APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
April 15, 2002 - (unapproved)

At 3:15 p.m. on April 8, 2002, Chair Weitz convened the Faculty Senate meeting in the University Conference Room (224 Greer Hall).

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   A. VISITORS. Weitz welcomed visitors and asked that they introduce themselves. (See voting sheet for visitors’ names.)
   B. MAY 6 MEETING. May 6 is the last scheduled Faculty Senate meeting. Weitz noted that she thought from the agenda, some of this meeting will be carried over to the May meeting. Weitz asked that all committees submit a written final report in advance for distribution prior to the May meeting. Also, election of officers will occur at the May meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that the pot-luck dinner will be held at the meeting and not at Moore’s house after the meeting.
   C. ELECTIONS. Weitz reported that election for some university committees as well as faculty senators is underway. Everyone should have received an email from their department and/or college regarding the elections.
   D. SEANC RALLY. Weitz reported that everyone should have received an email regarding the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) rally in Raleigh on June 12. There are two buses from Appalachian going down. If anyone would like to attend, contact Peggy Ellis at #3184 or ellispp@appstate.edu or Pat Reighard reighardpb@appstate.edu.

II. MINUTES
   Weitz noted that the March 25 minutes were distributed but since there was not a quorum, a vote on their approval could not be made.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
   C. AD-HOC COMMITTEE on DPCs
      Recommendations. Weitz reported that pink copy is the revised copy of all the approved changes so far. In addition, Weitz went through the new Faculty Handbook and incorporated the kind of language that is in there regarding the items in the pink copy. Weitz reminded the Senate that they are finished with the DPCs and are now reviewing the search committee section. The search committee section varies greatly from the Handbook which does not address necessary functions of search committees. It was thought by the ad-hoc committee that there are so many concerns from faculty regarding search committees that the DPC would take on articulated policies and procedures for them. It appears as though when every department is on its own to create those documents that those documents are not necessarily available to all faculty members for consulting; it becomes word of mouth. In addition, the Office of Academic Affairs distributes pretty tight guidelines offered as suggestions for departments to follow. In the current Handbook, each department either has a search committee or uses the DPC as a search committee. Those eligible to serve on a search committee are the same faculty that are eligible to serve on a DPC. In the pink copy, 4.8.5.C. lists the currently available options for using search committees.
At this time, the Chancellor and Jane Helm joined the Senate to give remarks and entertain questions.

IV. VISITORS

CHANCELLOR BORKOWSKI. The Chancellor brought the Senate up-to-date on the budget. The Chancellor quoted from a newspaper article regarding Governor Easley's comments about the budget, Governor Mike Easley tried to assure university officials yesterday that they will be spared the worst of budget cuts in the coming fiscal year. Easley has asked state agencies to prepare proposals that would trim their budget by 11% but a letter Easley sent to the 16 chancellors of the University of North Carolina said he would not recommend the same level of cuts as the other state agencies. While the Governor said he would not recommend the same level of cuts, he did not say what the level would be.

A couple of weeks ago, President Molly Broad submitted a proposal for cuts up to 4%. This past week, President Broad had another conference call with the 16 chancellors where a lot of views were expressed in terms of the 4% budget cut and what would happen if we are requested to beyond 4%. Some of the arguments by chancellors regarding what position for the university to take included: If we say, as the Governor would like us to say, we're not hurting the instructional process, we're being intellectually dishonest because a 4% cut and not filling positions is injurious to the instructional process; If we say this is hurting the instructional process, then we stand the risk of alienating the Governor and rather than having him say he does not want to hurt us, he has us cut more. Another argument was to acknowledge that we understand the fiscal dilemma the State is in and say here is our 4% cut (and hopefully that will be it). Another argument was to draw a line in the sand and simply say no.

The big question is what the legislature will do. Will they request a larger cut? If we leave it in the hands of the legislature, there is no guarantee that they will not try to micro manage the campuses. An increasing number of legislatures nationally have gotten into micro management of campuses by putting ceilings on campus budgets.

