

Minutes of Auburn Montgomery Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, March 6, 2009
204 Goodwyn Hall
Convened at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Gehling, Powell, Knigge, Foxx, C. Ligeon, Johnson, Buskist, Gilchrist, Morton, Krawczynski, Borton, Kaufman, Hamilton, Diane Bilotta (for Rhodes), Ioimo, Jones, Tidwell, Veres, Warren

Absent: Finley, Gantt, M Ligeon, Fredericks

Guests: Susan Salter, Elizabeth Ward, Jeff Periatt

I. Senate Business

- A. Minutes from the February meeting were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented.
- B. The next Senate meeting is April 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in 204 Goodwyn Hall. .

II. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. John Veres, Chancellor

- 1. The AU Board is meeting March 27, 2009, at the Auburn Conference Center
- 2. AUM items that will likely be discussed: a tuition increase and recommendation on a \$2 per credit hour increase to the tech fee. We're also looking at a hybrid and online tech fees to get more money to support the technology and get it back to the school. A required meal plan for freshmen in the dorms is being considered as well.
- 3. The current research is supporting the use of online courses; but, it supports hybrid courses even more. We will provide incentives for the schools to offer such courses.
- 4. Dr. Michael Burger has accepted the position as Dean of Liberal Arts; the Dean of Sciences search is ongoing with two visits scheduled and one candidate withdrawn.
- 5. Keep Matt and Penny Ragland and Brad and Margie Moody in your thoughts. While Brad did not have a heart attack he is having bypass surgery.
- 6. A parking fee is not being pushed forward this year partly, because we're not sure how we're going to do it, especially as it relates to faculty and staff.
- 7. A student referendum on the Wellness Center will be this fall, so he is loathe to assess fees for the students before they vote on whether to assess themselves in order to pay for it. There are no current funds to support it except some banked student activity funds that will be used as they search for an architect. Over 75 architects have applied. We don't have to bid it; but we have a structure to select the firm. We are looking at portfolios to

see who has had related projects. So, at this point, that selection is subjective.

8. Veres believes that having an architect with some drawings and ideas of what will be included will help with the referendum.
9. There are students with concerns about student activities. There is a complaint about how the current money is being spent. Even at \$10 a term there are those who think the money is being squandered on parties.
10. Question: Dr. Tom Borton: there is pressure on the PACT program which is having financial problems. The chancellor responded that the tuition coverage is predicated on about a 9.4% rate of return. They had invested in the mortgage industry, which looked good then. However, this industry is in more trouble than many other industries. The universities have averaged about a 7% increase over the last few years, even with 12% last year.
11. PACT would like to make their shortfall our problem by asking universities to discount tuition. AU and AUM are not in the position to help out. Tuition is increasing because state funding is decreasing. In the short term, AU and UA see it as not our problem.
12. Yesterday was Higher Education Day. Thank you to students and faculty who supported that. Two Chinese students got down in front of the cameras and we made the front page with Frank William's picture.

A. Dr. 'Linell Finley, Advisor to the Auburn Board of Trustees
No Report

B. Dr. Bob Gehling, Faculty Senate President:
No Report

III. Committee Reports and Presentations

A. Dr. Jeff Periatt: Calendar committee.

1. First two changes reflect the reduced time between the time between the end of T-Th classes and finals.
2. Summer schedule is being redone to reflect 18 class meetings on each of MW and TTh which reduces the meetings from and error in over scheduling.
3. The Senate needs to change the summer calendars for 2009 and 2010. Incorporated M and Tu class holiday for labor day for T-Th to end in the same week as MW.
4. The summer calendar online is currently wrong; but, after Senate approval today it will be changed immediately.

B. A motion was made and seconded to accept the adjusted calendars as presented by the calendar committee. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

C. Jeff recommends that we put the calendar on the web in the table format. He was asked the possibility that it presented in both formats. Pam Tidwell commented that she needs the information in the detailed calendar when making her syllabus

D. Dr. Bob Gehling: Faculty Handbook Committee

1. They have had one meeting. Dr. Gehling is collecting information from faculty, Dr. Warren, Dr. Veres, the University Attorney. Pass the word that IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS with the current handbook, let us know now.
2. The first section to be worked on is section 4, issues related to tenure.

IV. Old Business

- A. Dr. Janet Warren stated that the university would like to encourage this body to actually take action when there is a severe weather alert. We are liable if we do not take action during those alerts.
 1. Dr. Keith Krawczynski stated that this situation warrants a more official announcement than inclusion in the faculty senate minutes. Susan Salter asked about a Faculty Senate Resolution. Also, this needs to be in the faculty handbook. It likely that the current policy needs to be reissued for emphasis. She asked that the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA provide a joint resolution supporting the policy.
 2. There are places designated in each building for severe weather; however, they may not be posted in all buildings.
- B. Susan also mentioned that we have launched 3 new commercials. One is about AUM giving \$20 million in scholarships and grants, focusing on making college affordable. Two current students and one former student are in the commercials and have done a very nice job with them.

V. New Business

None

VI. Announcements

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.