

**Minutes of Auburn Montgomery Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Friday, June 13, 2008**  
**204 Goodwyn Hall**

Present: Gehling, Newman, Powell, Knigge, Finley, Foxx, C. Ligeon, Johnson, Buskist, Gilchrist, Morton, Krawczynski, Borton, Kaufman, Landers (for Hamilton), Rhodes, Jones, Tidwell, Gantt, Veres, Warren

Absent: Ioimo, M. Ligeon, Lewis

Guests: Jennifer Dyess, Kevin Osbourne, Bunny Crabtree, Glen Ray, Fariba Deravi, Frank Miles, Susan Salter, Ramona Lazenby, Janie Nobles, Joy Clark, Valerie Crawford, Ronnie McKinney, Paige Hines, Debra Tomblin, Carolyn Johnson, Samantha McNeilly, Jeanine Alexander, Judy Solomon

I. Senate Business

A. Minutes from the May meeting were unanimously approved.

B. The next Senate meeting is July 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in 204 Goodwyn Hall.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. John Veres, Chancellor

1. Thank you collectively to all who made the Family Campaign this year so successful. Participation was up to 80%. This high a level of faculty/staff participation helps advancement when making outside requests for donations.

2. Congratulations to the School of Education for a successful Luau. They raised approximately \$30,000 for student scholarships.

3. The Board meets the 26th and 27th (possibly only the 27th). AUM is asking for a 12% increase in tuition (the same as Auburn) which is about half of what we would need to replace the cut from the state.

4. Dr. Veres stated that he is committed to the QEP, the diversity plan, and developing a realistic budget. A primary point in that realistic goal will be to correct the historic under funding of the adjunct budget by transferring \$588,000 to Academic Affairs.

5. Dr. Veres announced a reshuffling of the administrative organization which would dissolve Administrative Services and free up Jackie Roberts for Special Projects. Some of these special projects are already in place and will include things like continuing the Athletic Director search; others will be new initiatives. Many projects will focus largely on campus sustainability and campus attractiveness. Examples include, the pre-engineering club effort to produce diesel from campus waste and switch grass, planting more trees on campus and adding bicycle paths, thereby helping the carbon footprint of the campus.

6. Other aspects of the reorganization include moving Campus Police to Student Affairs, Event Management to Outreach, and reorganizing Housing, the Bookstore, and Cafeteria under a new unit called Auxiliary Services. Housing has had the biggest deficit due to the management of the new facility and the timing and transition from previous contract housing. Hopefully moving athletes to North Commons will free space that will be more marketable to other groups, such as internationals, due to difference in cooking facilities. The Dean of Students formerly reported to Academic and Student Affairs and will now report directly to the Chancellor. This split should elevate the status of Student Affairs while freeing Academic Affairs for new initiatives like the MBA changes, the QEP, and the International Studies changes. Dr. Veres would like to evolve

to the point of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs becoming the chief operating officer. Temporarily there will be an appointment, not to exceed one year, of Katherine Jackson, who holds both an MBA and a Ph.D., as Chief Operating Officer. She has agreed keep doing Outreach as well; Human Resources will report directly to her. The goal is to help us get better operationally and financially. In particular, she has been asked to work on getting operational instructions down in writing so we don't have to wonder who to talk to or what to do in various circumstances.

7. Dr. Keith Krawczynski directed a question to Dr. Veres about what the faculty input had been into this decision. Dr. Veres indicated there had been some input from the deans; however he stated that how we are organized and function he sees as a chancellor function. He doesn't expect to tell the history department how to teach history. Dr. Veres brought in a consultant, Dr. Sims, on university organization who met with Deans, Vice Chancellors, some faculty members, and several others. After discussions with the consultant, Dr. Veres made the organizational decisions to be announced. The changes will be effective July 1, 2008.

8. Dr. Joan Powell asked to clarify that only a small number of people knew the content of this announcement before it was made. Dr. Veres responded that the Vice Chancellors and those whose reporting relationships would change were notified before this Faculty Senate announcement, approximately three dozen people.

9. In response to a request for an organizational chart, Dr. Veres stated that the changes would be summarized in News and Headlines and that should go out today. Sometime shortly afterward, an organizational chart would be available under Institutional Research, University Statistics on the AUM website.

10. Question: Will there be money savings? Answer: For example, by combining oversight of maintenance for Housing and other campus services, some positions would be eliminated. Those working under soft money budgets would be given ample notice. Those under hard money would not be eliminated until the end of the fiscal year. In total it should be a small number, about 5-6.

11. Will there be salary savings? Yes. Will there be any salary cuts? Yes, some salaries will change. What about hiring the Auxiliary Services person? The Housing slot will be used, with some supplement of salary, to hire this person who will run all auxiliary services. The COO will be above the Dean of Students; Vice Chancellors will report to the COO for organizational issues and the Chancellor for content issues. Will the Chancellor still have special assistants? Yes. He has four right now; but, he will try to reduce overhead at the end of restructuring.

12. There currently is a search for a head of an Informatics Institute to be established. The university needs a master's degree with the "flavor" of a Master's of Computer Information Systems and needs to coordinate this program with Maxwell, Gunter, and the computing needs there. Dr. Veres wants to build a research program which is interdisciplinary, involving people from information systems and computer sciences. The ideal person from his perspective would have Ph.D.s in Math and Electrical Engineering with extensive grant experience of the type to build such a program. Ideally by developing a Center or Institute the master's and Ph.D. would develop out of that. An interdisciplinary committee has been meeting to hire this person for a 12-month, tenure track position to begin Fall 2008. Extended discussion followed concerning these plans.

B. Dr. D'Linell Finley, Advisor to the Auburn Board of Trustees

1. Dr. Finley is looking forward to the first board meeting

C. Dr. Bob Gehling, President of the Faculty Senate

1. No Report

III. Committee Reports and Presentations

None

#### IV. Old Business

A. Dr. Jeff Periatt of the Calendar Committee brought the detailed calendar back to the Faculty Senate after the registrar inserted deadlines and dates pertinent to registration. The currently presented calendar has no changes from the previous version in the dates presented for classes and finals.

Highlights of the changes are that exams start on Thursday not Monday; however, the Tu-Th classes will have ended one week prior to the finals. The one day a week classes will have a provision that exams may be one week after the last class meeting. This calendar continues to be on track with the Auburn calendar as well. The committee worked hard to get an equal number of class meetings for M-W, Tu-Th, Bimester, Trimester, etc., for this calendar year. The committee is asking for a Faculty Senate endorsement of the calendar.

A motion and 2nd were made to accept the committee report, endorsing the calendar. The motion passed.

B. The chancellor brought back some figures concerning potential profit from the Seamless Admission program. The program is currently over booked at 120 students. Making the big assumption that all currently admitted students actually attend, the projected revenue would be \$1,170,200. Hiring faculty and a student "advocate" who would be half time with seamless admissions, the estimated expense would be \$425,000. This would leave an estimated profit of about \$600,000 which would go to Academic Affairs.

#### V. New Business

A. Dr. Bob Gehling has chaired a committee on Online Learning Policies and Procedures and has these outlined using Wiki. While Wiki has provision for direct feedback, to use this would allow those giving the feedback to alter the document, something the committee does not want. So, Bob is asking that feedback be sent to him via e-mail to [bgehling@aum.edu](mailto:bgehling@aum.edu). They want as much feedback as possible from faculty before the report goes to Dr. Warren. He plans to send the report out via e-mail asap and ask for input by next Friday, June 20.

#### VI. Announcements

A. None

#### VII. Adjournment

A. Adjourned at 10:02 a.m.