

UAM ASSEMBLY MINUTES

May 6, 1998

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Phillip Tappe, Assembly Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 in the Spencer Gallery of the Fine Arts Center. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Webster motion, McConnell second).

Committee Reports

The following committees had no report: **Academic Appeals, Faculty Research, Library, Student Affairs, and Teacher Education.**

Athletic Committee: The athletic committee had met twice since the last Assembly meeting and will meet again in August before the start of football season.

Curriculum and Standards. The committee had met three times since the last Assembly meeting to consider proposals from four academic units. The committee approved five proposals from Nursing concerning the Advancement Placement Track degree program and one proposal from Business concerning a catalog change. Arts & Languages and the Division of Music had each submitted proposals and withdrawn them for further consideration at the unit level. A recent proposal from Arts and Languages will be held in committee until next year, as the proposal was received too late for consideration in this academic year.

The Assembly voted to approve the report of the committee.

Faculty Evaluation Committee-Ad Hoc Committee: Dr. Tappe delivered a report for Dr. Paul Francis, committee chair, who could not be present. The number of issues involved in revising the faculty evaluation forms and procedure were more extensive than expected. The process will be returned to the office of Academic Affairs. The committee may be re-formed in the future.

Program Review Committee-Ad Hoc Committee. Dr. John Annulis, committee chair, delivered the report. The full report had been distributed to the faculty by e-mail. Dr. Annulis gave the Assembly an overview of the charge of the committee and the recent changes at the state level that necessitated the revision of the program review process. Faculty were asked to review the e-mail report, particularly Exhibit A which lists the ten-year schedule for the review of individual academic programs on campus.

Nomination and Election of Officers for 1998-1999

Dr. Tappe opened the floor for additional nominations for the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. There were no additional nominees beyond Rick Clubb and Guy Nelson for Chair, Russell Nordeen and Rose McConnell for Vice-Chair, Jim Roiger and Walt Godwin for Secretary, and Bonnie Gleason and Rick Williams for Parliamentarian. Dr. Jimmie Yeiser moved that the nominations be closed. (Blackmon second).

After the ballots were distributed and the votes were tallied, Tappe announced the officers for the 1998-1999 academic year:

Chair: Rick Clubb

Vice-Chair: Russell Nordeen

Secretary: Walt Godwin

Parliamentarian: Bonnie Gleason

Administrative Reports

Ms. Linda Yeiser, Vice-Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs

Ms. Yeiser announced that there will be an increase in health insurance premiums, possibly as much as 10 percent. The decision will be made by the 1st of June. Basically, we have paid out \$260,000 more in claims than were taken in as premiums, necessitating the increase. The faculty and staff will be informed of the increase as soon as the exact amount is known.

There were several queries from the floor about construction. The \$8 million figure given for the new library in a recent position ad was incorrect-we have not had an increase in the library budget. The actual budget is \$5,786,000 for construction. With architect fees and furnishings added in, the total sums to approximately \$7 million. The plan to replace the electrical lines on campus with underground lines is still on the drawing board and will be one of the topics discussed in an upcoming meeting. The University hopes to replace the lines in the interior of the campus, and then the lines on the perimeter. The move to underground lines will make the campus more attractive and will make power more secure in the event of another ice storm.

Dr. Debbie Bryant, Office of Academic Affairs

Dr. Bryant gave the Assembly an update on the revised policy on graduate studies at UAM. The Office of Graduate Studies is located in Academic Affairs and is headed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or designee. The graduate faculty consists of the President of the System, the Chancellor, and members of the faculty holding the rank of Assistant Professor or higher who are teaching graduate classes or who have other significant involvement in graduate studies (serving on student committees, supervising research, contributing scholarly expertise, etc). Admission to the graduate faculty will be

based upon approval of application (resume and proposed role in the program) by the Graduate Council. Other qualified faculty may be eligible for temporary membership. Faculty who are not members of the graduate faculty may be assigned teaching responsibility for graduate courses with the approval of the Graduate Council.

The Graduate Council is made up of graduate faculty (no unit heads) and two graduate student members (one from Education and one from Forest Resources). The graduate faculty on the Council will consist of two members each from the School of Education and the School of Forest Resources and one member each from the Divisions offering concentrations in the graduate education degree.

The full document is available for review in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Bryant made a number of announcements. Sixty-four incoming students were invited to Scholars Day, and 56 attended and registered for fall classes. She thanked the faculty who participated in Scholars Day. Summer registration for incoming freshmen will be held on July 10, 17, and 24. Grade rosters have been distributed. Grades are due in the registrar's office by noon on May 13. Commencement is May 15. The order of procession has been distributed through the campus mail.

Dr. Fred Taylor, Chancellor of the University

Dr. Taylor gave the Assembly an update on budgetary matters. Higher education is not among the agencies that will experience increased funding from the higher-than-anticipated state revenues. UAM will have a budget hearing in the near future with Dr. Sugg and ADHE on items the University has submitted for funding. The Board will meet to approve the budget this month. Letters of appointment should be mailed by June 1.

There will be no tuition increase at UAM this year. There will be an increase in fees, specifically the part of fees charged to full-time students that varies with the number of hours taken. This fee is assessed in an effort to discourage drops and to encourage students to think about their course load when they register.

The enrollment figures for the fall semester are encouraging. The figure falls between the level for last year and the preceding year at this time. Next year the University will emphasize long run planning in the recruitment process. A number of recent developments in state legislatures could affect enrollment at UAM. The Louisiana state legislature has passed an act that allows Louisiana residents to attend college tuition-free in Louisiana if they meet certain conditions. At the present the program is for freshmen only. This program will have some effect on college enrollment in neighboring states. In Arkansas, the Governor's scholarship program should come before the legislature this year. This program is similar to the Louisiana program, in that it will allow Arkansas residents to attend Arkansas colleges tuition-free if they meet certain conditions. It is not clear at this time if the Governor's program will apply to freshmen only or if it will apply to public universities or private and public universities.

University participation in Internet/distance learning programs will be one of the topics discussed during Faculty Development week in the fall. Dr. Travis has been asked to develop a plan to involve the University in providing distance learning and Web classes.

Dr. Taylor made a number of announcements concerning recent faculty and staff activities. Dr. Travis will take office as the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs on June 1. Dr. Travis has been on campus this month and will participate in the spring commencement activities. Ms. Peggy Doss has completed her doctorate. Ms. Lynn Leggett and Ms. Ruth Pellow have entered a doctoral program. Susan Brewer is the new Director of Financial Aid.

Faculty who are interested in telephone calling cards should contact their unit head, who will contact Ms. Yeiser.

Three divisions have been designated as Schools. The unit heads will become Deans. The Division of Arts and Languages will become the School of Humanities, the Division of Mathematics and Sciences will become the School of Mathematics and Sciences, and the Division of Social Sciences will become the School of Social Sciences.

Announcements and Adjournment

Gary Marshall reminded the Assembly membership that the Monticello Rough and Ready Festival was taking place that weekend. Several students, faculty, and staff members are involved in the Festival, and Marshall asked the University community to show its support for the community of Monticello by attending the Festival.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10

Minutes submitted by Marsha Clayton, Assembly Secretary