

Athens State University Faculty Senate Minutes

Charge: (As stated in Athens State University's 2000 *Faculty Handbook*, Section 4.2, Article XI).

At an informal full faculty convocation of the Athens State University Faculty and Senate, held in the Herman Griffin Theater of McCandless Hall, on Friday, September 26, 2008, at 9:00, Dr. Jim Kerner, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Bergeron, Branscombe, Brown, Buck, Burkhardt, Busick, Cook, Dorning, Douglass, Dupre, Elmore, Essary, Ferguson, Fitzsimmons, Gadberry, Gasbarro, Kerner J., Kerner L., Kuzmicic, LaFevor, Merritt, Orme, Otto, Owen, Rimes, Shaw, Vinson, White R., Whitley, Williams G. (30/90, no quorum)

Members Absent: Anderson, Armor, Baugh, Bolen, Brasher, Campbell, Chandler B., Chandler P., Cort, Covick, Cowan, Durm, Eichelberger, Erwin, Fentress, Garrison, Gibson, Giles, Grigsby, Gulbro, Harper, Harris, Heatherly B., Heatherly M., Hemingway, Hendrix, Herring, Hodges, Holliday, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Johnson, Joiner, Jones J., Jones T., Keller, Kennedy, Kuby, Leslie, Madison, McCain, Mitchell, Moyers, Nye, Pate, Pevahouse, Rich, Sloan, Smith, Thomas, Valcana, Vaughn, Wanbaugh, Werner, White D., Wilkes, Williams G., Williams T., Woodruff

P.O. Kerner began by thanking FA for their hard work revising the Faculty Handbook then opened the floor for discussion of proposed changes. Vinson asked if parts were still missing. Branscombe said, "basically it's done. Missing are parts 3 and 7." Buck asked if they were VPAA parts, and Branscombe replied that Tina Hicks is working diligently on it and reminded faculty that the only part we really control is 4.2. Dupre asked Kerner and Branscombe to walk us through the changes. Branscombe noted that senate wanted historical notes, for example. She added that we also agreed that P.O. should be tenured, that we needed a process for replacing the P.O. should an emergency arise mid-year, that we increased standing committees with an Election Committee to increase opportunities for service and put elections back in the hands of faculty, and that electronic balloting should be added. Burkhardt noted that committee charges are not defined and should be. Elmore wants to insure balancing of committees should be in recommendatory language, as there will be times when this goal is a practical impossibility. More importantly, Elmore urgently stressed that the item regarding faculty being thrown off voluntary committees for failure to participate in three meetings was draconian and could seriously hurt faculty in the tenure and promotion process. Douglass agreed, citing personal illness, class scheduling, and family crises, which could prevent a faculty member from full participation in committees. Shaw agreed, adding that to the senate's knowledge, establishing a quorum had only been a problem for one committee. Dupre stated that voluntary participation is preferable to mandatory, and that this added unnecessary mandate will not guarantee increased participation. Elmore asked that the removal of this one item be put to the faculty for a vote. Kerner called Tracy Hicks and asked her to postpone delivery of the ballots to mailboxes until Elmore's concern was added to the

ballot. Branscombe thanked her committee, and Kerner again thanked all involved in the process.

There being no additional comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Bebe Gish Shaw, Secretary