I. **Announcements**

A. Chair Gates welcomed Senators and asked visitors to introduce themselves. Visitors were Chancellor Sheri Everts, Provost Darrell Kruger, Dr. Randy Edwards (Chancellor’s Chief of Staff), Alan Hauser (P&R), Doug Gillin (Athletic Director), Leslie Farison (LIB), Heather Langdon (IRAP) and Anna Oakes (Watauga Democrat).

II. **Chancellor’s Remarks**

A. Chancellor Everts began by announcing that there was to be an imminent press conference related to the State budget, and that there would be a statement from the (UNC) President’s office in response to that announcement. She reported that enrollment shows steady growth and that she is very proud of the fact that ASU is up in the diversity of its enrollment in the first-year class: 15% of incoming students are from under-represented groups. This is the highest percentage ever.

There is an upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors to respond to Appalachian’s request for Millennial Designation. They have given authority to move forward on this and will vote on Friday, September 18, 2015. If that is approved, there will be campus conversations about what this means for the campus.

Chair Gates opened the floor for questions for Chancellor Everts:

- Are student applications still on the rise? Yes.
- Are enrollment in masters and graduate programs also on the rise? Yes.
- What does possible university restructuring mean? Chancellor Everts responded that the administration had no options in mind, and would wait to see what the feedback from the academic departments indicates before moving forward with that discussion.
- Are faculty pay hikes on hold? Cannot be certain about the hikes until the budget is finalized.

III. **Provost’s Report**

A. Provost Kruger indicated that he had three announcements to bring to the Senate: The administration continues to move forward with the three deans’ searches. Due to the importance of these administrative positions, a search firm(s) will be hired. There have already been some responses, so the chairs of the search committees, Randy Edwards and someone from the university counsel’s office will review those. He encouraged all to participate in this ongoing process.

Work on the Appalachian Experience, the Strategic Plan, is moving forward. The Strategic Planning Advisory Council will be having face to
face meetings across campus to refine the plan, and there will be a portal on the web site for comments. This Strategic Plan will provide a road map for priorities, especially for funding and how to allocate resources.

Provost Kruger expressed appreciation for the work by the Senate – for thoughtful leadership and frequent communication. He encouraged widespread participation and working together.

Finally, he expressed thanks to Andy Koch for the cricket experience.

Chair Gates again opened the floor for questions:
- What is the approximate cost for the search firm(s)? $50-60,000 each.
- How would possible discussions on restructuring affect the deans’ searches? Cannot delay deans’ searches to wait for possible discussion on restructuring.

IV. Minutes

A. Chair Gates asked for a motion to approve the minutes for First Session, April 27, 2015. Senator Peterson-Sparks moved and Senator Koch seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion to approve the minutes passed. (Vote #1)**

B. Chair Gates asked for a motion to approve the minutes for Second Session, April 27, 2015. Senator Erickson moved and Senator Doll seconded to approve the minutes. Senator Erickson requested a small addition to the last paragraph in the New Business section of the minutes. **Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed. (Vote #2)**

IV. Visitors’ Reports

A. Alan Hauser stated that it is the intent of the Athletics Department to have regular communication between them and the Faculty Senate. Doug Gillin presented an update on the Athletics Department. After our first full year in the Sunbelt Conference, ASU received the conference’s Graduation Success Rate Award. We are at the top in the conference in academic success in the classroom, with six semesters where student athletes have over a 3.0 GPA. He acknowledged travel issues requiring time out of class for athletes and has recommended to them that they need to communicate with their professors. He expressed his appreciation for faculty understanding on this issue. Progress reports will be sent out from Academic Services, and the communication on these reports is very important. There is currently a 42% return rate from faculty on these progress reports.

Athletics Director Gillin also reiterated the core values that he holds for the department: 1) academic integrity - athletes are students first, athletes second; 2) social responsibility - athletes and their behavior always represent the university;
3) competitive excellence and 4) providing athletes with a world-class education experience. The mission of the department is to be as collaborative as possible, and they see themselves as a small part of the University, as educating students in a different way.

