Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes from Meeting on Friday, November 22, 2013

Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Ms. Amanda Urquhart, President, at 2:02 pm

Members present: Amanda Urquhart (Science/Math), James Galt-Brown (Liberal Arts), Heather Cathcart (Science/Math), JoAnn Brannen (Business), Diantha Ellis (Business), Donna Campbell (Human Sciences), Jordan Cofer (Liberal Arts), Doug Waid (Agriculture), James McCrimmon (Agriculture), Susan Roe (Liberal Arts).

Prior to the meeting, Chrissy Dent (Nursing) selected James Galt Brown to vote as her proxy in her absence.

Also present: Dr. Niles Reddick (VP of Academic Affairs) and Dr. David Bridges (President).

Presentation of Minutes:

Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented the minutes from the meeting of Friday, October 25, 2013. Sen. Galt-Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Sen. Brannen seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented the issue of ABAC’s response to The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus in reference to Senate Bill 101. Each senator reported the findings from their schools and departments. All were against students having guns on campus. Many were in favor of faculty possessing them, while others were firmly against. However, all were agreed that ABAC should not align itself with any organization on the issue. Sen. Galt-Brown made the motion that ABAC’s Faculty Senate not align itself with any side on the argument referencing Senate Bill 101, instead allowing the issue to play out in the State Legislature and the Board of Regents. Sen. Waid seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Sen. Pres. Urquhart presented the response from the Cabinet regarding Faculty Senate recommendations from previous meetings. The Cabinet response as relayed via email from Dr. Niles Reddick is as follows:
   a. “The Cabinet agrees to hold Freshman Convocation at 3:30 the first Thursday after classes begin. We will also ask the Registrar’s office to include this in the Academic calendar.”
   b. “The Cabinet agrees that the Faculty Senate could create an ad hoc committee within the Senate to discuss ideas related to ceremonies (Convocation, Honor’s Day, Graduation). While much of the scheduling and programming is predetermined, the information could certainly be shared with the Senate. In addition, since these recommendations and since our meeting with President Urquhart, the Cabinet has received the BOR meeting dates for Spring and now could set Honors Day for Wednesday, April 9. At this time, the Cabinet would
like to hold Honor’s Day at 3:00 pm and similar to last year, hold the service recognition immediately following with refreshments. The College, however, cannot provide child care.”

i. The ad hoc Ceremonies Committee was discussed by the Faculty Senate and recommendations for the members were as follows:
   1. Ashley Mock, Director of Public Relations
   2. Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students or Alan Kramer, Assistant Dean of Students
   3. Brenda Doss, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs
   4. Two Faculty Representatives: Susan Roe, Professor of Voice, was nominated by Sen. Pres. Urquhart and James Galt-Brown, Associate Professor of History, nominated himself.

ii. Sen. Cofer presented his findings from the School of Liberal Arts, and Sen. Ellis presented her findings from the School of Business regarding the previously discussed topic of having two Honor’s Day ceremonies, one for students and the other for faculty. The faculty from both of these schools was in firm disagreement with the idea of two ceremonies at a completely separate time. Both senators agreed that the response from the Cabinet to hold Honors Day at 3:00 pm and the service recognition immediately following should be acceptable to the faculty of their schools.

c. “As of November 19, the additional information was forwarded from the ABAC Bookstore for you to distribute to Dr. Waid’s committee for review and discussion.”

i. Sen. Waid noted that his committee would like to see the response from John Clemens regarding the Bookstore issue before making its recommendation. Sen. Brannen noted that a book verification process similar to roster verification might be helpful in the ordering process. Note was also made that a poll of the class in the first week of classes would be helpful in determining if the right amount of books had been ordered. Note was also made that a “one size fits all” method of ordering was definitely not working because books like the Biology lab manual should be ordered at 100% and verified by the faculty teaching the subject.

ii. Sen. Pres. Urquhart asked Sen. Waid if he would like to add more members on his committee. Sen. Brannen stated she would be willing to look at the data. Sen. Pres. Urquhart also stated that she would like to do a statistical analysis of the data and would be willing to come up with a model. Dr. Reddick that it might be a good idea for the bookstore to put a copy of each textbook for the semester on reserve at the Library to help those who did not have texts in the first few weeks of classes. Sen. Pres. Urquhart stated the AAC does keep an instructor’s copy of the book and resources for the math texts to help the tutors but many have gone missing. Sen. Galt-Brown pointed out an alarm might help that problem. Since new members were added to Sen. Waid’s committee, the issue was tabled until the next meeting.
d. “Regarding the Promotion and Tenure guidelines, the Cabinet agrees that any additional edits after final review by the Senate will be shared with the Senate in the future. However, the final version sent from the President of the Faculty Senate reflected the changes noted on pages 8, 36, 38, 39 (original email and copy forwarded to Faculty Senate President Urquhart). The incorrect numbering on page 15 is noted and will be corrected in the online version and will be reflected in the next printed version. Wording to the internal cover page will be altered to reflect that the Guidelines were ‘initially approved’ by the Faculty Senate on February 19, 2010 to avoid any confusion.”

i. Note was made that recommended changes to the P & T Guidelines would be fed back to the Faculty Senate for any input it might have.

ii. Dr. Reddick noted that Academic Affairs has the correct forms which were forwarded to the Deans for this year’s P & T Reviews. He also pointed out that the best time to note where changes need to be made is during the P & T Review process. As faculty notice problems, that should be addressed, then they should let their Deans and Dr. Reddick know.

2. Sen. Pres. Urquhart announced the dates for Faculty Senate meetings in for the Spring semester. They are as follows: January 31, February 28, March 28, and April 25. Sen. Campbell stated that she had games on each of those Fridays but that Sen. Ballenger would be her proxy.

3. Dr. Bridges addressed the Faculty Senate briefly concerning new faculty positions for the next academic year. At present, 10 have been approved, 5 of which are vacant and 5 which are new. These are the approved positions which will be advertised as of January. More may come in March or April. Dr. Bridges also noted that he has made the argument to the Board of Regents for an increase in faculty salaries and is awaiting their decision. He also noted that ABAC needs to attract more mid-career faculty as we are heavy on assistant professors, light on associate professors, and even lighter on professors.

4. Sen. Waid made the motion to adjourn; Sen. Cathcart seconded. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously. The Senate adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held January 31, 2014.