

Minutes of Auburn Montgomery Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, February 8, 2008
204 Goodwyn Hall
Convened at 9:13 a.m.

Present: Finley, Newman, Gehling, Ogburn, Gagnon, Hogan, Sullivan, Tidwell, Walker, Borton, Jones, Meadows, Ligeon, Knigge, Gantt, Johnson

Absent: Kaufman, Foxx, Rhodes, Perriatt

I. Senate Business

A. Roll call

B. Minutes from January were unanimously accepted.

C. Next Senate meeting is Friday, March 14, 2008 at 8:30 am in 204 Goodwyn Hall. Faculty council meeting will follow at 10:00 am in 106 Moore Hall.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. John Veres, Chancellor

1. It is homecoming week and the Men's basketball team won last night against Faulkner. The Homecoming game will be on Saturday, February 9th.

2. The Legislature is in session, which cut AUM back to 2007 levels. The Governors budget cut AUM back 14%. AUM needs to make sure that increases are known, such as power and gas, and to look for items that could be cut back. A 14% cut will be particularly difficult as most of the money is going to salaries. Planning will continue with a meeting with the Vice Chancellors on Tuesday to determine where to cut. Any suggestions in areas that could potentially be cut are welcome. In summary, the budget is going to be cut or ways to raise money need to be found.

3. Dr. Warren is looking for potential job positions that are open but are not critical to the daily functioning of AUM which may be eliminated, at least temporarily. Cuts to faculty will be the lightest as it would compromise the mission of the University. In terms of staff, some outsourcing may be needed but this is yet to be determined. This may help determine how the money from Ida Belle Young estate is allocated as it would fund scholarships that are currently coming from the O&M budget. Increases in tuition, especially from international students, may also help. The Chancellor will meet with Wayne Alderman to examine how to better utilize the deferred list from Auburn. The students from the deferred list have ACT scores of 23-24 and average GPAs. If all of these initiatives are successful, it would result in an approximate 5% increase in enrollment. Also, Continuing Education is currently teaching some con-ed courses in the evenings at high schools in Millbrook and Prattville. This may also boost student enrollment.

4. The other financial issue is housing. North Commons has not been fully occupied, but West has been. It was 97% full in the Fall and 90% in the Spring. Therefore, it may be beneficial to move Athletics to the North to fill the unoccupied rooms, and allow the rooms used by Athletics to be filled with other students. Athletics will be given a reduced rate, but the difference is a reduced rate compared to losing money from unoccupied space.

5. There is currently a deficit of building space, especially in the area of student gathering spaces. Sasaki will help AUM in this planning. Wanda Blake is meeting with Jim Solomon to help determine how to spend the bond money. Dr. Veres would like to spend it on maintenance of the buildings and then use the money in the budget for deferred maintenance on other items. The idea of a Wellness Center has not been eliminated; the funds for this building would come from an increase in student activity fees and bond money, if it cannot be allocated to

the current maintenance and repair of the buildings and grounds. Anthony Rankins, President of the AUM SGA, has submitted a proposal from the SGA to support a \$50 per term increase in activity fees. A question was posed about how much tuition helps the budget. Tuition is crucial and gains have been made in credit hour production but not in student numbers. A priority will be placed on determining credit hour charges per department after SACS. Questions were raised about classroom crowding. Dr. Veres indicated that numbers suggest that this is not a problem. However, Dr. D'Linell Finley notes that the problems seem to also lie in the time courses are taught. Most faculty members want to teach in the building where their office is located and want to teach before 3:00.

6. The search for the QEP director was cancelled because it was felt that job responsibilities for the Composition Director and the QEP director are similar. However, there was concern among members of the QEP committee and the search was cancelled. The QEP director will likely hold a Ph.D. in English and be placed on the tenure track.

7. Dr. Janet Warren is working continually on SACS and re-accreditation is the first priority of the University.

8. Dr. Jay Gouge also presented a strategic plan that looks at the Auburn system as a whole at the Board of Trustees meeting.

B. Dr. Jeff Periatt, Advisor to the Auburn Board of Trustees

1. No report.

C. Dr. D'Linell Finley, President of the Faculty Senate

1. Senators are encouraged to report the information coming out of the Faculty Senate meetings to their colleagues.

2. The Senate wishes to express thanks to Dr. Janet Warren for all of her hard work on the SACS plan.

3. The Senate also wants to express condolences to Pam Tidwell on the death of her father, and to Joe Newman in the death of his mother-in-law.

4. The Board of Trustees meeting was recently held at AUM and the accommodations were very nice. The Sasaki plan was discussed and how AUM will be aided in the plan.

5. The Family Campaign is currently underway and faculty and staff are encouraged to support it.

6. Dr. Periatt and the committee are working on the Ida Belle Young proposals. He is also working with the Calendar committee is working to schedule and coordinate with Auburn.

7. Dr. Jay Gouge will be present at the Faculty Council meeting in March. Faculty members are highly encouraged to attend this meeting.

III. Committee Reports and Presentations

A. Mr. Anthony Rankins, President Auburn Montgomery SGA

1. Higher Education Day will be on March 6, 2008 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Faculty members are encouraged to participate as the purpose is to encourage the legislature to equally fund the K-12 and the higher education budgets. Buses will be at the Taylor Center at approximately 10:00 and will depart at 10:30. It will return to campus at approximately 2:00.

B. Dr. Jeff Periatt, Ida Belle Young Proposals

1. No report.

IV. Old Business

A. Please submit names of potential faculty members who are willing to serve as Secretary, Parliamentarian, and President-Elect.

V. New Business

A. There will be an instillation ceremony for Dr. Jay Gouge on April 24th at 4:00 pm and 8 individuals will read portions of the Auburn creed. Names of faculty members (maybe 4 to 6) who would be willing to do a portion of the reading need to be submitted by February 22nd. A bus will be available at 2:30 to 2:45 for transport to Auburn.

VI. Announcements

A. Political Science and Public Administration and Senator Larry Dixon will be holding a Public Affairs Forum on March 5th in the Taylor Center.

B. A business breakfast will be held on February 19th. The topic will be on immigration.

VII. Adjournment

A. Adjourned at 10:54 am.