

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2007

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

Senators Present: Gay Mills, Scott Beckett, Margie Waguespack, Mindy Adams, Steve Beckham, Mike Bellah, Nancy Brent, Karla Dixon, Judy Isbell, Judy Jackman, Michael Kopenits, Aimee Martin, Jan Martin, Bob Mathews, Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow, Henry Wyckoff

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, D'dee Grove, Lana Jackson

Visitors: Carroll M. Forrester, Bill Netherton

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 9 were approved as written.

Guest: Bob Sloger

Bob informed the Senate that he can't be Lead Marshal at Commencement any longer since he is now an administrator rather than a faculty member. He asked the Senate for advice on how to proceed. Mike Bellah moved that Bob continue in this position for this year and then direct the other Marshalls to choose a new Lead Marshall. Judy Isbell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

President's Report

Gay Mills, Senate President

Gay reported on the TCCTA Convention, which she attended. She warned senators that she'd heard that the Texas Legislature could gradually phase out our medical insurance coverage and that we might have to pay for it ourselves eventually if advocates and lobbyists don't turn the tide. She also proposed getting a group of senators to go to TCCTA next year.

Gay also reported on the recent Board of Regents meeting. A discussion ensued about how AC now reports faculty accomplishments since AC & You is no longer published and distributed. It was noted that AC needs a venue for advertising faculty accomplishments since WT does this regularly in several places, including the Globe News. Some senators noted that they are not finding out about faculty accomplishments.

Gay then proposed a Senate get-together, and senators agreed to have one at the beginning of the fall semester to welcome and orient new members.

Committee Reports

Professor Emeritus Committee: Scott Beckett reported that Judy Hathcock had been chosen to be AC's new Professor Emeritus, that Judy had been notified, and that a reception was being planned in her honor.

Technology Committee: It was noted that the Faculty Senate Website had not been updated to include new senators' names, and Gay said she would contact Larry Adams.

Mead Award: Judy Isbell reported that informative posters will be put up around all campuses, and the deadline for nominating a teacher for the Mead Award is April 1. It was also noted that myAC / myAC email could be utilized now to inform students of this award.

Elections Committee: It was noted that ballots for Senate elections need to go out at the end of March and that Bobbie Glasscock could be contacted to find out about any new Senate positions that had been created by restructuring.

Courtesy Committee: Lil Withrow reported on cards distributed.

Questions Committee: Judy Jackman shared Bruce Cosgreve's email about snow removal on campus. Bruce noted that snow removal is outsourced and that his staff and budget are limited. He also noted that this year was unusually difficult for snow removal. He did agree that AC needs to do a better job of clearing snow and ice off handicap ramps.

Faculty Development Committee: Michael Kopenits reported that ACTS application forms have been sent out.

Old Business

Faculty Survey Committee: Margie Waguespack reported that faculty members had been answering the survey and that the Committee would be meeting with Danita to discuss tabulating and distributing the results. Some senators expressed that they were hearing from fellow faculty members that they would like to answer the survey but were afraid to do so electronically, that they were worried their answers could be traced to their computer. It was agreed to extend the survey to Saturday and allow faculty members to put printed surveys in Senate ballot boxes if desired.

Pro-Rate Committee: Mike Bellah shared his Committee's report on pro-rating of overload online classes that make but do not fill to maximum capacity. He reported that Paul Matney said AC was committed to treating teachers fairly and that this kind of situation could be "negotiated." However, some faculty members noted that no negotiation had been possible for them in past semesters. There was much discussion on this issue and apparent confusion about the term "pro-rate," which to most AC faculty means being paid less for classes that do not make. Some senators and guests expressed

concern about the still existing policy of automatically designating a less-than-maximum-capacity online class as the overload class and paying faculty less for this type of class while still paying them full overload pay for a traditional class with the same numbers. It was noted that this discriminates against those teachers who have agreed to design and teach online classes and who have more sophisticated skills to offer the college. It was also noted that this seems to contradict AC's emphasis on developing and offering more online classes since this policy discourages teachers from wanting to teach online classes. The Senate agreed that if any faculty members are indeed not able to "negotiate" for fair and equal pay of overload online classes, then they should bring this back to Senate.

West Campus Parking / Phone Concerns: Sheree Talkington said that there had been no progress on obtaining more parking spaces for AC faculty and students on the West Campus, that they had apparently permanently lost many spaces to community members on campus for continuing education classes, etc. Sheree also noted that the phone problems seem to be related to weather, West Amarillo expansion, and increased calls to and out of the West campus. Although a few faculty were noted to be having problems, they did not seem to be extensive or numerous.

Governor Perry's Proposal for Standardized Exit Exams: Margie Waguespack reported that Dwight Huber and Mary Dodson had distributed a petition for signatures and that this petition would be mailed to Governor Perry.

New Business:

Judy Isbell suggested that a Mead Professor be present at Badger Boot Camp to give a sample mini lecture to students and parents.

Mike Kopenits announced that there was more travel money available. There was some discussion about the late notice of this and the difficulty in acting on it.

Adjournment: 4:58 p.m

Next Meeting: Friday, March 30, 3:00 p.m., Washington St. Campus, CUB Private Dining Room (not April 6 as originally scheduled)