

Academic Senate Council Meeting, May 31, 2012

Minutes

Attendees: Bill Culp, Larry Suva , Jerry Ware, Tom Kelly, Dana Gaddy, Steve Post, Cesar Compadre, Phil Breen, Adam Brown, Julia Goodwin, Howard Hendrickson, Elizabeth Bard, Ty Borders, Lindy Bollen, Becky Patterson, Larry Suva

Apologies: Paul Wendel; Lee Ann Macmillan-Crow

1. Minutes were not available from the last meeting and are being pursued
2. The Chair, Bill Culp, called the meeting to order. He noted that it was time for Larry Suva to take Chairmanship for the Senate, and passed the leadership to Larry Suva. Dr. Suva presided over the remainder of the meeting, and noted that all UAMS Colleges were represented at the Council meeting.
3. Election results were announced for the Council leadership positions:
 - Chair-Elect: Steve Post
 - Secretary-Treasurer: Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow
 - Member At-Large: Jerry Ware

It was noted that future Senate elections will involve the Nominating Committee ensuring that the Senate leadership positions are not contested solely by COM faculty.

New representatives from several Colleges have been elected as well, but the Senate has not yet been informed about all the new representatives. COPH may need to have new representatives elected and Dr Suva will send a note to the Dean of the COPH to this effect.

4. The problematic UAMS E-mail situation was raised, and the overall cost to productivity in every sector of the campus was noted. The Council members noted the slow resolution to the problem and lack of specific information about the cause of the persistent problems. Council members (Cesar Compadre) requested that the Vice Chancellor of IT, David Miller, be invited to the next Council meeting and report on the causes of the E-mail and related networking problems, and the actions being taken to solve the problems. Dr Suva will send such a request.

5. The Faculty Exit Interview has been available on the Academic Website for some time, but has not had many respondents. Needing better information, the Chair agreed to re-send the link to the page to perform the survey to all faculty members, and forward to UAMS faculty who have recently exited and might not have responded to the survey. The Chair of the Communications Committee, Dana Gaddy, agreed to request an update on recently exited faculty from Human Resources for additional contacts.

6. The appearance Conflict of Interest of the Academic Senate with its funding (and potential oversight) coming from the office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs was discussed. Elizabeth Bard from the Academic Affairs office was present at the meeting, and explained that the Academic Senate's budget is from the Chancellor's office, but like the House of Delegates' and Associated Student Government's budgets, are administered from the Academic Affairs office. The Senate's budget from the Chancellor was \$4500, but this year was reduced to \$3800. The Senate has autonomy for expenditures; no approval from the VCAA is required for the Senate to spend the funds. The possibility was raised for Academic Senate funding to be derived from faculty donations rather than from UAMS funding. Discussion was

focused on the need for transparency of the process, and to dispel the appearance of any conflict in the funding/administration/oversight of Senate activities. Council proposed that the VCAA office provide a full description of the budgetary process for the Academic Senate at the next full Senate meeting.

7. Shared Resources and Research Core facilities on campus continue to be limited in their availability to faculty from all colleges and in their central support on campus. Non-COM representatives again requested that the Chancellor provide more support for UAMS research cores, rather than so much of the support being derived from investigator fees. Many investigators had anticipated that there would be actual Core support from the Translational Research Institute that would be available to all UAMS investigators, but have been disappointed to realize that infrastructure was supported instead. Dr Hendrickson and Dr Suva agreed to draft a letter to this effect to the Chancellor.

8. The Chancellor's meeting with the UAMS faculty on May 1 was discussed. Council voiced that it was a great first step to be able to converse with the Chancellor and Council members suggested other mechanisms to communicate with the Chancellor. Dr. Culp indicated that the Chancellor is reticent to incorporate his comments into regular Senate meetings or to engage in a moderated conversation. Council will continue to invite the Chancellor to Senate meetings, and the Senate is appreciative of additional opportunities to meet with the Chancellor in whatever mechanisms he sees appropriate.

9. In an effort to increase communication of the Senate and Senate leadership across multiple disciplines on campus, Steve Post proposed that each of the Senate's committees work with the appropriate Vice Chancellors to foster action and communication between faculty and administration. This idea was strongly supported by Council.

10. Status of UAMS College faculty meeting Senate involvement was discussed. It was noted that the COM Faculty meeting again was not going to have sufficient time for an Academic Senate report. However, the Dean of the COM has indicated to the Senate Chair her plans to have focused meetings with the COM faculty to increase communication. Council viewed this as a significant positive development.

The new Senate Chair, Larry Suva, is located in the WPRCI, where access is limited. He provided contact information to the Council so that he can be reached any time.

Because of the lateness of the hour, new business was tabled for the next Council meeting. It was agreed that sufficient issues are currently surrounding faculty that Council should schedule monthly meetings, the next one scheduled for June.

Meeting was adjourned.