Senator Dunston asked about the cost of the football program. Athletics Director Gillin responded that the program cost was about $21 million, but that he did not know exact figures of cost vs revenues. His understanding is that it is about a break-even proposition. He would like to bring exact figures back to the Senate at a later date.

V. Chair’s Report
A. Chair Gates began his report with a request that all Senators please remember to identify themselves before addressing the Senate. This provides clarity for attendees at the meetings and for those trying to record details of the meetings. He also apologized for multiple agendas being disseminated for this month’s meeting, but mastering some technology changes should take care of that for the future.

B. The first item to be addressed was the question of discussion on reorganization/restructuring at ASU. There was some confusion about how to present the question to be posed to the departments and some confusion about why this issue is being raised. Chair Gates clarified that at this time, all we want to know from the departments is whether or not there is a will to participate in a discussion about restructuring (which would probably mean a reorganization of academic units). Chair Gates emphasized that there is no plan for restructuring and no recommendation coming from the administration. The administration is waiting to hear from faculty about their inclinations on this question. Chair Gates requested results of voting by department, with a breakdown of votes, to be submitted to him by the end of September.

Senator Westerman echoed the concern by other Senators that the question was somewhat nebulous and that it was hard to get an opinion from colleagues for that reason. There has obviously been informal discussion around campus in which the SD department has been named, but the faculty of that department is actually opposed to any change. Concern was also expressed that this discussion would be a distraction from the deans’ searches that are taking place.

C. The second item related to the removal of books from the library. Sue Edwards and Chair Gates will be meeting with the Library staff to discuss a system of review by faculty before any books are designated to be culled.

D. First Year Seminar has requested a grant from the American Association of Colleges and Universities about sponsoring a seminar on student well-being to be held Saturday, October 24, 2015. Martha McCaughey has requested that if there is anyone from the Senate who would like to participate, please let her know.
E. At the end of the first summer session, there were many complaints about grades being due the day after classes ended, precluding any type of essay final exam. This will be on the top of the agenda for the Registration and Calendar committee.

F. Chair Gates requested that the Executive Committee meet on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in order to make committee assignments.

G. There is awareness that there is a concern regarding staff in the Office of International Education and Development. Because it involves staff and not faculty, this would not normally be an issue for the Senate to address. However, because there is such a large number of students involved in these academic programs, the Senate’s involvement is appropriate. The AAUP chapter is also looking into this issue.

Senator Reed, who has participated in the OIED programs, said there is a significant problem there. The issue seems to be a breakdown in process.

H. Chair Gates reported on the most recent Faculty Assembly meeting. Concerns that were addressed are: 1) improving faculty governance on campuses, 2) the Presidential Search, which is finalizing applicants. The Board of Governors will be meeting to create a “short list” of candidates; and 3) despite the Faculty Assembly’s best efforts to secure a meeting between faculty representatives and the final three Presidential candidates, the chair of the Board of Governors search committee has reneged on that promise. The Faculty Assembly will be making a new request for this opportunity.

VI. Committee Reports (Committee Chair’s name is in bold)

A. Academic Policies (Behrent, Crepeau, Ortiz, Osinsky, Waldroup, Wheeler)

No report.

B. Budget Committee (Dunston, Madritch, Schug, Stallworth, Strazicich, Szeto)

No report.

C. Campus Planning Committee (Doll, Hageman, Salinas, Stanovsky)

No report.

D. Campus Technology Committee (Cook, Fenwick, Reed, Rice, Shulstad, Spaulding)

1. Senator Fenwick provided a handout (See Appendix A) to provide details of the Campus Technology report. 1) Various tech committees on campus have been identified which would have an affiliation with the Senate tech committee. Cathy Bated (CIO) will probably be consolidating some of these committees. IT
governance structure will be re-organized. 2) **GoGoogle** is the web site for migration of accounts which went pretty smoothly. This was the result of a faculty/staff effort. 3) The big issue took place at the beginning of the fall term, with difficulties with **AsULearn**. Cathy Bates understands more completely the vital importance of AsULearn for faculty and has apologized for the impact of these difficulties. AsULearn is a learning management system and works differently than many other programs. It is part of Moodle, which has lots of advantages and disadvantages, and the problem arose because IT was not able to test the effect of load or volume of transactions. For the future, the issue is that there is not vendor support for this system. Oracle helped out this time to resolve the difficulties, but is it not really their problem. Decisions need to be made about whether ASU will have to be its own vendor for this product or whether to secure an outside vendor to provide support. ASU will also be communicating with other campuses who utilize Moodle.

