

Faculty Senate Minutes
December 1, 2017
Ware Student Commons, Room 207

Members Present	Jodi Lindseth, President Mary Dodson, Vice President Nathan Fryml, Secretary Donna Cleere Nichol Dolby Robert Gustin Tammy Holmes Robert Johnson Shawna Lopez Tara Meraz Sarah Milford Courtney Milleson Bill Netherton Phyllis Pastwa Karen White
Members Absent	DeeAnne Sisco Sarah Uselding (family emergency)
Guests	

Topics	Discussion/Information	Actions/Decisions Recommendations/Timelines
Call to Order	President Jodi Lindseth called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM	
Approval of Minutes		MOTION to approve: Mary Dodson SECOND: Bill Netherton YEA: all

Faculty Senate Minutes
December 1, 2017
Ware Student Commons, Room 207

		NAY: none
Special Guest Report		
President's Report		
Secretary's Report		
Courtesy		
Elections	Will hit in January. Searching for folder. Need to clarify which committees (outside Senate) the Senate is responsible for populating.	
Legislative		
Mead Award	Waiting until January.	
Professor Emeritus Award	Inaccurate list was retracted. EOD was working on a fresh list several weeks ago, but list has not yet been received (EOD facing many challenges right now). Frank suggests going with a solid nomination off of previous list, if any received. DISCUSSION Decision to use 2014-15 list (verified) and supplement with retirees from 2013 and up to August 2014 who may be eligible. Will plan to resend to faculty for fresh nominations by January, with final decision at Feb 2018 meeting.	

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 1, 2017

Ware Student Commons, Room 207

Questions	OLD QUESTIONS (Answered or Pending)	
	<p>1) QUESTION: Why was there no budget presentation to faculty and staff this fall, as is usually done? In the interest of transparency, where can we view the current budget with all the allocations, including merit pay?</p> <p>ANSWER (from Steve Smith): <i>The 2016-2017 final budget was presented three times. Once at the public board meeting in August when it was approved, once at a Faculty Senate, and once in a town hall to explain the calculation of the faculty step/raise calculation. It was presented at Faculty Senate at the invitation of Nancy Forrest who was faculty Senate President at the time. It was shown at the faculty pay town hall as we were discussing faculty pay at the time.</i></p> <p><i>The 2017-2018 final college wide budget was presented in the Board meeting 8/29/2017 which was a posted public meeting. Outside of the board meeting I have not presented it to any groups. The reason that it has not been is simply that no one has invited me to present it. If there are any requests for a presentation I will be happy to present the budget or send a copy.</i></p> <p>DISCUSSION</p>	

Faculty Senate Minutes
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Request budget from Steve, post to Minutes, and post to Faculty Senate website for easier location. Merit Pay is not a “line item” *per se*....comes out of surplus.

NEW QUESTIONS (Presented to Senate for consideration)

1. QUESTION: Remembering the video we saw at General Assembly a while back, in which a student explained that AC had paid for a new transmission for his car, I recently referred a student who was also having car issues to the AC Advocacy & Resource Center. But that got me to thinking: I’m glad we help out students, but what is the procedure for deciding who gets help and who doesn’t and, if help is given, how much help is given? Do we have resources to pay for everyone’s auto (and other life) problems?

ANSWER (from Jordan Herrera): *Thank you for the opportunity to answer this question related to the Advocacy & Resource Center and Amarillo College Foundation’s No Excuse Fund.*

In 2012, the Amarillo College Foundation generously allocated emergency aid funding to help our students meet an immediate basic need. Established with the purpose to provide financial resources in order to help a student overcome an immediate financial burden, the No Excuses Fund has helped students cross

MOTION to revise by-laws, with sub-committee by appointment: Sarah Milford
SECONDED: Tara Meraz
Yea: ALL
Nay: NONE

Faculty Senate Minutes

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	<p><i>the finish line and walk across the stage at graduation.</i></p> <p><i>Per AC Foundation guidelines, students who receive funds from AC's No Excuses Fund must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours; have at least a 2.0 GPA; and, have exhausted all other financial assistance available. The No Excuses Fund is a one-time award per student per academic year. The only exception to these guidelines is any incoming student may receive funds in order to offset the financial burden of taking the TSI placement test.</i></p> <p><i>Students who are experiencing a crisis that would cause them to drop out of school should visit the Advocacy and Resource Center. If appropriate, ARC staff will recommend the use of No Excuses Funds to support the student's needs (step one). Jordan Herrera, Director of Social Services, will review the student's file and speak with the student about his/her need. She then will make a recommendation to the AC Foundation that No Excuses funds be utilized to assist the student (step two). The final step (step 3) is the official approval to use the No Excuses Fund by the AC Foundation Executive Directors, Tracy Dougherty or Kathy Dowdy.</i></p> <p><i>If the AC Foundation approves the use of the No Excuses Fund, ARC staff will work with the AC Business Office to process payment to the third party vendor on behalf of the student. Students do not</i></p>	
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Faculty Senate Minutes

