



Armstrong Atlantic State University
Faculty Meeting
Minutes of September 18, 2006

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m. in University Hall 156 by Vice President Ellen Whitford. There were 171 of 292 faculty members in attendance, with seven excused absences. The roster is on file in the Vice President's Office with the official minutes.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of August 10, 2006 were approved as presented.
- III. **Old Business**
- A. eCore Proposal Ellen Whitford

The eCore Proposal sent forward by the University Curriculum Committee and tabled at the Faculty Meeting of April 10, 2006, was brought back to the floor. Dr. Joyce Bergin read the proposal:

“Proposed:

That the university approve the e-core curriculum as parallel core curriculum for three years, with a report and recommendation on our status to be made by the Advisory Committee on Distributed Learning to the University Curriculum Committee in February 2010. More precisely:

- (1) Students who apply to Armstrong as ecore students (meaning they intend to complete the whole core curriculum using ecore courses) will be able to use the ecore curriculum as their core curriculum in completing an Armstrong degree.
- (2) Students who transfer to Armstrong after having completed the ecore will be treated as students who have completed the core.
- (3) Students who apply to Armstrong for regular admissions can only use ecore courses to the extent that they satisfy the core curriculum requirements of AASU.”

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. There was discussion and the vote was called by show of hands. The motion failed, 74-79.

B. Special election results

Phyllis Panhorst

Dr. José da Cruz was elected to fill the vacant seat left on the Executive Committee by the retirement of Dr. Keith Douglass. Dr. da Cruz will serve the remaining year of Dr. Douglass' term.

The total number of votes cast was 153 in the initial election and 141 in the runoff election. These numbers are comparable with voter turnout in the regular spring elections. The online voting interface seemed to function with ease, and no problems were reported.

IV. New Business**A. Reports of the Standing Committees to the Faculty****1. Executive Committee**

Joyce Bergin

a. Faculty governance

Dr. Bergin reported that the Faculty Governance Development Group is working diligently on developing a senate-like governance structure for the faculty. She thanked Professor Suzanne Carpenter and the rest of the committee for their hard work.

b. Bylaws revision, first reading (see Attachment 1)

The Executive Committee brought forward for first reading some revisions to the Bylaws. These revisions would change the membership of some of the Standing Committees of the Faculty to bring the Bylaws into alignment with changes made in the organization and structure of some offices on campus. The revisions would also add representation from the Office of Student Success to some committees that are crucial to the success of students.

The proposed revisions will be brought for a second reading and vote at the October Faculty Meeting.

2. Writing

Leigh Rich

The Writing Committee has met three times this semester. The committee was proud to host this year's first "First Friday Faculty Forum" on "invention" techniques to help students develop interesting and effective paper topics. The committee would like to thank the Faculty Development Committee and the faculty and student panelists who participated. The committee will be helping the Writing Center celebrate its 25th anniversary this year, with events and festivities slated for mid- to late-October. Also, it is not too early to be thinking about submissions for the 2007 Student Writing Showcase. Details about submission procedures will be disseminated soon.

3. Faculty Activities

Patrick Brennan

The bocce tournament is already underway. Seventy-seven faculty and staff are participating. In last year's bocce tournament, The Sisypheans were undefeated. Dr. Brennan presented a certificate to Sisyphian team member Erik Nordenhaug.

The committee is also working with Al Harris in Student Affairs to oversee a student organization tournament during AASU Day.

The Garden Tours are still in the works. More information is forthcoming soon.

A survey was distributed to get feedback on what activities faculty members might have interest. Dr. Brennan asked that the surveys be returned within the week.

4. Student Recruitment, Advisement, & Retention

Pete Mellen

The committee is hosting the October 6 Faculty Forum to discuss what faculty can do to aid students in forming their own communities. Members of Student Services will be available to answer questions.

The committee is also sponsoring drop-in day tomorrow. Faculty and staff will visit students in their residence halls and talk with them about their experiences and concerns as members of the Armstrong community.

5. Faculty Development

Dick Nordquist

Internal grants packets – which include RFPs for Research & Scholarship Grants, Teaching and Learning Grants, and the new Gignilliat Summer Fellowship – were sent to all full-time faculty this morning. If you haven't received your packet by tomorrow, please call Dr. Nordquist. By the end of this week, the RFPs will also be posted at the grants page of the Faculty Development website.

