Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes from Meeting on Friday, October 25, 2013

Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Ms. Amanda Urquhart, President, at 1:02 pm

Members present: Amanda Urquhart (Science/Math), James Galt-Brown (Liberal Arts), Chrissy Dent (Nursing), Heather Cathcart (Science/Math), JoAnn Brannen (Business), Diantha Ellis (Business), Jimmy Ballenger (Human Sciences), Jordan Cofer (Liberal Arts).

Prior to the meeting, James McCrimmon (Agriculture) selected Chrissy Dent to vote as his proxy in his absence; and Donna Campbell (Human Sciences) selected Jimmy Ballenger to vote as her proxy in her absence.

Presentation of Minutes:

Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented the minutes from the meeting of Friday, September 27, 2013. Sen. Ellis made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Sen. Galt-Brown seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

Old Business:

Sen. Pres. Urquhart opened the meeting with reference to the memos to President Bridges and Vice President Reddick detailing Faculty Senate recommendations from the meetings of August 30 and September 27, 2013. As of the date of this meeting, there have been no official replies.

In reference to bookstore issues discussed at the September 27 meeting, senators should encourage the faculty of their respective schools to forward any communication on this issue to their representative who will forward to Sen. Waid. No updates were communicated at this meeting.

In reference to D2L issues discussed at the September 27 meeting, Sen. Cathcart noted that the issue could be isolated. Some faculty roll their material over from previous semesters which can cause PDF files not to open. Recommendation from the Senate is that respective faculty with D2L issues schedule an appointment with Janet Weaver.

New Business

1. Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented a letter addressed to the Faculty Senate referencing Georgia Senate Bill 101 from The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus. The letter asks ABAC’s Faculty Senate to join that of Valdosta State, Georgia Southern and Savannah State Universities in signing a resolution opposing concealed handguns on campus.

Sen. Galt-Brown noted that there could be issues relating to guns in automobiles on campus and that there could be issues with assumption of liability which could place ABAC in the position of guaranteeing the safety of all students on campus. He broached the topic of women who commute and carry concealed weapons in their car for protection and whether ABAC would be taking the stand that even those were not permitted on campus. Note was also made of ABAC clubs like the Skeet and Trap Club meet off
campus to train but don’t necessarily take their weapons home before coming to class. Also, the Police Academy students often wear their guns while on campus as well.

Sen. Pres. Urquhart stated that she personally would not like concealed weapons being carried in her classroom. Sen. Galt-Brown noted that a policy against such would not necessarily prevent guns from being present and pointed out that Virginia Tech and Newtown were gun-free campuses. Sen. Galt-Brown also noted that a policy would not supersede state law and that any stance on this subject taken by the Faculty Senate of ABAC would be superseded by Board of Regents policy if the BOR responds to the issue. The main issue noted by the Senate concerning Georgia Senate Bill 101 is that it takes away the individual university’s right to determine policy on this subject.

Sen. Galt-Brown made the motion to table this discussion until the next meeting to give each representative a chance to talk with his/her fellow faculty and get a better grasp of campus sentiment on the issue. Sen. Dent seconded. Motion to table carried unanimously. Sen. Pres. Urquhart requested that Sen. Galt-Brown be in charge of writing the response if the Faculty Senate decides to do so at the next meeting. Sen. Galt-Brown agreed to do so.

2. Sen. Dent informed the Faculty Senate about her latest USG Faculty Council meeting in which the subject of MOOC training was discussed. Sen. Cofer stated that while schools like Yale, Harvard and Duke already participate in this, they do so with a lot of monetary backing. He also noted that the issue is big news in The Chronicle as having the potential to undermine faculty because once the class is taught and available online, it could give the impression the faculty are not needed to teach the class again. This issue was informative only and thus required no discussion or vote.

3. Sen. Galt-Brown made the motion to adjourn; Sen. Cofer seconded. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously. The Senate adjourned at 1:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held November 22, 2013.