

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 3, 2008

Call to Order: Lana Jackson, President, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Senators Present: Larry Adams, Dan Porter for Claudie Biggers, Nancy Brent, Nichol Dolby, Rene West for Jill Gibson, Priscilla Hunt for Mindy Graham, Ann Hamblin, Lana Jackson, Marianne Jones, Aimee Martin, Anne Nail, Bill Netherton, Tom Shelton, Teresa Smoot, Victoria Taylor-Gore, Sheree Talkington, and Lil Withrow.

Senators Absent: Steve Beckham, Jnita Collins, Diana Johnson, and Bob Matthews.

Guests: Joy Brenneman, Tracy Dougherty, Kathy Wetzel, Theresa Jiwa, Tamara Robertson, Rene West, Carroll Mack Forrester.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the September 5, 2008, meeting were approved with the following corrections: add an “e” to Anne Nail’s name and delete the “e” from Nichol Dolby’s name. The motion to approve was made by Anne Nail and seconded by Lil Withrow.

Guest Presentations: Joy Brenneman and Tracy Dougherty were introduced to talk about Pirates of the Canyon, a fundraising event for the AC Foundation, which is scheduled for Oct. 24, 25, & 26. This year will be the 2nd year for this fundraising event. The foundation raised around \$39,000 for scholarships last year, and hopes to increase that amount this year. This year’s event will expand to include 16 to 30 balloons, including the Energizer Bunny. The foundation needs faculty volunteers to assist with parking, etc. each day. To that end, they requested Faculty Senators sign up for 2- and 4-hour volunteer time slots. In addition, Joy will send an e-mail requesting faculty participation to all faculty. All volunteers will receive a free T-shirt.

Dr. Kathy Wetzel explained to the Senators that the Faculty Supervisors Council was formed as a support group for department chairs and program managers to share information and best practices with regard to management practices, including determining class sizes, handling budgets, etc. Essentially, members serve as mentors to one another, sharing ideas and suggestions which improve their abilities to effectively manage their respective departments and programs. The FSC does not serve the same purpose as the Senate, and desires to work with the Senate on any issues which cross boundaries. Membership in the FSC is voluntary, and the group meets on a semi-regular basis. Questions may be addressed to Mary Clare-Munger or Kathy Wetzel, FSC co-chairs.

V. Faculty VIPS: Theresa Jiwa, English Instructor
Tamara Robertson – Visual Arts Instructor
Rene West – Photography Instructor

VI. President’s Report:

A. IT Council

Three additional Task Forces, composed of faculty, classified and administrators, have been appointed to draft policy for the evolving IT manual. Policies will cover various items including the monitoring of campus hardware and software, personal use of college-owned equipment, and e-mail use. The additional Task Forces and faculty representatives include: Network Access & Security – Doug Pickle, Vicky Taylor-Gore; Acceptable Use Policy – Emery Shier, Mindy Graham; and Change Management – Lana Jackson.

Concern was expressed regarding the monitoring of computer and e-mail usage, and the potential for serious punitive consequences: How will usage be monitored? Who will conduct the usage audits? Numerous questions have yet to be answered by the policy-writing Task Forces.

The Business Office initiated a New Purchasing Policy for hardware and software, effective Sept. 1. All requests must be processed through the Technology Replacement Task Force. The new purchasing process is designed to streamline the process, ultimately assisting the college in better utilizing resources, including the identification of areas in which the college could benefit from group purchasing or site licenses.

Yearly clean-up on all lab computers is part of the IT-plan.

Programs that have not been contacted to verify their specifications for replacement computers need to contact Rose Dukes to set up an appointment with a representative(s) from the Technology Replacement Task Force. The first set of 100 computers has been received, and will be distributed to the East Campus and the Polk Street Campus. Faculty are encouraged to verify the specs of their new computers prior to ordering. In addition, each faculty member should be aware that if he/she elects to purchase a laptop for office use and intends to take it off-campus, the faculty member will be held liable for damages should the computer be harmed while in his/her possession off-campus. Most homeowner's or renter's insurance policies cover damages due to loss through fire, theft, etc.

B. CIO Director, Director of E-Learning search committees

Lana reported that interviews are in process and the candidates are well qualified for these positions.

C. Emergency Manager

Rusty Cornelius has been hired and will report Nov. 3.

D. SACS

The Fifth-Year Interim Report was completed and submitted by Oct. 1. There will be no site visit.

E. AC Online

Faculty Trainers will be trained on the Angel LMS on Oct. 3 and Oct. 17.
Training for faculty who teach in Spring Too will begin in November.

VII. Committee Reports

Courtesy Committee

A note was sent to Jana Kidd upon the death of husband.

Elections Committee

Tom Shelton was elected to be the new East Campus Senator. A motion was made by Nichol Dolby to destroy East campus ballots and seconded by Anne Nail; the motion carried. The request for Piper nominations was sent to all faculty; nominations are due by Oct. 8. Voting for the Piper Professor will be held Oct. 12-18.

Legislative Committee

The LC will meet next week. Ann Hamblin and Lana attended a meeting with AC Report Card Group which discussed the anticipated paradigm shift from formula funding to funding based on “completers.” Initial analysis by Delton Moore shows that the actual number of college students has declined over the past four years (1,200-1,400 students), while dual credit enrollment has increased. The committee is closely watching the legislature to learn more about the key issues which are emerging: “completer” funding, high cost of textbooks, and proportionality.

Questions Committee

1) Does AC have mental health counselors to help troubled, stressed students in crisis? The question will be forwarded to Bob Austin.

Salary Committee

The Salary Committee has begun gathering data for the upcoming budget request. Members would like to clarify that the 2% salary increase in September was calculated on last year’s salary, while the 2% increase in March will be calculated on this year’s salary.

Faculty Development

Amarillo College Teaching Seminar (ACTS) is trying to attract faculty that have never been to the retreat, especially new faculty.

Academic Technology Committee

Nichol Dolby volunteered to be a substitute for Vicky Taylor-Gore on this committee.

VIII. Old Business

A. ORP Resolution

Resolution for the formation of ORP committee was sent to Dr. Steven Jones and Dr. Paul Matney. The group will meet Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 4 p.m. in Badger Den.

- B. Rick Bragg, author of common reader *All Over But the Shoutin'*, in Amarillo on Oct. 7.

9 a.m. – Q&A with Mass Communication majors at in Badger Den.

7 p.m. – Amarillo Globe-News Center; FREE admission.

- C. Substantive Issues

Every Senator was given a copy of issues important to faculty, and asked to study and brainstorm action steps to discuss at next meeting.

IX. New Business

- A. Faculty Senate will take a meal for the Jones' family on Oct. 7 between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m.

- B. Excessive online calls to AskAC regarding faculty/student issues. Suggestions were made: 1) report the issue to the faculty supervisor, including date, complaint, student, and person recording message; or 2) keep an ongoing account of AskAC calls for every instructor and provide all instructors feedback of use of AskAC by online students at the end of each semester. The Senate agreed to invite Dale Longbine to meet with Senate to address concerns and best method for contacting faculty.

- C. All Senators received a copy of an article for *AC News*, the new intercampus electronic newsletter which will be distributed Oct. 16, reporting Faculty Senate news to the AC community. The newsletter is scheduled to come out four times a year, featuring news from across the campus.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn by Larry Adams and seconded by Lil Withrow. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.