The Chancellor noted that about a week ago, the Governor questioned whether the Board of Governors' decision regarding the tuition increase was too high. The Chancellor added that in the state of Ohio they have passed a law stating that tuition cannot be increased more than 5%. The Chancellor also noted that forty-one states are cutting higher education budgets.

President Broad is trying to maintain order and control over the chancellors so that one does not say one thing and one another thing and end up damaging the whole University system. Appalachian is trying to make its case externally to as many constituent groups as possible and by providing data that indicates the consequences of the budget reductions on the learning environment and to constantly point out the positive aspects of the University. The Chancellor noted that it is difficult to keep everyone informed on a daily basis because the scenario changes daily (in the negative).

Weitz asked when the proposals for cuts from the 5-8% range will be submitted. Durham noted that he is working on an 8% cut only, even though Appalachian has not been asked for any cuts above the 4% range.

Weitz asked when departments will know if they can hire faculty; how long will they have to hold potential employees. Durham replied by the end of this week.

McLaughlin asked what were the dynamics between the budget cuts and admissions. Durham replied that the incoming freshman class for fall 2002 is going to be the same size as this year--2300-2400 students. The Chancellor added if we cut back on enrollment, we cut back on
revenues. The Chancellor noted that one idea to generate more revenue is adding 2% more out-of-state students. Helm noted that the Governor plans to fund enrollments increases next year at the same time we are experiencing these cuts. What this means is that if an institution has not demonstrated some growth, they will really be hurt by the budget cuts.

Simon asked the Chancellor about letting parents know, especially those of incoming freshmen, about the problems that their sons and daughters might face about larger classes. Once the parents know, hopefully they will contact legislators. The Chancellor responded that the Parents Association does plan to have a large scale push in a few more weeks. Pope added that it is important that we reach our students, too, because students can influence their parents. Yaukey noted that in her department she hears students talk who think that this budget crisis is happening on this campus alone and it is just Appalachian administrators' mismanagement of funds; they do not know that this is a statewide and nationwide issue.

The Chancellor then spoke to the senate regarding the parking issue. From the chancellor's standpoint, there is no way he is going to come out of this well. One, if not more, constituencies will not be happy with the outcome. Helm gave a little history on how we got where we are and how the timing could not be any worse. North Carolina Constitution defines five penalties and where those proceeds should go (depending on what type of fines they are). In 1973, the General Assembly passed an act that exempted universities from having its traffic fines subject to this rule. In 1996, Craven County Board of Education filed suit because according to the NC Constitution, all traffic fines should go to the local school board. Helm noted that Craven County BOE prevailed, but we were told by our legal counsel to ignore this. In 1998, a much larger group of school boards got together and decided they wanted the universities traffic fines. In December 2001, the school boards won their case and Appalachian was told to put in escrow all proceeds from traffic fines. This case is under appeal but until there is a final decision made, we have lost half our revenues (approximately $600,000/year) for traffic and parking. Currently, there is only one source of revenue to support all functions ($1.4 million/year) and that is through parking registrations. Helm reported that the Traffic Management and Safety Committee has been meeting and has come up with plans A-E. The Committee then voted unanimously on a plan. Helm suggested that the Committee take the plan out to the University community. After everyone has had an opportunity to see the plan, there will be an open forum. A web site will be established and the plan will then be voted on. Helm noted that if anyone has any ideas, there is still time to talk to the Committee about it.

Butts noted that the proposal is not popular especially during a time when it does not seem likely that anyone will receive a pay increase, particularly staff. Butts added that a progressive way of dividing the money needs to be considered, even if it means many faculty will pay more than the $180. The Chancellor encouraged Butts to have the senate pass a resolution along that line. Helm warned that it is very hard to determine who can and cannot afford the increase.

Weitz asked when a decision will be made on the appeal. Helm responded that she did not know.

Simon noted that he thought that a portion of the funds from the last parking increase was going to go towards the parking deck. Helm noted that she was more than happy to share with anyone the financial end of the parking fund.

The Chancellor thanked the Senate for their suggestions and comments. Tough decisions are going to have to be made and he will keep everyone informed as he possibly can on the developments that occur.
Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
   Mike Moore

Faculty Senate
Appalachian State University