

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
August 15, 2006

**Call to Order:** Gay Mills, president, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Senators Present:** Gay Mills, Scott Beckett, Margie Waguespack, Mindy Adams, Steve Beckham, Mike Bellah, D'dee Grove, Judy Isbell, Judy Jackman, Bob Mathews, Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow, Henry Wyckoff

**Senators Absent:** Larry Adams, Nancy Brent, Karla Dixon, Michael Kopenits, Jan Martin

**Visitors:** Preston Childress

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of May 5, 2006 were approved as corrected.

**President's Report:**  
**Gay Mills**

Gay reported on her recent conversation with Dr. Jones, who noted that if we're down 10% in enrollment, we're \$1.3 million behind. Dr. Jones welcomed suggestions from faculty to help make up this type of deficit. He also noted that the proposed cost of living adjustment for faculty was still uncertain.

In response to a senator's concern about possible workforce reductions and that AC do this equitably among the three employee groups if it is necessary, Gay noted that recent faculty reductions were due to a program not having enough students to require the current number of faculty members.

Mike Bellah noted that we need to research why our enrollment numbers are down and to see if this is related to WT's healthy enrollment. Another senator noted that WT is planning to create an Amarillo campus, which will mean more competition for AC. Bob Matthews said that we can't respond to drops in enrollment productively if we aren't sure of the specific causes. Henry Wyckoff recounted his trips across the state this summer to several colleges and universities, noting that many are expanding.

Mike Bellah moved to form a subcommittee, the Enrollment Fact-Finding Committee, to research drops in enrollment since this affects AC faculty in many significant ways. Judy Jackman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The Committee will consist of Mike Bellah, Judy Jackman, and Judy Isbell. Scott Beckett challenged the committee to consider the effect of the recent tuition increase for courses under three hours. D'dee Grove raised the possibility that AC might be sending negative messages out into the community when we emphasize what we lack—for example, that we don't have enough nursing instructors or sufficient equipment on the East Campus.

Gay Mills noted that she shared the Senate meeting schedule with the Board of Regents and invited them to come to Senate meetings. She said that she also visited with new faculty members and encouraged them to attend Senate meetings as well.

Gay mentioned myAC and encouraged senators to be positive about it. Another senator noted that sometimes faculty members have trouble responding positively to major changes because they are introduced suddenly and without sufficient faculty involvement. D'dee Grove mentioned that she is on the core committee for myAC and has been involved in this project.

Gay distributed a handout from the Board Policy Manual outlining the purpose of Faculty Senate. She reviewed the Senate meeting schedule and noted that meetings will now be held once a month on Fridays at 3 p.m. in the Private Dining Room, with two meetings to be on the West Campus this year.

Committee assignments were reviewed. It was noted that Carrol Spears had retired and an election would have to be held in her division to replace her for the remainder of her term. Gay noted that Language, Communication, and Fine Arts also needed another senator because of increased departments in that division. The Elections Committee will handle these elections.

**Old Business:** Senators discussed surveying faculty members so that the Senate can be more responsive to their concerns.

**New Business:** New senators were asked to find a substitute if they can't attend a Senate meeting.

**Adjournment:** 4:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** September 15, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Private Dining Room