

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate

Minutes
Meeting of Thursday, January 25, 2007
University Center, UC 303

Preliminary Information

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. by Senate President Dr. John Foote.

The roll call of senators was conducted by Senate Secretary Perdew.

Senators Black, Dyer, Eaves, Filippo, Gotcher, Hatch, Hayes, Lane, Schlanger, Steel, and Wadia were absent.

A motion to amend the meeting's agenda to include discussing the faculty research forums was made by Sen. Winters, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes for the meeting of November 16, 2006, were unanimously approved.

Remarks

University President Dr. Sherry Hoppe

President Hoppe stated that discussions have started with TBR to offer the Ed. D. degree at APSU. The earliest the program could begin is fall 2008. It would also require approval from SACS. In response to a question from Sen. Haralson, President Hoppe stated she wants it to be a flexible degree for both teaching and administration emphases. She further stated there is a strong interest in the community for this degree. President Hoppe also mentioned that the Geier settlement stipulations precluded APSU from proposing this degree in the past and that we still do not wish to be directly competitive with TSU in our degree offerings. Dr. Carlette Hardin is actively involved in the process.

President Hoppe stated that U.S. Sen. Frist is going to Sudan soon and will help APSU in our interests there. She stated we could have 20 to 40 Sudanese students by next fall.

President Hoppe stated that APSU hopes to have the Titans do their training camp here again and to obtain a multi-year contract.

President Hoppe remarked that the proposal to have a Governor's School for computational physics went forward. If approved, it will be at APSU in summer 2008.

President Hoppe stated the astronomy observatory for APSU is to be built in Palmyra.

President Hoppe mentioned that Tuesday January 30th at 2:00 PM will be the grand opening of the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center. John Foy graduated from APSU with a degree in history. He is the CFO of a Chattanooga based corporation. The new center is open to faculty and staff just as the Drew Simmons University Recreation Center.

Provost Dr. Bruce Speck

Provost Speck stated that THEC will probably recommend a 6 % tuition increase. He also stated that APSU is at 93% compared with peer institutions with tuition and appropriations. He mentioned that increasing that percentage is difficult because 1% = \$20 million.

Provost Speck stated that for the legislative session on February 27th APSU has been asked to highlight a student and program for publicity. Tamara Flaherty will be highlighted for getting her nursing degree online. She was a former developmental studies student and has recently joined the nursing faculty at APSU. The program to be displayed has yet to be determined.

Provost Speck stated that Christine Modisher from TBR spoke about a new law which states if litigation or the potential for litigation exists, then the institution must maintain and preserve all relevant electronic records. Provost Speck stated that Richard Jackson will send out a notice about this law in the future. Provost Speck said it basically means, “don’t put anything in writing you don’t wish to see on front page.” [Senate President Foote commented about this also. See below.]

Provost Speck commented that there is a proposal for a \$15 per semester per student fee for international programs. TBR is interested in internationalizing the curriculum. If approved, the fee would help fund the study abroad program and pay for speakers to come discuss pertinent topics at APSU.

Provost Speck mentioned there are ongoing discussions at TBR regarding the A-89 guidelines for high school deficiencies. Provost Speck said they are actually entrance requirements for college. There are 14 units and, if missing, a unit must be made up in college. Provost Speck recounted how TBR instituted these in the mid 1980s to give high schools a message about what students need in college. Provost Speck believes the message did not get through because of the continued need for DSP mathematics and foreign languages.

Provost Speck mentioned that D2L, Desire to Learn, is the new software which will replace Blackboard. The cost will be about \$140,000 a year. One concern is that E-Army-U uses Blackboard.

Provost Speck also discussed the Tennessee Board of Regents Developmental Studies Redesign Initiative sponsored by the National Center for Academic Transformation. It occurs February 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in UC Ballroom A/B. (See <http://www.thencat.org/States/TBR.htm> for more information.) [Provost Speck spoke about this instead of Sen. Foote as the agenda had indicated.] Houston Davis who is heading the FIPSE grant for DSP will be there. along with Carol Twigg who is the president of NCAT. This meeting will discuss the FIPSE grant and what models may be piloted in DSP. This meeting is open and all who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Provost Speck stated that a failed search for the dean of the college of science and mathematics was declared, partially in light of President Hoppe's retirement announcement. The position had been offered to one person who declined.

Provost Speck then took questions.

