenure-track searches that late in spring. Will try to make timely decisions regarding the release of positions.

- If you see positions advertised on the Human Resources webpage, there will be good justification for its posting. Please call him or the dean. Sen. Kemmerly asked if they could fill positions according to funding. If you use “pending funding” language in the job ad it may scare away applicants. If we have to pull the job ad, our institution’s reputation may be hurt. Anything we do before we know how much of or if there is tuition increase will be a gamble. Doesn’t think we’ll be in worse shape by releasing positions in January. This gives departments nine months to think about positions (variety of contingencies).
- Dr. Denton needs advice about the student evaluations of instruction. Paper-based system has been based on the VAX. The VAX is going away in June 2009. He’s trying to plan for its replacement. There was a pilot with Class Climate in Fall/Spring of 2007/08. Things went well enough that the pilot has continued at Ft. Campbell. Studies seem to conclude that there is some comparability between paper and online evaluations for the same course. Response rates were lower with online in our pilot. The online evaluations are richer because students can provide written comments easily. The dilemma is that the paper system has been allowed to fall apart. We should have maintained it. The machine that separated the forms is broken and was not repaired. Class Climate is capable of producing a scanable form that can be printed. Could go off-site to find a firm to do this for us—it would cost. Alternatively, we could run all evaluations for fall online. This would buy us time to decide what we should do about student evaluations. Dr. Denton needs Senate input on this issue. We have to come to a consensus soon. Several senators mentioned the low response rate associated with online evaluations. They cannot be required. Sen. Said asked Dr. Denton about the cost for repairing our system for fall 2008 evaluations. Dr. Denton is having a meeting tomorrow to address the issue.

#### **4. Dr. Matt Kenney—Student Success Deliberative Polling Project**

This project was funded with a SASI grant. Dr. Kenney’s presentation will be posted on the Faculty Senate website. He will ask for faculty moderators and faculty to advertise this project to their students.

### **Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives**

- 1. Academic Council** – Sen. Buchanan attended Academic Council for Sen. Kemmerly on October 22, 2008. Academic council voted to approve the change in dual-enrollment admissions criteria. A subcommittee from the Academic Council has been formed to review the SASI Taskforce recommendations. Members are Doris Davenport, Alex King, and Joe Weber. There were number of revisions to numerous academic programs. Sen. Buchanan’s [notes](#) provide the specifics and are posted on the Senate website under the Document Review Section.
- 2. Deans' Council** – Sen. Gupton said the Deans’ Council met on October 1, 2008, and discussed the proposed Academic Reorganization Plan. They voted to approve the proposed Academic Reorganization.

3. **TBR Faculty Subcouncil** – Sen. Haralson Sen. Haralson's [TBR Subcouncil Report](#) is available on the Faculty Senate website under the TBR Subcouncil link.

## Old Business

1. **Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Senate Staff Award** – Sen. Scanlan distributed a [report](#) and asked senate to read the draft. The Senate will vote on this item at a future meeting. The report is available on the Faculty Senate website under the Document Review section.
2. **Report from Academic White Committee on Grade Appeals Policy** – Sen. Cannon discussed changes in the policy. Asked senators to examine it and make comments and be prepared to vote on it at the November 2008 meeting. The draft of the [Revised Grade Appeals Policy](#) is available on the Senate website under the Document Review section.
3. **Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Student Travel Policy** -- Sen. Carson-Greife discussed the current policy. She said the current travel policy is in place to protect the University. Her committee wants to look at how faculty can be protected. It's not clear in the policy who is required to fill-out and sign forms—just who does *not* have to fill-out and sign. The committee has started to look at what other institutions in Tennessee are doing and what TBR policy says. She asked that senators send comments to the committee members about the student travel policy. Sen. Kemmerly asked the committee to look at exactly how long faculty are required to be responsible for the students during a field trip. What are the boundaries? Pres. Winters suggested that Sen. Carson-Greife speak with Pres. Hall about this policy.
4. **Report from Faculty White Committee on RTP Issues** – Sen. Moore reported that all committee members agreed to serve. Pres. Winters formally thanked the committee for serving, especially the untenured members. The Committee will look at what other TBR schools do. They will meet on Nov. 13, 2:30-4 pm. The committee met today and confirmed what their charge is.

## New Business

1. **Faculty Sick Leave** was assigned to the Faculty Red Committee. Pres. Winters discussed a case on campus that brought up some issues. Pres. Hall thought a committee should look at the faculty sick leave policy. Discussion followed about TBR policy.
2. **Senate Response to SASI Taskforce Recommendations**—Pres. Hall wants a single response from the Senate about the common hour and faculty advising committee. Response so far is not in favor of common hour. Faculty are comfortable with the Faculty advising committee. Senate comments need to be sent to Pres. Hall no later than 1 Dec., 2008. Please send comments and thoughts to Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

**3. College-level Standing Committees for Resource Allocation --** An idea has come up in response to current methods of addressing space allocation on this campus. Pres. Winters talked to Vice-President Robinson who is the Chair of the Space Allocation Committee. The Committee has not met. Vice-President Robinson takes care of the issues himself. Pres. Winters likes the idea of a committee within each college. He asked senators to go back to their constituencies and get comments and ideas. Ideas could extend to financial resources. Sen. Preston-Sabin says the space allocation committee is already happening within some colleges. She's on her college space allocation committee. Pres. Winters asked if this should be a permanent committee within colleges.

**4. Items from the floor –** There were none.

**Adjourn –** Sen. Sara Gotcher moved to adjourn at. Sen. Kemmerly seconded the motion. The motion passed the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Berg,  
Faculty Senate Secretary