FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 18, 2010 MINUTES:

Attendance: Joseph Johnson, Cevdet Akbay, Heather Griffiths, Stanley Johnson, Trela Anderson, Judy Fowler, Bonnie Grohe, Wu Jing, Baeyong Lee, Khalid Lodhi, Joan Cezair, Jianshi Wu, Jiyoung Kim, Faren Wolter, Samuel Heastie, Donatus Okhomina, Soni Martin, Charles Tryon, Chet Dilday, Michelle Darnell, Rollinda Thomas, Derwin Sheppard, Roger Klomegah, Sambit Bhattacharya, Subir Nagdas, Jimmie Williams, David Gray, Maurice Mongkuo, Kassem Abdelmajid, Daniel Autrey, Gary McConnell, Gloria Elliott, Thomas Williams, Ram Yallapragada


Visitors: Todd Frobish, Joseph Ross, Ivan Walker, Carolyn Ortiz

Total Present: 38

1. CALL TO ORDER. Dr. Joseph Johnson.

2. CHAIR’S REPORT. Dr. Joseph Johnson gave the Provost, Dr. Jon Young, the opportunity to address the Senate before offering his remarks as Chair.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   The motion to approve the agenda was given by Heather Griffiths. The motion was seconded by Stanley Johnson. The motion was approved by acclamation.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The motion to approve the minutes was given by Heather Griffiths. The motion was seconded by Charles Tryon. The motion was approved by acclamation.

5. PROVOST’S REPORT.

a. Dr. Jon Young presented handouts that were used at the Budget Workshop held in the previous week.

b. He is asking for a five-year vision for each department (to meet needs for certificates, grant writing, consultation, mission statement, etc.). The vision statement should not exceed 250 words.

c. Dr. Young mentioned that the university gets money in two ways (a) Expansion budget – new strategies, new ideas, and (b) Enrollment budget. The vision statements can drive our operational planning.

d. Dr. Ivan Walker represented Institutional Research along with his Social Research Assistant, Ms. Carolyn Ortiz.

e. What have we learned from the pilot of the student evaluations? The current response rate is 45.5% for the 1st eight week classes. It appears likely that the rate will exceed the rates for spring 2009.
f. Dr. Walker responded to an inquiry by Dr. Samuel Heastie about the possibility of incomplete student electronic evaluations to affect faculty evaluations. He stated that they were looking into the matter, but incomplete student evaluations occurred with previous paper administrations without incident.

g. Dr. Wu Jing asked whether a problem would occur if a student filled in “all zeros” for an evaluation. Dr. Walker and Dr. Young offered that it would not be calculated in the evaluation. It is considered an abstention.

h. Dr. Gary McConnell asked how early students in a 16-week semester would have to submit their course evaluations. Dr. Young answered that a date has not yet been established for the fall semester. However, Dr. Walker stated that it would likely occur in late October.

i. Dr. Joseph Johnson reiterated that faculty would be held harmless for the student evaluations of the previous fall.

j. Dr. Chet Dilday mentioned that the Faculty Assembly was concerned about the replacement for Dr. Erskine Bowles, who is resigning from the Board of Governors. It is as yet unknown when the replacement will occur.

k. Approximately 75 out of 1100 classes are involved in the pilot of the electronic administration of student evaluations.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

   a. Dr. Joseph Johnson invited people to join the committee to revise the Faculty Handbook.

   b. Dr. Joseph Johnson reminded faculty members to fill in the last date of attendance for students who have left a class. This could help to maintain accurate enrollment numbers for the state.
c. Dr. Daniel Autrey asked about the amount of money or resources that was saved by cutting programs. Dr. Joseph Johnson asked that faculty send him any documentation or information that may support the continuation of programs.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Dr. Joseph Johnson stated that the SIRR reports are diagnostic assessments of perceptions of students as opposed to direct assessments of instructional competency.

b. Discussion of DFW (D grade, F grade, or Withdrawal) rates for faculty evaluation. Dr. Michelle Darnell stated that part of the criteria for the Teacher of the Year award for the College of Arts and Sciences includes DFW rates. This raised concerns that these rates may become a part of faculty evaluations.

c. Dr. Heather Griffiths stated that the application of DFW rates may be prejudicial given that some students may take courses for financial aid purposes that they do not intend to complete.

d. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo shared the irony that teachers may feel pressured to give students a passing grade to avoid raising DFW rates, which could affect their professional evaluations.

e. Dr. Chet Dilday registered his opposition to the use of DFW rates to evaluate faculty.

f. Dr. Joseph Johnson asked for faculty to share information about the Teacher of the Year Award for the College of Arts and Sciences and the criteria involving DFW rates. This could facilitate the vetting process through the Faculty Senate.
g. Dr. Heather Griffiths reminded the Senate that the committee that made the initial proposal for the Teacher of the Year Award for the College of Arts and Sciences likely had good intentions when they drafted the criteria. Dr. Joseph Johnson agreed that their intentions were laudable, but the criteria may need to be reviewed.

h. Dr. McConnell asked what would happen if the committee had asked for grade distributions as a criterion for the Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Michelle Darnell disagreed with the merit of using the grade distribution of students as a measure of faculty competence.

i. Dr. Joseph Johnson suggested the drafting of a position paper on the matter for discussion by the Faculty Senate. The motion was approved by acclamation.

8. COMMITTEE REPORT.

a. Dr. Chet Dilday reported that the Faculty Assembly plans to draft a resolution regarding the state’s decision to opt out of HIPA.

b. Reorganizing the way that Assembly business is conducted. They are working on a survey of all faculty to address the process.

c. Dr. Joseph Johnson advocated transparency in the selection process for CEOs or instructional leaders. He stated that the academy, through faculty, should have the right to have candidates present themselves.

d. Dr. Chet Dilday encouraged faculty to complete a survey that was sent to all departments.

e. Professor Soni Martin reported the Faculty Evaluation Committee is scheduled to meet the first week of March.
f. Dr. Michelle Darnell, as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, introduced two proposals for consideration by the Faculty Senate (Journalism and a minor in Communications).

g. Dr. Todd Frobish and Dr. Joseph Ross represented the Journalism proposal for Telecommunications. Dr. Frobish mentioned that Jeff Womble, from Public Relations, was looking into the possibility of internships and opportunities with the Fayetteville Observer related to the program.

h. The Academic Affairs Committee had approved the proposal unanimously and recommended approval by the Senate. The Journalism proposal was approved by acclamation.

i. Dr. Todd Frobish presented the argument for the addition of a minor in Communications. $200,000 was recently spent to remodel the radio station in addition to monies for upcoming improvements.

j. The Academic Affairs Committee had approved the proposal unanimously and recommended approval by the Senate. The minor in Communications was approved by acclamation.

k. Dr. Michelle Darnell stated that the Academic Affairs Committee is working on clarifying the language for concentrations, minors, and programs to determine the appropriate criteria.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT.

Dr. Heather Griffiths motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Joseph Johnson seconded the motion. The Senate approved the motion by leaving.