Sen. Blake asked about the A-89 discussion regarding foreign languages. Sen. Blake mentioned military personnel with knowledge of Arabic, but that language not being on the list in the A-89 guidelines. Provost Speck agreed that it needed to be expanded beyond the few languages that are on the list to fulfill those A-89 units.

Senators Rayburn and Myers asked about a timetable for conversion of courses from Blackboard to Desire to Learn (D2L) and its dissemination. Provost Speck stated there is a timetable.

Sen. Winters asked about DSP. He mentioned the great concern faculty members have about the large number of developmental students and what will occur next academic year in consequence of their going directly into enhanced core courses due to the changes President Hoppe will implement. Provost Speck said requirements regarding when students take DSP courses will be loosened and said there will be new mathematics faculty hires. He also mentioned a trip Deans McQueen and Calovini had made to look at supplemental instruction. Provost Speck stated that plans for DSP are still being examined in regard to FIPSE and the TBR Redesign Initiative.

Sen. Haralson asked about students taking courses which have DSP prerequisites. Provost Speck said the prerequisites will also be loosened.

Sen. Robison asked about resources for summer DSP classes. He stated that the need for developmental mathematics puts some students out of sequence on their science courses. Provost Speck said it went back to high school deficiencies and said something is wrong if a student graduates high school and cannot get into the first core course of mathematics. He also stated there is talk of requiring four years of mathematics in high school and that the governor wishes to increase math and science high school requirements. Provost Speck also said continuing education may do some summer DSP mathematics courses.

Sen. Blake said that while an 18 year old in DSP right out of high school does show a problem with high schools, it is another issue concerning nontraditional students. Provost Speck said the governor wants to take some of the lottery money and address remediation for nontraditional students.

Senate President Dr. John Foote

Sen. Foote issued a reminder to vote on the two faculty senate constitution amendments. He said only six more votes were needed for ratification. The amendments regard election rules and moving control of departmental grouping to the by-laws instead of the constitution

Sen. Foote also addressed the federal law regarding preservation of electronically stored information (ESI). He stated that Christine Modisher from TBR had dispersed information about this new law. It states that the institution must preserve ESI when it is relevant to pending legislation, or may later be so, and that it must be preserved in its original electronic form. It is not sufficient to make a paper copy of the electronic record. Sen. Foote stated that he has been asked to serve, or appoint a designee to serve, on a task force that will determine methods to ensure APSU's compliance with this law, and he asked for a volunteer.

Reports

TBR Subcouncil Senator Griffy

Sen. Griffy stated there had been no meetings yet this year.

Academic Council Senator Ziegler

Sen. Ziegler stated that the academic council had approved the deletion of an education concentration in communication and theatre because of the lack of student interest in it. It also approved increasing course options for a concentration in the college of professional programs and social sciences.

Deans Council Senator Haralson

Sen. Haralson stated that deans council discussed several items including: students remain under the code of student conduct on field trips; possibility of a middle college at APSU; a new faculty award for a senior professor; a task force examining computer labs on campus; online-course evaluations had a 57% participation rate.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Academic Advising Assessment (Sen. Robbie Robison)

Sen. Robison stated that research on retention shows a major factor is student advisement. He stated that Academic Advising Assessment (AAA) will be done to reward, not penalize, faculty. Advisors will be rated by students through a syllabus. The syllabus also asks a student preparation questions such as if he or she made an appointment. Department chairs will also each nominate a person for advising excellence. The names of the 12 best advisors will be posted on the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) website. Then an APSU committee will select the best of 12 and the winner will go to an advising conference. Beginning next fall this will be a standard reward for faculty.

Sen. Gupton asked what factors would determine the winner. Sen. Robison said the committee would look at the advising survey results and letters from department chairs.

Faculty Research Forums (Sen. Tim Winters)

In October 2006 the faculty senate voted to form a committee to assume the oversight of the faculty research forums instead of academic affairs. Therefore Sen. Winters requested that three people volunteer to serve on the committee which will coordinate the forums.

Sen. Robison thanked President Hoppe for her tenure on campus. Sen. Winters also acknowledged President Hoppe and stated that APSU's financial stability was due to her. (N. b., on January 11, President Hoppe announced her plan to retire in July 2007.)

Sen. Myers moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 3:45 p.m.

Patrick Perdew
Faculty Senate Secretary