

Athens State University Faculty Senate Minutes

Charge: (As stated in Athens State University's Policy Library, Faculty Constitution and Bylaws).

At a regular meeting of the Athens State University Faculty Senate, held in Founders Chapel, on Tuesday, September 25, 2014, at 12:00, Robert White, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Berzett, Baird for Busick, Durm, L. Kerner for Essary, Hyde, Heatherly, O'Neal, Roberts, Shaw, Turner-White, Vaughn, White, Woodruff (Quorum 13/13).

Members Absent: n/a

Committee Reports:

AA: n/a

FA: n/a

CC: n/a

EC: n/a

LR: n/a

Old Business: President Glenn addressed the Senate with the following prepared statement, which he requested go on record:

“Members of the Faculty Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to address the body. This afternoon you will be deliberating issues that will impact the future of our institution. Last week, the Faculty Senate approved a proposal to consider a no confidence vote. I was made aware of the decision and today I understand will be deliberating on how to proceed. I am not here to lobby your vote but to state my intentions to reach out to you as a collective body, and to the faculty and staff at large.

We have gone through tremendous change over the past two years. It is no secret that it has not been an easy road but it is a road that we travel together and if we journey together cooperatively, we can achieve great things. I have made some mistakes and said things that are not in the best interests of our University. I have publicly apologized to the faculties of each college, the staff and I offer my apologies now to this group. I recognize for us to reach success that more listening and understanding is needed. More openness and candid exchange is desired. I make that commitment today.

When I met with each college a member of the Board accompanied me. Those Board members came so that they could hear faculty comments first hand and to demonstrate their willingness to engage with faculty. Following my meetings with the three colleges and the staff areas, I talked with members of our board of Trustees. They, like you, are

concerned about our direction but are confident that we can work through our differences. They see a University community that is capable of moving beyond current circumstances and embracing a bright future. I share their vision.

Chair Pro Tem Sims-deGraffenried sent an email to Dr. White requesting a time to meet with faculty and staff and I believe this is another action that shows their good faith in seeking the solutions we need. I am convinced that is a good place for us to start. I have met with faculty and staff over the past few weeks and intend to continue that dialogue with future meetings planned.

We didn't get to our present situation in one day nor will we solve it in a day. Respect and trust are built over time. I am convinced that if we will go down this path together we will restore both. We are part of a wonderful University and we have great people who make outstanding contributions. Today, you have my promise to work together to address the issues before us."

Durm moved to include President Glenn's statement in the minutes. Motion carried (Durm/Vaughn).

New Business:

Kerner moved to postpone submitting to the Board for consideration--until after next Tuesday's scheduled faculty senate meeting--a list of faculty concerns, together with any addendums, subtractions, or amendments that may follow to this as a working document. Discussion followed. Vaughn called the question (Vaughn/Durm). Motion carried (Kerner/Turner-White).

Vaughn moved that senators go back to their college faculties to compile questions related to future viability of Athens State University, particularly financial, and to bring them to next Tuesday's faculty senate meeting. Motion carried (Vaughn/Kerner).

There being no additional comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30. Motion carried (O'Neil/Turner-White).

Respectfully submitted,
Bebe Gish Shaw, Secretary