

Final Faculty Senate minutes, Feb. 18, 2011

JBK Rm 11

Meeting called to order at 12:18p.m. by President Byrd. Senators in attendance: Ambrose, Bartlett, Branson, Browning, Byrd, Chenoweth, Commissiong, Davis, Dursun-Kilic, Friske, Holliday, Issa, Landram, Lee, Parr-Scanlin, Pendleton, Trela, Wilson and Vizzini. Substitutes : Rex Pjesky for Rosa, Senators absent: Bigham, and Castillo.

Twenty-four faculty members were present as guests.

Byrd's introductory comments emphasized the importance of faculty input University-wide. This is a first pass at suggestions for both revenue enhancement and recommendations for cuts. Consider at both the micro- and macro- levels. Timing of these suggestions/recommendations is appropriate because the President's ad-hoc committee has not taken sweeping action.

Friske reported on EPC. Minutes are on the website linked from the President's page. First meeting was organizational, with 2 sub-committees formed. First subcommittee is to look at criteria for program reduction/elimination, for non-academic areas of the campus. That sub-committee just met for the first time Feb. 17. Initial plan is to look at broad criteria that would cover both academic and non-academic types of programs. The second sub-committee is tasked to develop the criteria for reducing or eliminating academic programs and has met once. The full EPC is meeting next week.

Browning reported that Senate is currently guessing as to what the entire faculty desires as far as suggestions and recommendations (language and actions). Today's meeting is to start getting feedback from faculty on these critical issues (suggestions/recommendations for revenue enhancement or areas to cut funding). Also would like to discuss handling of depository to continue soliciting on-going, protected suggestions.

Byrd: existing faculty senate committee on Budget and Faculty Governance will be key in data collection and historical information to use in making recommendations to ad hoc committee and upper administration. Main goal of Senate is to protect the academic mission of the University. Sources of revenue are primarily based on faculty and their activities. State appropriations, both kinds of tuition, and fees are calculated from student credit hours.

Please note that the following suggestions were generated by invited faculty guests in a free-form brainstorming session, and have not been fact-checked for accuracy:

1. Concerned about use of common syllabus, ie. In core classes such as English, History or Communication Studies; to pull faculty and replace with individuals with minimum criteria. Could be a dollar savings, but hugely detrimental to educational quality. What has happened with k-12 and standards is not encouraging. Really important to consider ramifications.
2. President has said that administrative budget comes from a separate pot. Administrative hierarchy has grown immensely. Need to look carefully at whether all those people who have been added are essential.

3. If administration is cut, it takes a minimal time to replace when times are good. Academic programs that are cut can take decades to revive.
4. Look at cost/benefit analysis of Amarillo Center. Rent vs. class generation fees.
5. Actively discourage f2f students from taking online classes with a convenience fee, which would free up room for truly new students in the online classes. We should look at: should there be a class which is taught only online?
6. Could also look at alternating f2f and online for required classes.
7. What has happened at the system level is that minority faculty/staff/students are being cut. – Need to be sure that those programs that have successfully recruited minority faculty/students are kept protected.
8. If this university wants to grow, need to look at Federal money which becomes available by becoming a Hispanic serving institution. Are we looking hard enough at that?
9. Recruitment issues at graduate level – is currently not funded, when those new students would add fees. Development should use faculty achievements as a recruiting tool. Students who are finalists for top awards – fund travel to recruit others.
10. To talk about revenue generation there needs to be a flip. Dean's allocate pot of money to pay salaries so they look at it as COST not REVENUE. Summer class schedules are based on how much salary money is there. Could make money for University if we could offer more core writing classes in the summer – more revenue. Class schedule should be based on demand where it is bigger than offering on supply basis.
11. Question of fees in general. Class fees were used for M&O years ago. Look at this for a short time period. This pending crisis might change the minds of current Board of Regents opposition to fee increases.
12. Look at the recruiters: who are they, where are they going, and is it yielding benefits.
13. Look at outreach to other area community colleges.
14. Advertising tied to Palo Duro Canyon in areas like Santa Fe and Boulder. Also billboard signs on way to Canyon.
15. Look at duplication between departments, specifically certification issues in education – reorganize College of Education. Similarly, marketing is offered in both CoB and CoANS.
16. Education students are sometimes kept with discipline sometimes with CoE – is there cost-savings there.
17. Digitization – is it a way to save books purchase money for other things?
18. Bookstore was a profit center at one time, can we get more money coming back here that people are spending elsewhere.
19. Senior students in lower level classes – get them into appropriate level classes.
20. Use WTClass for uploads rather than printing and handing out materials.
21. Get rid of telephone directory. They are bad and not used. Go with the Quick Finder sheet.
22. Campus wide review of print publications – are they still useful.
23. Has the effectiveness of athletics been looked at? For example 20+ football coaches, do they bring in concomitant funds. Recognizing value as a marketing tool. Use coach salaries for other things.
24. Workshops in summer with grad student teachers – charge for high school evening classes.

25. Look for summer students from other Universities.
26. What happened when football went away the last time? (Homecoming was a rodeo.)
27. Every administrator with academic credentials should teach at least 1 class.
28. Move advising to the departments earlier rather than leave 2 years at Advising Services.
29. Library: are there places to cut waste? Can we digitize more?
30. Concern that when things are cut, they don't come back.
31. Reduce number of printed pages that standard student fees pay for from 1500 to 500 or 1000.
They'd have to pay for additional.
32. Faculty concern that areas like marketing aren't being given the same close examination.
33. Hiring process is archaic. Time/money wasted with unnecessary paperwork.
34. Get rid of associate deans.
35. Charge for parking permits. Should we pay the same for the same lot? Most other Universities pay far more.
36. Salary reductions across the board including administrators, if worse comes to worse.
37. Stacked courses – some programs that is the expectation – could it be used more for other programs.
38. Where do current construction projects fit in the budget situation?
39. Protecting investments is important – and that should be for PEOPLE as well as buildings.
40. Get rid of Sedona.
41. Cut Fridays.

Please note that this ends the suggestions that were generated by invited faculty guests in a free-form brainstorming session, and have not been fact-checked for accuracy.

Closing: important to get faculty voices heard early and often as we go through this process.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50p.m.

These minutes have been approved.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Chenoweth, Secretary.