

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2008

Call to Order: Scott Beckett, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Senators Present: Scott Beckett, Lana Jackson, Steve Weber, , Steve Beckham, Claudie Biggers, Nancy Brent, Jnita Collins, Jill Gibson, Mindy Graham, Ann Hamblin, Diana Johnson, Marianne Jones, Michael Kopentis, Bob Mathews, Aimee Martin, Gay Mills, Anne Nail, Bill Netherton, Sheree Talkington, Victoria Taylor-Gore, Karen McIntosh substituting for Lil Withrow, and Henry Wyckoff.

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, Karla Dixon, Nichol Dolby, and Theresa Smoot.

Guests: Frank Nelson and Carroll Mack Forrester.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 4, 2008 were approved as submitted. The motion to approve was made by Bill Netherton and seconded by Henry Wyckoff.

President's Report:

Welcome to New Senators: Scott Beckett welcomed new senators Victoria Taylor-Gore (visual arts), Jill Gibson (speech and mass communication), and Anne Nail (management). Other new senators not able to attend were Theresa Smoot and Nichol Dolby.

LMS Project Team updates: Claudie Biggers reported that the deadline for vendor responses to the RP is today. The team is planning to make a final decision on which company to use by May 30, and will publish procedures for the operating system change for faculty.

Senate Position descriptions: Scott asked anyone who has not submitted senate position descriptions to email them to Lana as soon as possible. The senate executive committee will edit the various submissions to create the procedural manual over the summer.

Senate Committee Reports:

Elections Committee – Michael Kopentis reported that elections are completed and welcomed new senators Theresa Smoot, Nichol Dolby, Anne Nail, Victoria Taylor-Gore, and Jill Gibson. A motion was made to destroy the ballots by Henry Wyckoff and seconded by Nancy Brent. The motion was carried.

Technology Committee – Mindy Adams reported that everything has been added to the senate website. Ann Hamblin suggested that faculty should be contacted how to access this website. Scott Beckett reported that he has been assigned to the IT Committee and stated that once a central digital repository was created, minutes from all campus meetings will be located in one place on the web, and then will branch out from there for each committee. Lana Jackson asked Mindy to place pictures from Diana Cox's reception for Professor Emeritus on the website.

Courtesy Committee – Scott read from an email from Lil Withrow reported that cards were sent to D'dee Grove (get well), Casey McGee (get well), Donna Cleere (birth of granddaughter), and Steve Weber (death of his father).

Salary Committee – Lana Jackson reported that the committee met with Dr. Jones regarding the salary committee's proposal. Dr. Jones is proposing a 2% increase in September with an additional 2% in March based on healthy spring and fall enrollments, giving a potential overall increase of 3% for the year. She also stated that Dr. Jones was agreeable to the increases proposed for rank and part-time salary, and would consider it. Scott Beckett commended Lana and her committee for their excellent work.

Questions Committee – Bill Netherton reported receiving a response from Dr. Matney regarding sabbaticals for faculty. His response is as follows from an email:

“For a number of years Amarillo College offered a Faculty Development Leave opportunity for full-time faculty which paid full or partial salary with the leave to participate in a research project for a limited period of time. In the past several faculty participated in the leave program. The process of securing a leave included developing a proposal, submitting an application which was reviewed by the Faculty Grants Committee, and a recommendation from the committee which was forwarded to the Vice President and Dean of Instruction for approval.

In spring 2003 Amarillo College was mandated to return 7 percent of its budget to the State by Governor Rick Perry. In response to the budget crisis, President Bud Joyner immediately 1) froze all equipment purchases, 2) froze all travel, and 3) froze hiring. Amarillo College suffered budget cuts during the next fiscal year (2003 - 2004).

Since 2003 no faculty development leaves have been approved. Currently there is no funding in the budget for such leaves. The current Faculty Handbook still includes information concerning Faculty Development Leaves, but no funding has been available, and no faculty grants committee structure has been in place for several years. Next year I plan to ask the Faculty Handbook Committee to review the entire Faculty Handbook document for appropriate revisions.

On a related note, this year an additional \$54,450 in faculty professional travel was funded in the budget in addition to \$54,843 in Perkins faculty travel. Next year \$56,650 is budgeted for faculty professional travel and Perkins faculty travel requests are still being prioritized.

So, although no faculty development leaves have been funded for several years, faculty travel funds have been increasing in recent years--from a total of more than \$109,000 this year to a similar amount expected next year.”

Bill also reported receiving new questions. The first question asked about the terms and rotation of the senate for those who replace unexpired terms. Scott Beckett answered this question, stating that in accordance with senate bylaws, the rotation schedule must be occasionally adjusted to avoid too large of a turnover in any given year, and extending terms is supported in the bylaws.

The second question asked about whether or not AC had mental health counselors to help troubled, stressed students in crisis. This question will be sent to Bob Austin and Sally Evans.

The third question asked about the bookstore sending back books in the middle of the semester before students had a chance to purchase them. This question will be directed to Dennis Leslie.

Faculty Development Committee – Michael Kopentis reported that all is set for the upcoming ACTS retreat and the committee is excited about many new faculty participating. He also mentioned other topics discussed by the committee: “Turning Point”, Career Clusters, Common Reader, and tornado/emergency procedures would be coming out in a few weeks.

Faculty Survey Committee – Aimee Martin updated new senators on information from the last meeting. Senators discussed results and the low number of faculty responses. Mindy Graham suggested that faculty be sent a reminder in the fall to write down ideas for the upcoming survey in the spring, and Scott said this idea should be added to the procedural manual. Jnita Collins added that announcement could be placed on the senate website, and that there is a need for senators to make a better effort to reach out to faculty. It was noted that faculty survey results should not be open to the public, but to faculty only.

Information Parking Committee – No report.

Professor Emeritus Committee - Lana Jackson reported that 84 people were in attendance for Diana Cox’s reception. She stated that an ad would be appearing in this Sunday’s paper recognizing Diana. In addition, Diana requested and will receive business cards that include the title “Professor Emeritus,” paid for by Dr. Matney’s office. Lana thanked the committee and all those who helped with the reception.

Mead Committee – Bill Netherton reported that a selection for the Mead award has been made, and will be announced at commencement. Bill commended the honors students for their excellent work.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Ticketing procedures: Steve Weber reported that several faculty and students have received tickets for parking tags that have been damaged by the sun over time. After some discussion, senators suggested that the parking committee consider a warning process and send out tag renewal notices on a rotating basis. These suggestions will be sent to the parking committee for next year.

Senators were urged to vote, and encourage our community to vote for candidates for the Board of Regents in the upcoming election. Scott Beckett reminded senators to remain within college policy regarding encouragement of voting without bias to our community.

Election of New Officers: Scott Beckett turned over the meeting to Lana Jackson. Lana provided a brief description and required qualifications of the Vice President and Secretary positions. Sheree Talkington read the names of all those who qualify for Vice President.

Claudie Biggers was nominated by Steve Beckham. A motion was made to close nominations by Steve Weber and seconded by Nancy Brent. The motion was carried. Senators voted by ballot, and elected Claudie Biggers as Vice President. A motion was made to destroy the ballots by Mindy Graham and seconded by Jnita Collins. The motion was carried.

Jill Gibson was nominated as Secretary by Victoria Taylor-Gore. A motion was made to close nominations by Steve Weber and seconded by Henry Wyckoff. Senators voted by ballot, and elected Jill Gibson as Secretary. A motion was made to destroy the ballots by Henry Wyckoff and seconded by Aimee Martin. The motion was carried.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Henry Wyckoff and seconded by Bob Mathews. The motion was carried unanimously at 4:42 p.m.