

UAMS Academic Senate Council

May 27, 2015

Minutes

Attending: Benes, Bercher, Boysen, Breen, Compadre, Ferguson, Hendrickson, MacMillan-Crow, Neal-Rice, Post, Price (new ASG President), Rosenbaum, Smith-Olinde, Voth (new President-Elect), Miller, Wei, Whitehead (new CON representative)

Not attending: Enderlin, Eudy, Gaddy, Kavouras, Mahadeven, Renard, Suva

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Introductions: Ferguson stated that she sees her role primarily as facilitator between faculty concerns and the administration. All Faculty introduced themselves, the College they represent, and their main research interest.
2. Reports from Academic Senate Committees
 - a. Research—Lee Ann McMillan-Crow
 - The IACUC survey results were presented to the full Senate on 4/30/15. The next step is to host a town hall meeting; that may wait until the fall semester begins.
 - Other issues have been brought forward
 - Could ID cards be made to give general access to buildings across campus?
 - Use of an average fringe benefit rate for post-doctoral fellows instead of each person individually, allowing PI's to more accurately calculate their costs.
 - Post: Bill Bose has indicated his office will be sending a survey to faculty and will be centralizing the research/grants office, tentatively names "Research Shared Services Line".
 - This office will, Post commented, be responsible for pre-award, post-award, compliance, managing subjects, etc.
 - Bose has presented to the University Research Committee and indicated that faculty ownership is desired
 - MacMillan-Crow stated she will wait to be contacted on this issue, then her committee will take it up
 - b. Communications—Grover Miller
 - The committee has established a schedule for blog posts and the committee members will be moving on that
 - Miller requested Ferguson to include a link to the Senate Blog with the calendar each week
 - No other issues have been brought to the committee's attention
 - c. Faculty Affairs— Caesar Compadre

- A faculty member has approached this committee with the idea to implement a “no smokers hired” policy at UAMS. This policy would apply to only new hires and would not be retroactive.
- Compadre commented that recently his committee had difficulty acquiring relevant faculty-related policies and suggested that the *UAMS Faculty Handbook* may need updating. The committee will investigate that possibility.

3. Old Business—None

4. New Business Items called to the Council’s attention

a. Improving Communication between Representative and Deans

- Hendrickson stated that the college representatives on the Senate Council are expected to meet with their respective deans on a regular basis. This meeting is to keep lines of communication open and also to discuss the 2013 Senate/Administration Retreat goals, keep updated on progress in the college. These goals include, for example, faculty mentoring and faculty research initiatives.

b. Update from meeting with Dr. Gardner and Dr. Heard

- Hendrickson stated that he, Ferguson and Voth all met with Drs. Heard and Gardner to effect a smoother transition in the coming months.
 - Either Ferguson or Voth will meet with the Council of Deans about twice a year.
 - The new Faculty Affairs Center will be housed in the Provost’s office. No new funding was approved. An Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs will likely be named. Faculty now has a dedicated liaison for Human Resources, Mickey Quattlebaum.
 - Some faculty had requested that the grading system at UAMS be changed to include plus and minus grades. That feature was not included in the new student information system, GUS, and at this point will not be for at least two reasons: (1) student policies for progression would be affected and (2) time constraint to implement the change since the HLC accreditation site visit is due fairly soon and the GUS must be in place by that time; admissions will be live at the end of June
- Hendrickson informed the Senate Council that the Graduate Council would vote (5-28-15) on the proposed interprofessional education (IPE) proposal. Spirited discussion followed on the appropriateness of IPE for graduate students. Ferguson expressed that this topic would be a good one for the blog and encouraged anyone who spoke in today’s meeting to contribute to the online discussion.
- Smith-Olinde asked how the Grand Marshal for commencement is selected. Hendrickson explained that role rotates through the various colleges. Smith-Olinde suggested that the elected representative of the faculty, i.e., Senate President, would be appropriate in that role.

5. Ferguson adjourned the meeting at 5:09 pm