

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 6, 2009

I. Call to Order: Lana Jackson, President, called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

II. Senators Present: Claudie Biggers, Aimee Martin, Ann Hamblin, Sheree Talkington, Nancy Brent, Steve Beckham, Matt Craig, Nichol Dolby, Anne Nail, Lil Withrow, Mindy Graham, Jnita Collings, Tom Shelton, Bob Mathews, Lana Jackson, Jill Gibson, Vicky Taylor-Gore, Marianne Jones

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, Teresa Smoot

Guests: Damaris Schlong, Bob Austin, Angela Allen, Genie Burkhalter

III. Guest Presentations:

Bob Austin, Dean of Enrollment Management, addressed the discontinuation of Trio Student Support Services grant. The Student Support Services Grant is an intervention program designed for first-generation, at-risk students. The grant has been in place for many years and has accommodated 250 to 400 students annually. Austin said the program has been heavily involved with the ACE program as well as serving other students. The grant does not allow AC to provide outreach to students not registered at the College. According to Austin, the President's Cabinet has chosen not to pursue renewal of this grant in order to seek a grant that could serve a larger population and allow for outreach. The grant is scheduled to run out in August of 2010. The goal is to find a new grant that will allow a continuation and overlap of services. Austin noted that even if a new grant is not found, the Enrollment Management division will continue to serve all of the students previously served through this grant. He added that the College is making no guarantee that the jobs funded by the Trio grant will be continued once the current grant expires.

Damaris Schlong, Dean of Workforce Development, explained the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, sponsored by Entrepreneur Alliance. The tour will take place from 3-7, March 26 at the Polk Street campus. Information is available at www.extremetour.org. College and high school students from around the Panhandle will attend. Schlong noted that AC faculty should encourage their students to attend. Students should preregister online. The event is free and food will be served.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Nicol Dolby corrected the minutes to show that both she and Ann Nail were present at the January meeting. Lil Withrow motioned to approve minutes as amended. Jnita Collins seconded and the motion passed.

V. Faculty VIPS:

Genie Burkhalter, reading instructor in Access Reading Center, was welcomed as the February VIP.

VI. President's Report:

- Jackson told the Senate that the IT Council has expressed concern regarding equipment replacement plan.
- Outlook Express Deployment
 - Faculty should contact Helpdesk if their Outlook installation is not working.
 - Claudie Biggers noted that the Enteo Installer is dramatically slowing down computer functionality. ***Biggers motioned to write a resolution requesting that issues regarding the Enteo software be resolved immediately so as not to impede academic programs. Nicol Dolby seconded the motion. The motion passed.***
- New IT CIO, Lee Colaw, will be on campus at the beginning of July. Dr. Laura Grandgenett will remain at AC until he arrives.
- New E-Learning Director Brian Nixon began work at AC today--February 6.
- SACS Substantive Change Report for Distance Education is being prepared. A committee is developing a strategic plan for Distance Education at Amarillo College as part of this report.
- AC Online Training is currently underway. All faculty are encouraged to sign up for training as soon as possible because the bulk of the training will be completed during February.
 - Jackson noted that the increase in online offerings will require increased lab availability for AC students. The Board has purchased software to monitor lab usage.
 - ***Jnita Collins asked if software (such as Microsoft Office) could be made available to students at a significantly reduced price. Jackson will look into this issue.***
- December graduation
 - A second graduation will be held in December
 - The College Administration made this decision before notifying the Commencement Committee.
 - The Commencement Committee does not have statistics on how many students graduate in December.
 - Nancy Brent noted that out of nearly 200 adult students, only 8 graduated in December of this year.
 - Faculty questioned the cost of an additional graduation given rumors of budget freezes/cuts
 - Faculty asked whether students had been surveyed regarding the need for a December graduation.
 - Lana Jackson suggested adding a question to the Spring Student Survey asking students if they would participate in a December graduation.
 - Claudie Biggers suggested requesting a poll be added to MyAC to survey students regarding their interest in a December graduation.
 - Claudie Biggers asked if a second Mead Award would be given during the second graduation.
 - The Senators noted that decisions on adding a second graduation should be motivated by a desire to meet the students' needs and a recognition of the College's limited financial resources.

VII. Committee Reports

Courtesy Committee

January correspondence since last senate meeting was:

Janice Newburg, death of father

Ray Newburg, death of Grandfather

Elections Committee

A special election was held to replace Diana Johnson's Senate seat due to her resignation. The Science and Engineering Department elected Matthew J. Craig to fill her 2009-2010 term. Matthew is eligible to run again when he completes this term. Later this month (Feb.), we will identify the number of Senators for next year and the Senators whose terms are finishing. Then Spring Elections will begin around the first of March with the results in time for the April 3 Faculty Senate meeting so the newly elected Senators may attend.

Ann Nail made a motion to destroy the ballots used for this special election.

Nicol Dolby seconded the motion and it passed

Legislative Committee

The legislative committee is preparing a handout regarding issues on the legislative agenda.

Questions Committee

Bill Netherton reported that the questions regarding the building naming policy have been sent to Dr. Matney who has replied that he will have an answer soon.

Salary Committee

March 2 is the date that the salary committee will formally make their presentation to Dr. Matney. On February 18, the committee will make an informal presentation to the senate officers.

Faculty Development Committee

The deadline to sign up for ACTS is March 6. Please encourage all faculty to sign up. Go to http://www.actx.edu/acts/index.php?module=menu&site_map=1 for more information or to sign up.

Faculty Survey Committee

The Faculty Survey will be released on Monday, Feb. 9. Deadline for responses is Feb. 23, giving faculty 2 weeks and 2 weekends to submit responses.

Professor Emeritus Committee

Nominations were taken for the Professor Emeritus designation, which goes to a retired faculty member who taught full-time at AC for at least 20 years and has been retired for at least three years. Nominations were as follows:

- Nicol Dolby nominated Carol Nicklaus
- Steve Beckham nominated David Schmedel

- Mindy Graham nominated Art Schneider
- Ann Hamblin nominated Joyce Hinsley
- Matt Craig nominated Moselle Ford and Willie Weaver
- Ann Nail nominated Mila Gibson.

Aimee Martin motioned to cease the nominations. Sheree Talkington seconded. The motion passed. Jill Gibson will prepare information regarding the nominees for the Senate to review at the next meeting

Academic Technology Committee

Vicky Taylor-Gore reported that the Academic Technology Committee exists to respond to faculty questions and concerns regarding technology.

Mead Award Committee

Mindy Graham is now chair of this committee. The committee is reviewing the process to determine if changes need to be made.

VIII. Old Business

- The Substantive issues worksheet was handed in to Claudie.
- Lana Jackson reminded the Senate that in November Dale Longbine asked the Senate for help with finding a way to communicate with the faculty regarding student concerns that come into AskAC. Jackson reported that Nancy Brent and Mindy Graham worked with Longbine and AskAC to develop a standard form that will be emailed to faculty and advisers regarding questions/concerns. The form is now in place and being used successfully.
- Student Support Service Grant: ***Bill Netherton motioned to write a resolution regarding the pursuit of the current student services grant in addition to pursuing other grants. Lil Withrow seconded the motion. The motion passed.***

IX. New Business

There was no further business

X. Adjournment

Mindy Graham made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Lil Withrow. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.