

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 Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 12:00, Mike Essary, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Busick, Durm, Essary, Hyde, Myhan for Heatherly, Johnson, Kerner, Lewis, O'Neal, Shaw, Turner-White, McCain for Vaughn (Quorum 13/13).

Members Absent: n/a

With no additions/corrections to the January minutes, the record shows them approved as stated. Motion carried (Lewis/Turner-White).

Committee Reports:

AA: n/a

FA: n/a

CC: n/a

EC: n/a

LR: n/a

Essary thanked President Glenn for coming.

Old Business: Senate went over Academic Calendar and Class Scheduling Policy and Secondary Employment Policy.

Durm asked that AA be mentioned in the Academic Calendar and Class Scheduling Policy in keeping with Shared Governance under the Faculty Constitution. Glenn said he had no objection to Durm's suggestion. Durm moved that the following statement be added to the policy accordingly:

“Monitor the academic calendar for compliance with regulatory requirements while maximizing a student-sensitive timetable for delivery of effective instruction, and make recommendations related to the same.”

Motion carried (Durm/Woodruff).

Johnson stated regarding the Secondary Employment Policy that he believes what he does outside of ASU is his business and finds the policy too complex and intrusive. Gooch stated that she developed it from looking at other policies in North Alabama institutions. Vaughn added that CoB salaries were not comparable to other N. AL institutions, so it follows that the Secondary Employment Policy should not be comparable. Durm moved that Senate table the Secondary Employment Policy. Lewis amended the motion that we remand the policy to FA for further study.

Motion carried (Durm/Kerner).

New Business: Glenn opened his remarks by replying to the recent *Decatur Daily* article that there is no Phase III to the ACA. Further, he plans to bring in a consultant regarding future plans.

Glenn then fielded questions gathered by Senators from their colleges. Questions included concerns that the new Provost have an academic background, having risen through the ranks, rather than be another administrator. Glenn wants both. Most important, Glenn wants the new Provost to be able to work well with faculty. Other concerns were evaluation of our learning management system, Blackboard; IT issues, especially attendance reporting difficulties; offering competitive salaries to new faculty in order to better recruit, which Essary reported is currently at 40% of CUPA data; adjunct pay; administrative evaluations; staff growth without faculty replacement; DegreeWorks and its voluminous paperwork.

At this time Durm shared the following document he wished to be entered into the record:

“IT issues: need better software and computer access to make faculty reports and data entries easier, i.e.: attendance reporting, book ordering, issues with Bb (shutdowns and other errors), emailing system (having to log in more than once to get to emails), sites not compatible to other software/applications for students and faculty (i.e. in Bb students having issues with lockdown browsers and not have the ability to use certain computers or software).

1. Degree Works: not compatible to student and faculty usage; info. not up-to-date in system yet that should have been updated by now according to approved CRRs and substitution/equivalence forms, etc. *finally, approvals are from CRRs and faculty not Degree Works staff
2. Providing students with Degree Works orientation during Transfer Days and other student orientation events
3. Adding a Degree Works committee which includes faculty members to give them training from the student advising side and faculty issues and concerns
4. Faculty, esp. in COAS having to handle the bulk of advising issues and info. (final audits for students) to students among other faculty duties when we have a college advisor and Records Office staff who can and should handle these issues
5. Hiring too many staff and administrators when the college is concerned with student enrollment and funding (put a temporary stop on hiring for new positions and titles among staff and administration)
6. Not hiring more faculty to replace retired faculty members to assist with the delivery of academics to students in class room, advising, etc. (especially for COAS).”

Glenn stated that he will share all of these concerns with the Provost, adding that there are no capital projects in the near future, as Brown Hall and Carter Gym improvements

are a higher priority at this time. Glenn closed with mention of a consultant coming from Auburn to structure a series of meetings with faculty in groups of 10-15 to facilitate conversations about the future of ASU and work upon a masterplan.

Essary stated that he will invite Mark Gale and Belinda Krigel to the next meeting, and Durm emphasized that committee chairs must attend all Faculty Senate meetings. Vaughn asked that Essary contact Rick Roberts regarding Senate's insistence upon AA's involvement with the calendar, as carried by Durm's motion.

There being no additional comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Bebe Gish Shaw, Secretary