

## **Athens State University Faculty Senate Minutes**

Charge: (As stated in Athens State University's 2009 *Employee Handbook*, Section 7.2, Faculty Constitution and by-Laws, Article XI: The Faculty Senate).

At a regular meeting of the Athens State University Faculty Senate, held in the Chapel of Founders Hall, on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 1:00, Dr. Mike Essary, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Teresa Wanbaugh for LaDoris Baugh, Greg Holliday for Sean Busick, Prentice Chandler, Kevin Dupre, Mike Essary, Bonnie Heatherly, Marion Madison, Nate Mitchell, Bebe Shaw, Gary Valcana, Debbie Vaughn, George Williams (12/12 Quorum).

Members Absent: n/a

Guests: Kim LaFevor, Jackie Smith, Amanda Branscombe

With no corrections/additions to the minutes from the previous meeting, the record shows them approved as stated. Motion carried (Holliday/Dupree).

The committees then submitted the following reports:

Academic Affairs: Due to snow, calendar has been sent via email to committee members, the majority of whom approved it, and it now will be forwarded to the senate.

Curriculum Committee: Minutes on Bb.

Sabbatical: No change.

Faculty Affairs: Met and addressed questions from EC. Branscombe and Holliday reported recommendations to the senate, addressed below in New Business.

Learning Resources: LR's small ad hoc committee has visited Learning Commons at UAB and will be visiting same at GA Tech and Emory soon to gather information from schools with large commuter populations.

Election Committee: LaFevor stated that they are currently soliciting input from FA regarding election reforms recommended for the Handbook. Members of EC have been announced. College elections are forthcoming. Results should be announced by February 1, and then request for nominations for p.o. will occur at that time.

Old Business: n/a

New Business: Amanda Branscombe and Greg Holliday from FA and Kim LaFevor and Jackie Smith from EC discussed election reforms recommended for the Handbook. EC had the following questions/concerns regarding the Faculty Handbook:

- 1) EC has no procedure for use of proxies in committees except for senate. Robert's Rules says proxies are not allowed unless stated in bylaws. FA would have to have a charge to amend the Handbook, and faculty would have to vote. Valcana motioned to give FA the charge to draft language to provide procedure for use of proxies in committees. Motion carried (Valcana/Wanbaugh).
- 2) EC wants definition of a quorum. Robert's Rules defines a quorum as greater than 50%.
- 3) EC wants guidance as to counting ballots. For example, what of blank ballots? Write-ins? Votes against nominee with no opponent? Branscombe said they felt that should be left to the committee. Holliday said precedent was for a separate signed page stapled to a "blind ballot" page. However, the word "valid" is not defined in the bylaws. Branscombe said FA suggested that a quorum of faculty should have to cast a vote, but even that has been problematic in the past. Holliday moved that FA draft language on a "valid ballot" in place of a quorum, that would specify that the potential write-in candidate for p.o. must be an elected senator, be tenured, and willing to serve.
- 4) EC wants clarification regarding communications about election results. Bylaws say they must be first reported to senate to "certify" election results and then may be reported to faculty, either by p.o. or chair of EC.

There being no additional comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00.  
Motion carried (Mitchell/Valcana).

Respectfully submitted,  
Bebe Gish Shaw, Secretary