Appalachian State University
Faculty Senate Minutes

March 15, 2010 (Approved)

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Ramey at 3:20 pm in the William Strickland Conference Room in I.G. Greer on Monday, March 15, 2010. Senators Frindethie, Mercer-Ballard, and M. Williams were not in attendance.

I.  Announcements

A. Chair Ramey welcomed senators and asked visitors to introduce themselves. Visitors were Dr. Dave Haney (Academic Affairs), Dr. Michael Mayfield (General Education), Ms. Carter Hammett-McGarry (General Education), Dr. Nancy Love (IDS), Ms. Katherine Sbarbaro (Staff Council), Ms. Janice Smith (Staff Council), Ms. Monique Ecker (Staff Council), and Mr. Kevin Snook (Staff Council).

B. Chair Ramey asked for a motion to approve the excused absences of Senators Susan Anderson, Jackson, and Jennings. Senator Rardin moved and Senator Reesman seconded. Motion passed. (Vote #1). Chair Ramey added that Dr. Aeschleman was not in attendance as he is meeting with General Assembly and had been out of the country.

C. Chair Ramey briefed the Senate on the recent Chancellor Advisory Committee meeting which was attended by Senators Aycock, Brown, Carpenter, Marland, and Scharer with Chancellor Peacock and Mr. Earwood, Chief of Staff. Topics discussed included Appalachian State’s ongoing interest in purchasing real estate property and whether University College should have a Dean and Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education. Chair Ramey remarked that the vacant Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Compliance position, formally held by Dr. Linda Robinson, was returned to the state as part of the university’s permanent budget cut.

D. Chair Ramey updated the Senate on the progress of the search for the new Provost. Three or four finalist will be invited to campus in April and the new Provost will be announced hopefully by the end of April.

E. Senator Carpenter reported that faculty members in A&S and FAA have been asked to complete an online evaluation of their respective Deans by March 26, 2010. Please encourage your colleagues in these colleges to participate in this process.
II. Visitors’ Reports

A. Dr. Nancy Love, Program Director, Interdisciplinary Studies, provided a brief introduction about the IDS Program and distributed a handout entitled “Current Status of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program”.

B. Dr. Dave Haney provided a brief introduction to the General Education Program emphasizing that Academic Affairs continues to analyze and improve the general education curriculum. Ms. Carter Hammett-McGarry (General Education Program Director) stated that one-fourth of our total undergraduate students are currently enrolled in the general education program. There were no significant changes in sciences that could be attributed to the general education program. Several departments that made major curriculum revisions are showing a trend toward increased enrollment. Furthermore, the presence of course designations in themes seem to be drawing enrollments. In Fall 2010, only transfer courses in which students earned at least a “C” grade will be accepted. Dr. Michael Mayfield shared information about student enrollment in each general education perspective, theme, and college. The General Education’s Mid-Year Report can be accessed at http://www.generaleducation.appstate.edu/general-education-mid-year-report.

III. Minutes

A. Chair Ramey asked for a motion to approve the February 8, 2010 Faculty Senate minutes. Senator Newmark moved and Senator Short seconded. Motion passed. (Vote #2).

IV. Provost’s Report

A. Dr. Carey (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs) reported that the Chancellor’s Cabinet reviewed the Gift Acceptance Policy. Minor changes in some of the language will be done prior to resubmitting it to the Faculty Senate in April and to the Board of Trustees in June.

B. Dr. Carey explained how the university decides whether classes should be cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather. Mr. Greg Lovins (Business Affairs) consults with Campus Police, Physical Plant, AppalCart, and Dr. Ray Russell (weather forecaster) prior to conferring with the Provost and the Chancellor. Senator Marland commented that some students travel long distances to campus and when classes are canceled twenty minutes prior to classes being held, students are frustrated. Senator Marland suggested that announcing cancellations at least one hour in advance would help rectify this situation. Senator Aycock inquired if faculty members can include on their syllabi alternate
dates that classes will meet in case classes are cancelled. Dr. Carey replied that he will refer this question to Dr. Haney.

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

Chair Ramey asked committee chairs to submit their annual reports in writing before the April 12, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting. Chair Ramey will present recommendations from ad hoc committees to the Senate at the April 12 meeting.

Chair Ramey asked Senators to submit nominations for the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate Executive Board positions (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary) to the Faculty Senate office (facsen@appstate.edu). Any Senator who is continuing to serve on the Faculty Senate for the next academic year as well as any newly elected departmental senate representatives are eligible to be nominated.