December 1, 2017

Ware Student Commons, Room 207

	<p><i>receive funds directly from the AC Foundation No Excuses Fund.</i></p> <p><i>Because of the generosity of the AC Foundation, the No Excuses Fund has helped hundreds of AC students overcome a financial barrier hindering their academic success. And, the data reflects that students who receive No Excuses funds and access college/community resources are more successful. When comparing three-year averages, students who received social services support from the Advocacy & Resource Center as well as financial assistance from the No Excuses Fund are retained from Fall-to-Spring and Fall-to-Fall at higher rates than the overall AC student.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>· Fall-to-Spring retention 3-year average rate is 73.03% No Excuses students vs. 67.5% all AC students.</i><i>· Fall-to-Fall retention 3-year average rate for No Excuses students is 48.09% vs. 46.83% all AC students.</i> <p><i>Throughout the last five years, the No Excuses Fund has distributed over \$136,000 to assist AC students in overcoming a student's basic and/or academic need. Allocated funds were distributed as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>· TSI Exam Fee assistance, N-Clex Fee assistance, exams, licensing, fees and books (32.3%);</i><i>· Housing Assistance (31.4%);</i>	
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Faculty Senate Minutes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· <i>Utilities Assistance (24.7%);</i>· <i>Transportation Assistance (6.8%);</i>· <i>Childcare Assistance (3.5%); and,</i>· <i>Counseling Services and Eye Exam/Glasses Assistance (1.3%).</i> <p><i>The No Excuses Fund is graciously available through the AC Foundation. If a faculty member would like more information about the guidelines and award process for these funds, please contact Tracy Dougherty or Kathy Dowdy at 371-5107.</i></p> <p>SHORT ANSWER -- there is a strict process in place, and the assistance is making a significant (measurable) impact on students.</p> <p>2. QUESTION: I notice the new “online rubric” is a “modified” version of something originally produced by the State University of New York, through the Open SUNY® Center for Online Teaching Excellence. I have three questions: 1. Was there any faculty involvement in this major change to our online courses, and if so where was it? 2. Was any consideration given to academic freedom? This rubric takes a cookie-cutter approach to instruction across disciplines and courses. 3. What are the future implications? If online courses can be forced into a rubric and monitored, why not traditional classes? Do teachers at AC</p>	
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Faculty Senate Minutes

December 1, 2017

Ware Student Commons, Room 207

	<p>receive any trust in how they teach anymore?</p> <p>ANSWER: Sent to Frank Sobey – response pending.</p> <p>DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS COMMITTEE PROCESS AND RELATIONSHIP TO BY-LAWS</p> <p>We can't delay the answering of questions by a month or two. We have to push to answer as quickly as possible, especially in the current culture. Part of good communication. Time management in Senate meetings also a factor.</p> <p>Discretion necessary for Questions committee (all involved on every question).</p>	
Salary	<p>The merit team met with EOD and Frank to discuss moving forward with merit pay and the committee is starting to shift the job to the Faculty Evaluation Committee by next year. At this point, with the merit pay system in place, there really isn't a reason for the salary committee to continue. We have talked about the VP of Senate also be on the Faculty Eval Committee, but that hasn't been confirmed yet. That way, there would be Senate representation on the committee and Senate knows what is going on. Russell and Jodi talked about dissolving the salary committee and he agreed.</p>	

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 1, 2017

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	<p>The Board of Regents, Cabinet and EOD are very aware of where the faculty is on pay compared to the state, etc.</p> <p>Proposal: Dissolve of Salary Committee, and move remaining responsibilities over to Faculty Evaluations Committee</p>	<p>MOTION to dissolve Faculty Salary Committee: Courtney Milleson SECOND: Nichol Dolby YEA: all NAY: none</p>
Technology		
Faculty Survey		
Hospitality		
Faculty Development	<p>Concern that not all professional development is on online transcript. This has significant implications for pursuit of tenure and/or rank advancement. CTL is trying to get things up to date. Recent discussions in Stipend Committee have been regarding new and adjunct faculty. CTL is backed up.</p> <p>Senate member Phyllis Pastwa recently had a poor experience with CTL (delayed responses, and apparent disregard of rubric). We really do need more clarification regarding the stipend and qualifying activities. Request for Phyllis to formulate a question that summarizes concerns, that Senate can then take to CTL.</p>	
Instructional Technology		
Pinning		

Faculty Senate Minutes
December 1, 2017
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Faculty Committee Appointments		
New Business		
Unfinished Business	Most points dealt with above.	
Updates and Announcements	May need to call emergency meeting or vote in January to address Professor Emeritus.	MOTION to address Professor Emeritus issue over break by email: Nichol Dolby SECOND: Phyllis Pastwa YEA: all NAY: none Meeting adjourned at 3:34.

Recorder: Nathaniel Fryml, Instructor, Senator for Liberal Arts