Senator Howard raised a question whether there was awareness about the inability of Banner to “talk” with other systems such as AsULearn and not allowing use of certain browsers, etc. This creates myriad issues with communication. Senator Zrull also brought up a concern about GoGoogle only allowing a one-year migration of alumni. Senator Fenwick said that he would explore this question. Senator Spaulding reported that migration of all emails would be very expensive, and that IT explored who was using their accounts and did not spend the money on those who were not using them. Perhaps the alumni could create new accounts.

E. Committee on Committees (**Frye**, Morehouse, Villanova, Weddell)

1. Chair Gates made some preliminary remarks providing some background for recommendations coming from the Committee on Committees. The first part of the voting is for personnel for the new Graduate AP&P Committee. This committee was formed as a result of a major Faculty Handbook change which separated AP&P into Graduate and Undergraduate committees. Max Poole, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, worked over the summer to find graduate faculty to populate the new committee. Senator Frye presented the slate of nominees for this committee. They are: Mark Bradbury (GJS), William Pollard (ACC) and Martin Root (NUT). Since the recommendations are coming from committee, no second is required. Motion to approve the slate of recommendations for the Graduate AP&P Committee. **Motion FS 15-16/09-01 passed. (Vote #3)**

2. Senator Frye announced that there are still University committee vacancies that need to be filled and urged Senators to encourage their colleagues to participate. Those vacancies are on Undergraduate AP&P Committee, Non-Tenure Track Committee, University Forum Committee and Library Services Committee. The second matter to be voted upon was to fill a vacancy on the
Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee. Linda Johanson (NUR) was nominated; again the recommendation required no second. Motion to approve the appointment of Linda Johanson to the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee. **Motion FS 15-16/09-02 passed. (Vote #4)**

3. The last recommendation coming from the committee was for the Awards Committee. Diana Moss (C&I) was nominated for this position. Motion to approve the appointment of Diana Moss to the Awards Committee. **Motion FS 15-16/09-03 passed. (Vote #5)**

F. **Faculty Governance Committee (Frye, Gates, Howard, Koch, Rardin)**

   No report.

G. **Faculty Welfare and Morale Committee (Albinnson, Erickson, Hester, McGaha, Peterson-Sparks, Pitofsky, Phillips)**

   1. Chair Gates indicated that Senator Zrull has done a lot of work on the calendar over the summer, so he will report on his findings. Senator Zrull stated that recently the semesters at ASU have been about ½ week longer than necessary. It is now one week longer, and the 2016-17 calendar is also one week longer. There is a long list of requirements that the Calendar Committee has to work with, making this a very challenging task. In line with the GA, there must be 28 class meetings MWF and 28 class meetings on TTh (750 minutes of class time/credit hour). To fulfill this requirement, finals are included in the time-frame. ASU meets 4-5 days longer than other campuses in the system, except for Charlotte and A&T. It seems that ASU’s calendar requirements need to be re-examined to create a good academic calendar rather than a calendar to satisfy the needs of various groups.

H. **Welfare of Students (Fiske, Gross, Hamilton, West, Westerman, Zrull)**

   1. Senator Hamilton reported that the committee had not yet met, but that they are scheduled to meet with the student senate to ascertain student needs, and they will also be meeting with the counseling center to see if they need any assistance.

   Senator Reed asked if there had been any progress on the scholarship issue from last year. Chair Gates reported that he has been working on that over the summer, and that faculty presence in all scholarship areas has been beefed up, and that a faculty-only committee is being established to oversee the entire process. Information will be passed on to the Welfare of Students Committee when it is finalized.
VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

A. Chair Gates updated some information regarding the Workload Task Force. At the behest of the GA, efforts are being made to quantify how faculty spend their professional lives. Research and service are pretty straightforward, but classes are much harder to quantify because of the range of different kinds of classes (labs, studio lessons, internships, etc.). How are these counted toward the fulfillment of requirements? This is a question that must go to the individual colleges, so college-level committees are being established to deal with this and to submit a final report.