A. Academic Policies (Miller, McCaughey, Newmark, Sherman, W. Williams)

No Report.

B. Agenda Committee (Ramey, Rardin, Carpenter, W. Williams)

No Report.

C. Budget Committee (Anderson, Aycock, Brown, Frindethie, Geary, Short)

No Report.

D. Campus Planning Committee (Mercer-Ballard, Marland, Scharer)

No Report.

E. Committee on Committees (Rardin, Gross, Mitchem, Napiorski, Stoddard)

No Report.

F. Faculty Handbook Committee (Ramey, Stella Anderson, Gates, Reesman, W. Williams, Carey)

No Report.

G. Faculty Welfare and Morale Committee (Carpenter, Gonzales, Ulmer, Wangler, Werts)

No Report.
H. Welfare of Students Committee (Winn, Galloway, Horst, Jackson, Jennings, Sanders)

No Report.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Chair Ramey reiterated that the Gift Acceptance Policy will be presented to the Senate at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Senator Rardin, co-chair of the Registration and Calendar Committee presented the following proposal: “The Registration and Calendar Committee requests feedback regarding the question of Labor Day for Fall 2011 and Fall 2012. Rather than taking the holiday the beginning of September, the idea was presented to take it the last Friday of the term so that a weekday, Reading Day, could be scheduled for students. For staff and faculty, the holiday would be scheduled at an alternate time during the term (i.e. Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the week following Christmas).” Senators asked questions and offered their comments regarding this proposal. Senator Rardin thanked Senators for their input and recommended that they submit their comments, concerns, or questions to registrar@appstate.edu.

Senator Rardin updated the Senate on the committee’s decision not to implement the proposed recommendations changing the academic calendar as discussed during the Faculty Senate’s meeting on February 8, 2010 (eliminating fall break and reading day, extending Thanksgiving break, and changing the length of the fall and spring semesters).

B. Chair Ramey asked for a motion to consider Staff Council’s “Resolution Opposing State of North Carolina Session Law 2009—16” regarding the State’s Health Care Comprehensive Wellness Initiative. (Appendix A). Senator Rardin moved and Senator Napiorski seconded to discuss this matter. Staff Council representatives discussed the negative implications of the Wellness Initiative. Mr. Kevin Snook read the following statements from the State Health Plan website:

“The State CWI seeks to operate in exemption of Federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) rules of both Title I and Title II which states:

Title I sets forth various provisions about how health care coverage is provided. Because the State Health Plan is self-funded and a non-federal government plans, Title I gives the Plan the authority to exempt itself from
some of the provisions. For example: Exemption areas include special enrollment periods, preexisting condition limitations, being able to treat individual participants and beneficiaries differently based on health status, and other areas. In order to implement a state-mandated wellness initiative (called the Comprehensive Wellness Initiative), North Carolina has chosen to seek a health status exemption. It is called a HIPAA waiver and it permits the Plan to focus on smoking/tobacco cessation and obesity programs. Title II governs the transmission of health information. It protects the privacy and security of members’ individual health information and prevents unauthorized use or disclosure. These provisions cannot be waived. The State Health Plan reaffirms that members’ health information will be protected, according to Title II of HIPAA and state laws, in the process of implementing the Comprehensive Wellness Initiative. The Plan will also continue to develop procedures to ensure protection of privacy and to prevent any accidental disclosure of protected information.”

Senator Rardin moved and Senator Napiorski seconded to support Staff Council’s resolution opposing the Comprehensive Wellness Initiative. Motion FS 09-10/03-1 passed. (Vote #3).

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Ramey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Aycock moved and Senator Ulmer seconded. Motion passed. (Vote #4). The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.
Appalachian State University
FACULTY PRESENT AND VOTING SHEET for March 15, 2010

Y = Yes             N = No               A = Abstain

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<td>Motion to approve Senators absences from today’s meeting. Motion passed.</td>
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<td>Motion to approve the February 8, 2010 Faculty Senate minutes. Motion passed.</td>
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<td>Motion to approve Staff Council’s Resolution Opposing State of North Carolina Session Law 2009-16. <strong>Motion FS 09-10/03-1 passed.</strong></td>
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<td>Motion to adjourn. Motion passed.</td>
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**Senator left meeting prior to casting any votes.**