

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
September 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, Larry Adams, Mindy Adams, Steve Beckham, Mike Bellah, Nancy Brent, Karla Dixon, D'dee Grove, Judy Isbell, Judy Jackman, Nichol Dolby for Michael Kopenits, Jan Martin, Bob Mathews, Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow, Henry Wyckoff

**Senators Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Preston Childress, Ann Hamblin, Kay Taylor

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of August 15, 2006 were approved as written.

**Guest:** Dr. Steven Jones, Amarillo College President

Dr. Jones visited with the Senate and commented on the Senate's August 15 minutes. Dr. Jones noted that AC does not give "cost of living" increases but salary increases, when possible, and that cost of living increases are not a base expectation. He said that we had to go from a hoped-for 3.5 % salary increase to a 3% salary increase this year primarily because enrollment at AC dropped 3%. He commended the Senate for forming an Enrollment Fact-Finding Committee and said it was a responsible reaction to talk of enrollment decreases. Dr. Jones also said that while he was not afraid to look at low enrollment areas and determine ways to deal with/improve them, faculty shouldn't worry about workforce reductions.

He addressed WT's growth and said that he has a good working relationship with WT's new president Patrick O'Brien and hopes to form some new partnerships with WT. He also said that Canyon High School had invited AC to visit their campus and recruit more of their students for our dual credit classes.

Dr. Jones encouraged all employees to first be informed before reacting to any AC news and to maintain a positive attitude about AC, especially in the community. He pointed out that the Strategic Plan, Board of Regents meeting minutes, and Cabinet meeting minutes were posted online and updated regularly and that employees should read these to keep up with what is going on at AC.

Dr. Jones then highlighted two issues that he was concerned about and wanted the Senate to consider: 1) bookstore/textbook problems and 2) retirement notification. He said that we are exploring ways of improving textbook delivery, such as a bookstore kiosk for Internet orders and custom-designed textbooks, and invited senators to contribute ideas. Senators shared some of their experiences with textbook problems, especially for Distance Ed students and students on financial aid. He also wondered if there should be a "retirement window," a deadline for notifying AC of an intention to retire so that

departments and students were not negatively affected by last-minute retirement decisions and gave some examples of those negative effects. He said that AC should not practice “bait and switch” methods in scheduling classes, that we should not advertise one instructor’s name on the schedule but then have another instructor there when students walk into the classroom. Dr. Jones noted that retirement windows would be one way of dealing with this issue.

Dr. Jones also noted that we have corrected a problem with high tuition for one-hour courses and that it would now be only \$65 for a student to take a one-hour course.

Dr. Jones closed by encouraging the Senate to find and address substantive problems, noting that he believed in a strong Faculty Senate and that it could make a positive difference.

### **President’s Report:**

#### **Gay Mills**

Gay noted that because of the faculty “step” system, faculty members that are “stepped out” received only a 2.27% salary increase since the 3% salary increase was not an across the board increase but an increase with steps included. Faculty was the only employee group that did not automatically receive a 3% salary increase. She also said that the Salary Committee will be examining ways to possibly improve the step system so that long-term employees are not penalized. Gay and Scott Beckett encouraged senators to attend Board of Regents meetings to stay more informed and involved. Gay then gave an update on former Faculty Senate President Steve Dutton’s health and senators signed a card for him.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Enrollment Fact-Finding Committee:** Mike Bellah reported on his committee’s recommendations, which included 1) Request that the administration include faculty in the study of enrollment losses and any budget cuts affecting faculty as a result, 2) Request that the administration solicit ideas from the faculty to raise enrollment, 3) Invite Dean Brad Johnson to a Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the administration’s study of recent enrollment losses (why the losses have occurred and the administration’s methods for determining this). Scott Beckett motioned to send Dr. Paul Matney these recommendations, Henry Wyckoff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Elections Committee:** Mike Bellah reported that two elections were held recently and that Lana Jackson is the new senator for Language, Communications, and Fine Arts. There will be a run-off election held for Science and Engineering since there was a tie. Scott Beckett motioned that the election ballots be destroyed, Lil Withrow seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Technology Committee:** Larry Adams reported that this committee had not yet met. The Senate discussed the issue of whether or not to post Senate minutes and business on CMS as well as myAC. The Technology Committee will take up this issue.

**Courtesy Committee:** Lil Withrow reported on cards that would be sent to fellow faculty members and asked for names of other faculty who needed cards.

**Salary Committee:** Scott Beckett noted that Salary Committee issues had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Questions Committee:** No report.

**Faculty Development Committee:** No report.

**Old Business:**

Senators reviewed the edited Faculty Survey. Larry Adams motioned that senators take more time to review it and make suggestions and that we vote on the final version at our next meeting, with an Oct. 16 deadline for administering the survey. Scott Beckett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Nichol Dolby introduced senators to “clickers,” or classroom response systems, used in some AC science classes and brought up the issue of maintaining consistency between departments using these systems, as there are different types. Margie Waguespack then mentioned that more consistency was also needed in how AC’s online classes were handled, in terms of class loads, overloads, instructor pay, etc., since some instructors were reporting discrepancies and recent changes. Senators agreed that more communication/cooperation was needed among departments engaged in similar practices, and Gay suggested forming a committee for this purpose.

**Adjournment:** 4:35 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, Oct. 6, at 3 p.m. on the West Campus, Allied Health Building, Room 100B