VIII. Adjournment

Senator Aycock moved and Senator Peterson-Sparks seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn passed. (Vote #6). Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm.

Faculty Senate Voting and Attendance Record for September 14, 2015
Y for Yes; N for No; A for Abstain

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### Vote Number | Action
---|---------------------------------------------------
1 | Motion to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from First Session, April 27, 2015 passed.
2 | **Motion to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from Second Session, April 27, 2015 passed.**
3 | Motion FS 15-16/09-01 passed to approve the slate of nominees for the Graduate AP&P Committee.
4 | **Motion FS 15-16/09-02 passed to approve Linda Johanson’s appointment to the Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee.**
5 | Motion FS 15-16/09-03 passed to approve Diana Moss’ appointment to the Awards Committee.
6 | **Motion to adjourn passed.**
Appendix A

Sept 14, 2015 Campus Technology Committee Report to Faculty Senate

CTC representation on the IT Governance groups
- Academic & Research Services Technology Portfolio: **Randy Reed** and **Reeves Shulstad**
- Administrative Services Technology Portfolio: **Mitzi Cook**
- Information Security Advisory Council: **Trent Spaulding**
- Productivity and Security Technologies Portfolio Committee: **Dea Rice**
- Web & Mobile Services Technology Portfolio: **Jay Fenwick**

IT Governance reorganization
- The Technology Portfolio Committees are entering their 3rd year.
- Several committees need new leadership and membership. Please consider serving yourself and trying to identify colleagues.
- A new portfolio committee, Productivity and Security Technologies, will be formed by coalescing the policy implementation arm of the Information Security Advisory Council as well as the Technology Infrastructure and Architecture and the Productivity Platforms portfolio committees.
- Information Security Advisory Council has developed the University Information Security Policy. Council will continue with policy focus, but policy implementation moves to the new Productivity and Security Technologies Portfolio Committee.

Google Migration Status Update
- Migration is complete. Steering committee led by faculty members Dr. Diane Marks (C&I), Mr. Scott Rice (Library) and staff member Mr. Emory Maiden.
- Migration was staged in 5 phases including 85 staff in late April, 5500 faculty and staff in mid June, and 33,000 students in early August. Over 40,000 accounts storing 11.5 TeraBytes of data.
- Local support team also was developed in phases involving over 200 faculty and staff. Onix Networking was a migration partner and also assisted with training opportunities. Over 950 faculty and staff attended a mix of 56 webinar and facetoface training sessions.

AsULearn
- CIO recognizes vital importance of AsULearn as a campus enterprise application.
- Technical details regarding beginning of term performance issues
  - Summer software and hardware upgrade schedule followed.
  - At the start of term, underlying database performance dropped precipitously.
  - Oracle consultants suggested two database configuration modifications.
  - These modifications made an immediate and positive impact.
- Planning and prevention: Technical background
  - Learning Management Systems (LMSs) have different way of capacity planning than most other enterprise applications. System demand is not as regular or predictable.
  - The production instance of our LMS architecture, hardware and software, is sound.
  - The test instance of our LMS is not a replica of the production instance.
  - AsULearn is our branded version of Moodle which is an open source software system.
    - Advantages are that the code base is free, code base development is continual, and
development is rather vibrant. But there are disadvantages too that we are beginning to feel:

- Code is generally not optimized. Staff monitors performance to identify situations indicating an area to consider optimizing.
- There is no “vendor support” when a problem occurs as is the case with most enterprise applications. This includes not being provided with suggested configuration parameters or load performance guidelines.
- Overall system architectures tend to have scalability issues.

- Planning and Prevention: CIO action plan
  - Construction of a mirrored test instance to allow testing under similar conditions.
  - Developing processes to act as our own vendor.
  - Exploration of other large-scale Moodle users to try determine, in terms of scalability, how much “head room” we have to grow.