MINUTES
Kansas State University Faculty Senate Meeting
February 11, 2003  3:30 p.m.  Big 12 Room, K-State Union


Proxies: Haddock, Jones, May, Minton, Newhouse, Rahman

Absent: Baker, Behnke, Cook, De Bres, DeLuccie, Dryden, Dubois, Klingzell, Maatta, Mathews, O’Hara, Pickrell, Reddi, Ross, Rys, Schlup, Sherow

Visitors: Tom Rawson, Mike Holen, Marc Johnson Stephen White, Livi Regenbaum,

I. President Al Cochran called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. Senator Michie moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2003 meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

III. Announcements

A. Faculty Senate Leadership Council  Attachment 1
B. Kansas Board of Regents meeting  Attachment 2
C. Report from Student Senate - none
D. Other
   1. President Cochran announced that Donna Potts, AAUP President at KSU, has invited faculty to the Higher Education day at the state capitol on February 25, 2003. She also invited faculty to a luncheon on February 18th in Union 205, from noon to 1:00 p.m. where strategies related to the Higher Education Day visit will be discussed.

   2. President Cochran announced that Dr. Kenneth Klabunde University Distinguished Professor, Chemistry, will give the lecture “Introduction to the Nanoworld and a Magical Length Scale” as part of the Provost’s Lecture Series on Monday, February 24, 2003, 3:30 pm to 5:00 p.m., Hemisphere Room, 5th Floor Hale.

   3. President Cochran and President-elect Bob Zabel have been attending very informative Monday morning Legislative update sessions with Sue Peterson and President’s staff.
IV. Presentation on budget issues - Vice President Tom Rawson, Deans Michael Holen, Marc Johnson, Stephen White

Vice President Tom Rawson began the presentation indicating that since last fiscal year, K-State has had a reduction of $14 million in purchasing power. These challenges represent about 8% of our general fund block grant. Since Extension Service and Research Programs (ESARP) has no tuition revenue, they have been hit even harder. The university was pleased with Governor Kathleen Sebelius’ proposed budget for FY 2004, which recommended maintaining the current budget level for remainder of FY 2003 and into FY 2004. In addition, she recommended funding a 1 ½% salary increase for all employees, although the university would have an obligation to contribute to a portion of that amount. Some tuition enhancement revenues could potentially be used in this way. Even though she recommended holding the FY 2004 budget steady, we would still have net reductions because we would be responsible for funding an increase in FICA taxes because of higher contribution limits, increase in health insurance costs, and an increase in the death and disability contribution. This amounts to about $3.7 million of unfunded obligations.

The university administration is still concerned about the state’s economy, as through the end of January, we were $29 million below revenue estimates. They will continue to monitor tax receipts and legislative developments as they fine-tune the K-State budget planning parameters for FY 2004. Vice President Rawson appreciates the openness the administration has with Faculty Senate groups and the general university community during this process.

Dean Mike Holen discussed the College of Education process for budget planning. Their Executive Committee is designated as the College Committee on Planning (CCOP). Faculty Senators and President-elect Bob Zabel have had on-going meetings with Dean Holen in addressing budget challenges. They have had four general faculty meetings and many other meetings since early fall. They will likely be dropping two doctoral programs, among several other steps they have taken, which includes closing the Urban Education Center in Kansas City. They have also cut the Center for Economic Education and the Center for Extended Services, and have made significant cuts to the Science Education Center. They plan to increase college soft money budgeting by placing tenured faculty on $100,000 to $150,000 of extramural funding. They will cut $75,000 to $100,000 in temporary and part-time faculty. They will not fill 2 FTE senior faculty positions. They are concerned with administrative costs and are looking at several areas, including potential re-organization.

Dean Marc Johnson discussed that to start FY 2003, ESARP took all budget cuts proportionately from all units and left 3% in reserve. Overall, they have cut 6 FTE from teaching faculty, 15 ESARP faculty and 13 classified positions and $1.6 million out of their operating budget. They required county extension councils to begin sharing in the cost of non-retirement benefits. They have closed one area extension office. They were able to centralize the teaching budget reductions for FY 2003, but will need to pass those reductions on to departments for FY 2004. They utilized the federal early retirement incentive program for federal retirement participants and offered a retirement incentive to all tenured faculty funded at least .5 FTE by ESARP. They have established a prioritization process for the college. ESARP has a much larger committee that includes representation from five relevant colleges. A faculty advisory process for program
justification has been established, led by Mike Smith and Mike Bradshaw, current Faculty Senate caucus chairs for Agriculture and Cooperative Extension, respectively. The administration is working with the legislature to request funding differentiation for ESARP, KUMC, and the Geological Survey because of the lack of or minimal tuition revenue to fund those programs.

Dean Stephen White indicated that the College of Arts and Sciences has had a very open process. Many discussions have been held with Faculty Senate caucus, CCOPS, and department heads. The first priority is to protect non-tenured faculty. In addition, GTAs are essential to their programs so priority is placed on maintaining that base. Department heads have had freedom in how to deal with the budget callbacks, which have totaled some $430,000. ESARP reductions have particularly hit the Division of Biology, Biochemistry and Statistics. The college has recouped all possible salary savings. Matching support for faculty development grants and awards has been eliminated until the financial situation improves. Sabbatical leaves have been greatly reduced.

V. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Academic Affairs Committee - Jackie Spears

1. Jackie Spears moved approval of the addition to a graduation list:

   August 2002
   Steven J. Lackey, Architecture, Planning, and Design, Bachelor of Architecture

   Motion passed.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee - Eric Maatta - no report

C. Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning - Walter Schumm

1. Walter Schumm discussed the Kansas Board of Regents establishment of a new award program for one tenured and one non-tenured faculty member.
2. Schedule 25 - Technology classrooms are booked during the day but most are generally available during the evening.
3. There is continued interest from administration to have a one-stop student center in East Stadium. Funding has not yet been identified for this development.
4. There continues to be some discussion on the University Calendar, particularly regarding the two-day fall break and the spring semester start date.

D. Faculty Senate Committee on Technology - Beth Montelone

1. Beth Montelone announced that Dr. Rosemary Talab, Coordinator of the Intellectual Property Information Center, was a guest at their last meeting to discuss the TEACH act (Technology Education and Copyright Harmonization) and its impact on and significance to online and distance education. She will work with faculty to advise them in this area. See the January 21, 2003 FSCOT minutes for further information.
2. The committee also discussed plagiarism and that some universities have purchased software that identifies plagiarized materials.

VI. Old Business - none
VII. New Business - none

VIII. For the Good of the University
1. Senator Krstic discussed his concern about the article regarding K-State Women’s Basketball team and religion, published in The Manhattan Mercury on February 2, 2003. President Cochran related that he is unaware of any official university response to the article. Faculty Senate Leadership Council discussed the article, and its ramifications, at its regularly scheduled meeting the day after it appeared in print. Senator Holden would like to know if this is pervasive throughout all K-State athletic teams or just narrowed to Women’s Basketball. Senator Jurich articulated several potential issues. 1) Are certain profiles required during the hiring process? 2) Prayer prior to an athletic event appears to be legal. 3) Does a given player’s playing time revolve around religious preferences? Senator Verschelden suggested that Mary Molt, as a senator and chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Council, review the matter and report back at the next meeting. Senator Molt agreed to that process.

2. Senator Elder announced that the Library will be coordinating a serials review/reduction process.

3. President Cochran would like senators to consider ways in which we may reach out to the Salina faculty and affirmed his commitment to facilitate that process.

4. Regarding the new Kansas Board of Regents Faculty Awards program, President Cochran announced that Pittsburg State University has decided to opt out of the awards program. Faculty Senator Leadership Council will be visiting with the President’s staff about our potential participation in this program. He would like faculty senate input on this matter.

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.
President Wefald expressed relief that Riley County and Mercy Health Center have worked out arrangements on the Sunset Avenue facility so we may now proceed to move the Student Health Center to that facility. He speculated over the prospects of the Governor’s proposed state budget and the economic uncertainties that he thinks will persist for some time. The Legislature is initially very supportive of the Governor’s recommendations. President Wefald took Reggie Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, to lunch in the Union Food Court this week and spent some time at the faculty round table. President Robinson was most impressed. President Wefald also briefly discussed progress with the Regents Performance Agreements Task Force, of which he is a member, indicating that the intent is to design them in such as way as to not impinge upon the individual diverse missions of the universities.
1. The BOR had extended discussion relative to what should be their legislative agenda and how it should be put forward, this in response to queries made by Daron Jamison, chair of the Students’ Advisory Committee. Students want their voices to be heard regarding upcoming deliberations about tuition increases.

2. Dick Carter, BOR legislative liaison, indicated that the office is working on a budget template to facilitate interaction with the legislature. He expressed concern regarding possible unfunded mandates that could be passed on to the board, such as tuition benefits for the families of deceased state workers, for example. Regent Bond stated that we need to have a coordinated effort, focused around the theme, “Thank you for stopping the blood flow, but higher education is still on life support!”

3. The Council of Business Officers’ white paper was submitted to the governor’s efficiency team, but it is uncertain how it will be received. If COBO’s recommendations are accepted, it could save higher education institutions a great deal of money through not having to use state-authorized suppliers of products.

4. KSU’s new degree request for a Master of Public Health was approved by the BOR.

5. The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents discussed possible tuition hikes for next year and the processes and procedures on each campus that are used to make these decisions. In comments to the BOR, the COFSP chair stated that the council feels that these decisions should include significant input from faculty and students.

6. The BOR accepted and passed the COFSP proposal for Regents’ Faculty of the Year Awards.

7. Discussion occurred regarding the Performance Agreements initiative, including a report from the task force established to investigate this topic.

8. Discussion occurred regarding the Southwest Kansas Access Group. In this time of limited financial capability on the part of the state of Kansas, it was decided that a single site will not be adopted, but rather something involving multiple sites and providers.

9. The governor’s address received a positive response from BOR members and the representatives from the governed institutions.