The deadline for submitting Research and Scholarship grant proposals and Teaching and Learning grant proposals is October 20. The deadline for submitting proposals for the Gignilliat Summer Fellowship is October 27.

An internal grants workshop for faculty is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, October 4, in Solms 110.

Also linked on the Faculty Development website is information on Advanced Academic Research Leave. This is a six-month leave, and one has to apply six months in advance. For more information please check the website or call Dr. Nordquist.

6. Library

Patricia Coberly

The committee has met twice. The goals they have set are:

- 1) Develop a timeline and review the information packets for the Brockmeier Award selection process, which will begin during the spring semester;
- 2) Create a communication conduit for faculty feedback to determine the teaching and research needs of the faculty; and
- 3) Create a library science scholarship in the name of Ben Lee.

The library renovations are complete, and usage of the facility is rising. The rededication of Lane Library is scheduled for October 25th at noon. Light refreshments will be served, and a portrait and plaque will be unveiled dedicating a library instruction classroom to Ben Lee.

7. Research & Scholarship

Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas

The committee is working with the Faculty Development Committee to update the RFP for the Research and Scholarship internal grant. The committee will meet again Wednesday.

It is not too early to encourage students to think about their submissions for the Spring Scholarship Symposium.

8. Academic Appeals

Stephen Prmatic

The committee has met twice. There were 68 undergraduate appeals – 57 for admission and 11 for readmission. Of the 57 admission appeals, 10 were granted regular admission, 15 were granted limited admission, and 32 were denied admission. Of the 11 readmission appeals, one was granted regular admission, 4 were granted limited admission, and 6 were denied readmission.

9. Faculty Evaluation

David Brown

No report.

10. Faculty Welfare

William Baird

Surveys have been distributed to see what issues are the most important to the faculty. Surveys can be handed in at the end of the meeting or sent to Dr. Baird.

11. Financial Aid & Scholarship

Pamela Sears

The committee met on May 25 and final scholarship recommendations were made.

The final tallies were:

76 applied (69% increase), selected 12 Non-trad (+ 6 alternates) (15.8% success)
 96 applied (71% increase), selected 15 returning juniors (+ 5 alternates) (15.6% success)
 40 applied (24% decrease), selected 10 returning seniors (+ 3 alternates) (25% success)
 60 applied (no change), selected 15 returning sophomores (+ 1 alternate) (25% success)
 48 applied (4% decrease), selected 10 returning freshman (+ 5 alternates) (21% success)
 21 applied (5% decrease), selected 4 graduate students (+ 0 alternates) (19% success)

The committee met again on September 14 and discussed creating separate graduate and undergraduate applications.

12. Honors Advisory

Jonathan Roberts

No report.

13. International Programs & Activities no report

Jim Anderson

No report.

14. Grievance

Dan Lipsa

No report.

15. Admissions & Academic Standing

Janet Stone

Dr. Stone reported that the average combined SAT score for our incoming freshmen is 1020. This is one point less than last year and one point below the national average. However, it is well above the State of Georgia average of 990. These scores are the combined verbal and math portions and do not include the new writing portion. Mr. Kim West provided the information.

16. Student Conduct

Michael Hall

No report.

17. University Curriculum Committee

Ellen Whitford

No report.

V. Other Business. There was no other business.

VI. Announcements

A. Faculty Lecture Series

Christopher Hendricks

The kickoff for this year's Faculty Lecture Series will be this Friday at 12:10 p.m. in UH 156. Dr. Jack Simmons will speak on "Genes, Memes, Evolution and the Technologies of Information."

B. Coastal Georgia Writing Project

Pat West

The Coastal Georgia Writing Project received continued funding for 2006-07 in the amount of \$45,000. November 10 and 11 is the annual fall conference on the teaching of writing, held with the support of the College of Education. The students who went to summer institute program will be presenting classroom demonstrations. Nine students received fellowships. There are still four sessions at the conference that need to be filled. If you have an outstanding strategy for teaching of writing and would like to participate, please contact Pat West. There will also be tables for exhibitors.

C. Irish Studies

Frank Clancy

The Irish Studies group will meet Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. In celebration of Oscar Wilde's birthday on October 15, a biographical film of Wilde will be shown at the meeting. There is a still photo shown in the film that shows Wilde at the St. Patrick's celebration in Savannah. Also, the 20th anniversary of the Dangerfield talks is coming up in six months.

