

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 special meeting of the Athens State University Faculty Senate, held in Founders' Chapel, on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 12:30, Mike Essary, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Bell, Busick, Dupre, Essary, Branscombe for Heatherly, Mitchell, Pieplow, Shaw, Vaughn, Williams (Quorum 10/12).

Member Absent: B. Chandler, P. Chandler

With no corrections/additions to the minutes from the February 7, 2012, meeting, the record shows them approved as stated. Motion carried (Mitchell/Williams).

Old Business: DL Policy discussed, resulting in the following motion:

“Motion discussed at last Faculty Senate meeting (with handbook and Vision 2020 statements):

Whereas the Faculty Senate appreciates the efforts to improve the quality of education for students at Athens State University and supports the perceived direction of the DL Task Force, Section 7.1 of the Faculty Handbook specifies that, "Academic policy-making rests in the faculty at Athens State University. The entire faculty constitutes the academic governance body of the institution, with the Faculty Senate acting as an executive committee and transacting the regular business of the Faculty" and the Vision 2020 goal and tactics listed below, the Faculty Senate moves that one of the standing committees of the Faculty Senate separates out the policy statements, that are vital to improving the quality of education for students, into an actionable document, with accompanying separate best practice and faculty guidance documents.

Vision 2020 plan related to faculty states in *Goal 4: Increase and strengthen the role of faculty in University governance*, "Rationale: A university's faculty is essentially responsible for the core societal function of a university – to generate and convey knowledge and skills. The collective experiences and judgment of a university faculty are vast regarding academic issues in higher education. For this reason, after adequate deliberation, there should be substantial deference to faculty opinion about two issues. Those issues are curriculum (what subjects should be taught) and pedagogy (how subjects should be taught). Other non-academic elements of a university's operation, such as facilities and staffing, may impact these academic issues, so faculty opinion should be considered on them as well. And finally, effective inclusion of faculty views during University policymaking about almost any topic should also improve or streamline the actual implementation of such policies."

Tactic 1: Clarify the role of faculty in University governance.

This endeavor should take the form of a document specifying with greater precision the topics about which the faculty should play a meaningful role in policy making.

Tactic 2: Conduct an annual meeting between the central administration and the Faculty Senate. Similarly structured gatherings may also be held on a case-by-case basis for high profile issues.

Tactic 3: Work to educate faculty about their fiducial role at the University. This tactic should be implemented as part of an improved faculty orientation program.

Tactic 4: Ensure adequate faculty input in all workload related decisions through deliberation of these issues before the Faculty Senate.

In conclusion, after consideration of the Draft DL Policy, the Faculty Senate formally expresses its concern with the 24 hour response time policy and the "Course Design" Section and recommends further review of these sections with faculty input. Motion carried with 8 for, 2 opposed, and 2 absent (Vaughn-Busick/Dupre).

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bebe Gish Shaw, Secretary