Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes from Meeting on Friday, October 31, 2014

Call to Order:
Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Ms. Amanda Urquhart, President, at 2:06 pm

Members Present:
Amanda Urquhart (Science/Math), James Galt-Brown (Liberal Arts), Shawn Seat (Science/Math), Diantha Ellis (Business), Carlos Lopes (Business), James McCrimmon (Agriculture), Jeannie Paulk (Nursing), Joseph Brown (Liberal Arts), Donna Campbell (Human Sciences).

Prior to the meeting, the following proxies were submitted in written form to the Faculty Senate President: George Lowerts (Agriculture) for Jason Scott (Agriculture), Jeannie Paulk (Nursing) for Chrissy Dent (Nursing) and James Galt-Brown (Liberal Arts) for Susan Roe (Liberal Arts)

Presentation of Minutes:
Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented the minutes from the meeting of Friday, 3 October 2014. Sen. Galt-Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Sen. Seat seconded. Minutes of Friday, 3 October 2014 accepted unanimously as written.

Old Business:
1. Revision to the Constitution (Quorum):
   a. Sen. Pres. Urquhart opened the floor to discussion regarding the motion made by Sen. Galt-Brown (Sen. McCrimmon seconded) in the meeting of 03 October 3014 to change Faculty Senate quorum to 50% plus 1 as opposed to 2/3 present.
   b. Discussion among faculty was in favor of this move. Motion to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of ABAC’s Faculty Senate from 2/3 present to 50% plus 1 present to constitute a quorum carried with a unanimous vote.

New Business:
1. Evaluation of Advising:
   a. Sen. Pres. Urquhart brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate an email to which she was copied between the Vice President of Academic Affairs and member of the faculty in regard to the change from the use of TK20 in student evaluation of instruction. The faculty member noted the movement from an online method of evaluation of instruction also affects advising assessment.

   b. Note was made that the new system implemented to evaluate instruction would not be anonymous for advisees. Sen. Pres. Urquhart asked the Faculty Senate for feedback on a solution for this problem.
c. Sen. Brown suggested an evaluation built into Banner that could be completed once a student has registered with a step included that would allow for skipping the survey if desired. The Faculty Senate agreed this might be effective.

d. Sen. Galt-Brown asked if the Faculty Senate was charged with a new method of evaluating advising. Sen. Pres. Urquhart stated not formally, just copied to the discussion. The Faculty Senate agreed a formal charge needed to be given before further discussion.

2. Fall Break:
   a. Sen. Seat brought a concern from one of the members of the Science/Math faculty regarding Fall Break. The question noted that many classes are dominated by students from the School of Agriculture. A good number of these students are required to be present at the Sunbelt Ag Expo which occurs in mid-October.

   Last year, Fall Break was a week as opposed to the traditional two days due to the lateness of Thanksgiving. This faculty member pointed out the week at Fall Break helped alleviate the issue of having half a class missing for an entire week.

   Sen. Ellis pointed out the week at Fall Break also extended finals and graduation well into December, which was a point of contention for many students and faculty who while they enjoyed a week in October, did not like having the December break shortened.

   The Faculty Senate noted this issue is mainly tied to when Thanksgiving falls.

3. Outside Exams:
   a. Sen. Seat brought another issue from the Science/Math Department regarding the movement in said department toward implementing exam times outside of class time.
   b. Sen. Galt-Brown noted this could create a contact hours issue in that meeting outside of the allotted contact hours equates to extra work and could technically be illegal.
   c. Sen. McCrimmon pointed out there is usually a reason students sign up for certain classes at certain times because those are the time frames that fit into their work and life schedule. He also noted a great many of ABAC’s students commute and outside exam times could place undue hardship on them.
   d. Sen. Brown stated if ABAC had a fully equipped testing center then students could make appointments which would fit into their personal schedule. However, as of right now, we do not.
   e. Sen. Pres. Urquhart shared she had met with an administrator about this topic and was informed if the exam dates were clearly posted on the syllabus, it would be within the realm of the contract.
   f. Sen. Galt-Brown stressed this would have to be in writing from the president, chancellor and SACS in order for the statement to be binding and reiterated any mandatory outside contact hours could potentially be a liability issue.
g. The consensus from the Faculty Senate was that this seemed to mainly be a Science/Math issue and the discussion was closed.

4. Faculty Load:
   a. Sen. Galt-Brown brought to the Senate floor the issue of faculty load which arose in his department meeting after the president’s presentation in October. He noted ABAC faculty are already among the lowest paid in the University System of Georgia (ranking only higher than Bainbridge College) in pay scale and pointed out the current administrative position regarding an indicated move away from load reduction extended to faculty teaching junior and senior level courses would in no way serve as a means of attracting new, quality faculty.

   b. The consensus from the history department was a unilateral rejection of the administration’s proposal of a move toward a 5/4 teaching load with no course reductions. He stated his department’s view that this approach would serve as nothing more than a divide and conquer strategy of pitting faculty who mainly teach freshman/sophomore classes against faculty who mainly teach junior/senior classes. His department’s stance on this subject was if ABAC was going to tout itself as the “state college of choice” it should be so for faculty as well as students.

   c. Sen. Pres. Urquhart questioned what the Faculty Senate could do about this and asked if an official statement needed to be made.

   d. Sen. Brown noted the loss of the course release would probably be the end of the Rural Studies program. However, he pointed out that 5/4 was a step closer to 4/4, which could in a way be used to attract more faculty as ABAC could state it was on the path to acting like a senior-level institution.

   e. In that there is nothing tangible on which to base an opinion from the Faculty Senate, Sen. Brown suggested that each senator ask for feedback from the departments/schools to gauge the overall reaction.

Sen. Brown made the motion to adjourn; Sen. McCrimmon seconded. Motion carried. The Senate adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held 21 November 2014.