

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Brad Martin, COP	President	x	
Tiffany Huitt, COM	President Elect	x	
Priya Mendiratta, COM	Past President	x	
Summer Khairi, CHP	Secretary	x	
Clare Brown, CPH	Parliamentarian	x	
Elizabeth Riley, CON	Member at Large		x
David Ussery, COM	Member at Large	x	
Nukhet Aykin-Burns, COP	Member at Large	x	
Layla Simmons, CHP	Representative	x	
Christopher Walter, CHP	Representative	x	
Lin-Xi Li, GS	Representative	x	
Melanie MacNicol	Representative	x	
Corey Nagel, CON	Representative	x	
Pamela Degravelles, CON	Representative	x	
Darin Jones, COP	Representative	x	
Laura Gressler, COP	Representative	x	
Stefani Gafford, AA	Representative	x	
Kay Strahan, AA	Representative	x	
Steve Cherney, COM	Representative	x	
Ronald Sanders, COM	Representative	x	
Ben Stronach, COM	Representative	x	
Anthony Goudie, CPH	Representative	x	
Sean Young, CPH	Representative		x
Hannah Hunt, ASG	Representative	x	

Guests: Abdallah Hayar, Amber Teigen, Grover Miller, Jen Gan, Katy Allison, Kerry Evans, Lisa Jansen, Noelle Danylchuk, Tina Maddox, Wendy Ward

Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023
ZOOM

I. Welcome and Call to Order (Martin)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Martin at 2:00pm.

II. Approval of January Meeting Minutes (Martin)

The minutes were approved.

III. Updates and New Business (Martin and others)

- a. Discussion: University of Arkansas Board of Trustees Potential Purchase of University of Phoenix

See: <https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2023/02/06/foreign-bank-reportedly-involved-in-proposed-purchase-of-phoenix-university-by-ua-system-affiliate>

- i. A Japanese bank would provide financing for a nonprofit affiliate of the University of Arkansas System to buy the University of Phoenix, according to the chairman of the system's board of trustees.
- ii. Bobbitt has previously identified the nonprofit, created in August, as Transformative Education Services Inc., or TES Inc.
- iii. According to Hinkle, the UA System would not buy the University of Phoenix but only be affiliated with it through the nonprofit. He also said Phoenix would not become a part of the UA System.
- iv. Speaking on condition of anonymity told the *Arkansas Times* recently that a cost estimate of \$500 million to \$700 million was about right.
- v. Phoenix now has about 79,000 students, compared with about 470,000 students at its peak in 2010. University of Phoenix spokeswoman Andrea Smiley has said 99.5% are online students.
- vi. In December 2019, Phoenix agreed to a \$191 million settlement with the Federal Trade Commission. The commission said the college had lured students with fraudulent claims.
- vii. In January 2022, George Burnett was names Phoenix's president. But months after taking the post, Burnett resigned following an inquiry by the U.S. Department of Education.
- viii. An affiliation with the University of Phoenix would not only bring roughly \$20 million in revenue annually to the University of Arkansas System, but also UA System schools could benefit from Phoenix/s advanced technology, innovative strategies for recruitment and retention of students, and extensive relationships with employers, UA System President Donald Bobbitt said last week.
- ix. Phoenix runs "very efficiently, does a good job, and is in excellent financial shape," >Bobbitt< added.

- x. The best current example of the proposed affiliation between Phoenix and the UA System would be UMass Global, a nonprofit affiliate of the University of Massachusetts System.
 - xi. Stephens Inc. would be paid up to \$1.65 million – perhaps more, depending on the final value of the deal- for its work on the proposed purchase of Phoenix, according to the draft contract.
 - xii. Stats: 27% Graduation rate, \$13k average annual cost, \$39k median earnings. They are accredited by the higher learning commission.
 - xiii. Acquisition of the University of Phoenix Touch Points
 - 1. Meeting with President Bobbitt- March 3rd
 - a. Brad Martin and Summer Khairi will represent the Academic Senate.
 - 2. Request to join a letter to President Bobbitt on behalf of UA system faculty governance leadership.
 - xiv. Comments/Thoughts/Questions were discussed.
 - 1. What branding or marketing will this affiliation entail?
 - 2. Why did this take 18 months to let the public know?
 - 3. What physical, personnel, or financial resources will UAMS provide with the affiliation?
 - 4. Relationship between TES and U of A system?
- b. Discussion: Suggestions for next Academic Senate Faculty Excellence Seminar
 - i. COVID Vaccines
 - 1. Panel of Terry Harville and Jennifer Dillaha
 - 2. Other suggestions?
 - c. Discussion: CPR training (Mendiratta)
 - i. Topic will be discussed in next meeting.