D. Give for the Gulf

Alice Adams

There will be another trip to Mississippi over Fall Break to continue the rebuilding effort. This time the group will be working on new construction. More faculty are needed for the trip; contact Dr. Adams if you are interested. Also, please promote this trip to your students.

E. Savannah Read

Dick Nordquist

The book that has been selected for the campus and city-wide Read next spring is Zora Neale Hurston's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Many community partners are involved, and we'll know by November whether we've been successful in securing an NEH grant to help fund reading activities at schools, libraries, and book clubs as well as on campus. Anyone with a special interest in this novel or in using it in a class next spring should call Dr. Nordquist at 5991 for more information.

F. Office of Student Success

Barbara Tanenbaum

Dr. Tanenbaum distributed information sheets introducing the new Office of Student Success (see Attachment 2).

G. *The Fall of Fujimori*

Mark Finlay

Filmmaker Ellen Perry will screen her latest film, *The Fall of Fujimori* at 7 p.m., Friday, September 22 in the Armstrong Center. Perry will host a Q & A session following the screening. The event is free and open to the public

H. Upcoming Theatre Events

Pete Mellen

The Masquers have several upcoming performances of *The Play's The Thing*, which will be performed in the Jenkins Black Box Theater. They will be opening *Picnic* in Jenkins Theater on September 28.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis L. Panhorst
Coordinator of Faculty Information

Proposed By-laws changes

Rationale: The proposed updates will reflect reorganization and current practice.

Academic Appeals (Article VII, Section B.11)

The committee shall be composed of six faculty members, ~~the dean of graduate studies or his/her designee~~, the vice president for student affairs or his/her designee, ~~and~~ the registrar (ex officio, nonvoting), **and the head of the Office of Student Success (ex officio, nonvoting)**. The presence of four members at an appeals hearing shall constitute a quorum.

Committee on Financial Aid and Scholarship (Article VII, Section B.14)

The membership shall consist of seven faculty representatives, the registrar, the director of recruiting, the director of minority affairs, the director of academic advisement and orientation, and the honors program coordinator. The director of financial aid (or designee), the dean of graduate studies, ~~and~~ the vice president of external affairs (or designee), **and the head of the Office of Student Success** shall be ex officio nonvoting members (Revised 10/04).

Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing (Article VII, Section B.3)

The committee shall be composed of six faculty members, the vice president of student affairs or his/her designee, the director of admissions (ex officio, nonvoting), **the head of the Office of Student Success (ex officio, nonvoting)**, and one student.

Committee on Student Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention (Article VII, Section B.12)

The committee shall be composed of seven faculty representatives, one representative from the Student Government Association, and one representative from the Graduate Student Coordinating Council. Ex officio, nonvoting members are the director of academic orientation and advisement, the director of minority affairs, the executive director of marketing, ~~and~~ the registrar, **and the head of the Office of Student Success**.

WELCOME TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS "Each Student Is Our Most Valuable Asset"

FOCUS ON THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Our mission is to develop, sustain, and improve efforts that assist and promote student success during the first two years of college life.

The Office of Student Success is in the process of developing and implementing initiatives to focus on the approximately 696 enrolled first time full-time students. Preliminary data indicate that roughly 33% of these students reside in one of the campus residence halls.

- We are in the process of engaging students enrolled in the AASU 1100 classes in conversations (focus groups) that are allowing us to gather information on various processes such as application, admission, financial aid, advisement, and course progression. We also use these opportunities to share the many tutorial and library services that AASU offers. Thank you for allowing us into your classes.
- Collaboratively with the Office of Student Affairs, we are implementing these student focus groups at various student-oriented locations on campus.
- We are developing a letter and tutorial services information brochure that will be mailed to each of these students to help provide assistance. In order to ensure that we provide the most current and comprehensive information, please notify me if your department provides tutorials.
- We are also working collaboratively with Faculty Development to coordinate a program of faculty mentoring. We welcome your input and ideas as we develop this initiative.

Each faculty member plays a crucial role in student success by providing a positive, supportive environment both in and outside of the classroom. Students who feel connected and have a sense of community are more likely to stay and graduate. We would like to hear your ideas on initiatives to facilitate student success as we continue to develop this office.

Please call me at 921-5968, e mail me at success@mail.armstrong.edu or at tanenbba@mail.armstrong.edu, or stop by to visit at Victor Hall 203.