

Minutes of Auburn Montgomery Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, March 14, 2008
204 Goodwyn Hall
Convened at 8:31 a.m.

Present: Finley, Newman, Gehling, Ogburn, Periatt, Gagnon, Walker, Sullivan, Rhodes, Jones, Meadows, Borton, Gantt, Ligeon, Sterling for Kaufman, Tidwell, Foxx, Johnson

Absent: Knigge, Hogan

Guests: Brad Moody, Elizabeth Ward, Wyatt Wells

I. Senate Business

A. Roll call

B. Minutes from February were unanimously accepted.

C. Next Senate meeting is Friday, April 11, 2008 at 9:00 am in 204 Goodwyn Hall.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. John Veres, Chancellor

1. February numbers for sales tax revenues were not good. The Vice Chancellors have been advised to find items to cut since 14% will be needed, especially in non-academic areas. The vast majority of money is tied up in salaries and benefits. Positions which are not critical may be delayed in order to achieve salary savings. The bond money will be used for deferred maintenance. The tuition increase is unknown at this time. AUM still needs to find \$1.6 million to cut. A range of tuition increases is being prepared to show the Board of Trustees how AUM will deal with these cuts. There may be improvements in the Governor's budget but these will not substantially ameliorate the cuts. Some outsourcing has been investigated, such as HR, ITS, and janitorial. It may be that this outsourcing will not save substantial money. Controls for heating and cooling may be needed to save on utility costs. If AUM can use the bond money for deferred maintenance, then it would free up the deferred maintenance money. \$2.5 million were transferred in this week and the interest from that money may be used for scholarships, which would free up that money to offset the cuts. The possibility of a hiring freeze on the non-academic side is one idea that is being considered, but this is not necessarily true on the academic side. If an academic position is not critical, then adjuncts may be used and filling those positions will be postponed. A realistic budget needs to be in place and that includes the utilities budget. The Chancellor is waiting to hear the report from Dr. Warren about how many positions can be postponed. The idea of a travel ban is an idea, but this probably would not save much money. If it is done, then international travel would be banned. AUM has frozen reclassifications of staff as it eats up time and money, but this has just been postponed. If there is an exception, then those will be taken on a case by case basis. Athletics has saved money; they have only used \$5000 instead of \$147,000. The athletes must carry personal health insurance before they go onto the University plan.

2. Post-tenure review has met and all of the faculty members, who were reviewed, were found to meet expectations. Tenure and Promotion decisions were reviewed by the Chancellor on Friday and that information was sent to the deans.

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. Dr. Finley met with Mr. John Spillar about campus security. He has an elaborate plan about how to keep intruders off the campus, including lighting around the outskirts of campus and complete the loop road. Building security is also a concern and cameras will be placed inside the buildings in public places and between Taylor Center and North Commons. More lighting in Lot 1 and Moore Hall has already been put in place. The concrete pads around campus will be emergency call boxes to alert campus police, which will come from the bond money.

2. A list of school elections was also sent out and the Senate needs those names fairly soon. Currently, Senators are able to run again if they so choose. For nursing, Rhodes will serve for Gagnon to promote continuity and Cam Hamilton will begin a two year term. The Liberal Arts representative will be Keith Krawczynski.

III. Committee Reports and Presentations

A. Dr. Jeff Periatt – Ida Belle Young Committee

1. Two minor adjustments were made to the proposal. The committee feels very strongly that funds from current scholarships will not be taken away but that the money from the Ida Belle Young estate would be used for additional scholarships in order to attract new students. Two stipulations were made. Students would receive full tuition for up to 15 hours and must maintain a 3.0 GPA. If it is given at the student's entry, it would be hard to keep it even among the schools as students frequently change their majors and switch schools. Apparently, current scholarships are being taken from a base budget, which accounts for \$800,000. There is concern that if AUM takes the money from the Ida Belle Young estate to fund those scholarships and then uses the \$800,000 for other items, it would be difficult to get that money back. Also, there is concern that it would not attract higher quality students since there would not be additional scholarships, just the same ones AUM already has. The committee feels very strongly that the Ida Belle money not be used to replace scholarships; this offers the University an opportunity to move forward. Many individuals around campus are unsure about what factors affect enrollment, but there is a linear correlation between financial aid and scholarships and increased enrollment. There is a projected decline in national university enrollment; it may be up to 10%. Scholarships may positively improve this overall trend. A motion was made to endorse this proposal. However, some editing was apparently needed; this editing was completed and a vote was made and unanimously accepted.

IV. Old Business

A. None

V. New Business

A. None

VI. Announcements

A. Thanks to the committee who worked hard on the Ida Belle Young proposals and to the Senate for its support.

VII. Adjournment

A. Adjourned at 9:25 a.m.