IV. Provost Updates (Martin)

- i. Met with Stephanie Gardner and Wendy Ward on Feb. 27, 2023
 - 1. Discussed UAMS position of U. Phoenix acquisition
 - 2. Requested Housekeeping Services return to near pre-pandemic level
- ii. Announcements
 - 1. UAMS Emeriti Society
 - a. Criteria for emeritus and distinguished faculty titles
 - b. Events
 - 2. Faculty Retention Report – Wendy Nembhard
 - a. Release targeted for April 23
 - b. Minority faculty committee
 - i. Ron Sanders Jr. would like to serve on the committee.
 - c. Call for Senate members
 - d. Faculty focused wellness
 - 3. Onboarding Program
 - a. Next quarterly meeting may involve Senate

V. Committee Reports

- a. Research Committee (Gan)
 - i. Main focus has been student research day.
 - ii. Student research day is March 7th.
- b. Faculty Affairs Committee (Aykin-Burns)
 - i. Discussion on resolution on allowing UAMS employees paid parental leave.
 - ii. Main Points/Arguments
 - 1. UAMS Vision 2029 highlights employees' wellbeing.
 - 2. Current short-term disability benefits not covering adoption.
 - 3. In general benefits of paid family leave policies on reduced re-hospitalizations and neonatal mortality, improved mental health of parents, reduced stress
 - 4. Such policies having positive effects on talent acquisition as well as retention, thus great tools for recruitment purposes.
 - 5. Studies suggesting overall cost of paid parental leaves having no (or negligible) negative impact on profitability.
- c. Communications Committee (Hayar)
- d. Administrative Council (Hayar)
 - i. Discussion on registered Sex offender hired on campus policy.
 - ii. Discussion on computer and IT
 - 1. Need to ask for an exception if you want another kind of computer besides Dell.
- e. Membership and Elections Committee (Mendiratta)
- f. Academic Policy Committee (Ussery)
 - i. No update
- g. Intercollegiate Faculty Committee (Khairi)
 - i. Why was this committee formed? It collaboratively discusses faculty needs, collaborate on projects, discussion on policies and process issues, seeks similarity and promotion processes and faculty annual evaluation.
 - ii. Wendy Ward has done a great job getting representatives from all colleges and HR.
 - iii. Speaker bank is for external and internal use.
- h. Space Committee (De Gravelles)
 - i. Met on Feb.9th
 - ii. Examining some space in Rahn for a research group that needed 20 spaces. They are looking off campus for this particular research group.

VI. College Officer Reports

- a. Graduate School (Macnicol, Li)
 - i. No Update
- b. College of Health Professions (Walter, Simmons)
 - i. No update

- c. College of Medicine (Cherney, Sanders, Stronach)
 - i. No Update
- d. College of Nursing (Degrauelles, Nagle)
 - i. Organizational restructuring – the number of department chairs has increased.
 - ii. Accepted the 4th CRNA cohort
 - iii. The accelerated BSN program in NWA will be accepting its second cohort
 - iv. Grant that focuses on behavioral health.
 - v. Preparing for accreditation in the DMB program in 2025.
 - vi. Challenges
 - 1. Workforce shortages
 - 2. Travel and procurement through workday
- e. College of Pharmacy (D Jones, Gressler)
 - i. No update
- f. College of Public Health (Goudie)
 - i. No update
- g. Academic Affairs (Gafford, Strahan)
 - i. No update
- h. Associated Student Government (Hunt)
 - i. No update

VII. Academic Senate Budget

- i. Current Balance Available: \$1,659

VIII. Announcements

- a. Reminder: UAMS campus committee reports available on Academic Senate Teams Group

IX. Adjourn at 315pm.