

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
November 3, 2011, Union room 205, 3:30 pm

Present: Burenheide, Cates, Cauble, Condia, Graham, Lynn-Sherow, Reed, Smith, Soldan, Watts

Absent: Carlin, Honey

Visitors: Karen Blakeslee, Katie Kingery-Page, Sue Peterson, Tom Vontz

1. Bob Condia, chair, called the meeting to order at 3: 30 pm
2. The October 6, minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Visitor: Sue Peterson, Director of governmental relations and assistant to the president (3:35 pm)
 - a. Sue's job or assignment and how she fits into the scheme of the university.
A little history: Sue started in this position in 1989. She handed out a Kansas Legislative Timeline for committee members, which FSCOUP will give as a handout at Faculty Senate's meeting next week. She represents Kansas State University in the state legislature and also at congress in Washington, D.C. She has an office in Anderson hall. During the Jan-May legislative session she can be found in Topeka. Occasionally she goes to Washington D.C. as well. Spoke about earmarks and how they prepare documentation and take a few key individual deans and others and visit Washington yearly. This year they will be going in March. Sue networks a lot to find out information that she needs. She doesn't claim to know all the answers but feels it is very important to know who to contact. Sue reports directly to President Schulz and has an assistant and two interns. She has started a brief newsletter that goes out to congressional state offices and legislators; the second one goes out tomorrow. Also spoke about the 8020 Committee on governmental issues here at K-State and the work they do. As a little piece of information: legislators in Topeka have no staff so they share a support staff person. Some of the initiatives taken to thank legislators and create good will and visibility for K-State were mentioned. K-State creates limestone name plates for K-State alumni in Topeka; we do "Cats in the Capital" where ice cream and cookies are taken to State offices in Topeka; and we put on a "Pizza and Politics" event which is done yearly and is being held tonight. FS President Vontz thanked Peterson very much for her hard work. He spoke about a one-page document that the Council of Faculty Senate President's is working on to take to state legislators this year. He thanked FSCOUP for functioning in their roles and pushing ideas forward.
 - b. Notes on the status of KSU's political climate, and how we all can help.
Legislative session starts on January 9 and the budget process will start next week. Governor will give the state of the state very early this year and he will have a big agenda. She highlighted some of the issues that will be coming up this year, including working to rewriting the tax laws and tax changes. Sue reported that every 10 ten years we draw new boards: and it is time now. Because of the legislative cycle, there will also be a whole new house and senate this time next year, which can be chaotic. As far as she can tell, the governor would like to keep higher education funding stable. That in a nutshell is the climate. It was commented that this seems to be a "least harm" kind of year. Sue would agree. Value in Kansas; Condia asked if jobs are the only way to evaluation for the legislators in Kansas? Peterson commented the governor is interested in being ranked. College of Engineering is ranked also the College of Architecture, Planning and Design. The College of Veterinary Medicine is 16 out of 28, however Cates indicated there isn't a really good metric. K-State would like to push for that ranking. Conversation continued among committee members and visitors about rankings as a metric. Peterson briefly discussed the change that is being pushed for by community colleges to be able to be in a county with a four-year college as well as transfer and articulation. Vontz spoke more on transfer and articulation. He reported that the COFSP (Council of Faculty Senate Presidents) spoke with the regents about this at their breakfast with them this past

month. Lynn-Sherow also spoke to this topic. Ethical arguments about this are being made to the board as well. Lynn-Sherow mentioned cost comparison and noted that one community college charges \$80 versus K-State's \$300 per credit hour. How do we show that we are worth the higher amount per credit hour? Members and visitors discussed this. The rate that students drop out when they transfer in after being in a community college because they're not prepared well enough was also discussed and whether there is data on this. Condia changed topics slightly to tuition over the last 20 years; there being related to proportionally less state legislative support (percentage wise) from the state. Historical data was recalled regarding jobs and higher education in the last 100 years.

c. Prepare for our December's meeting with our local legislators

Peterson noted the story we ought to tell is that we are a Land Grant institution and it's the right time, since it's the 150th anniversary. Why are we relevant? We have to be able to answer that question and tell our worth. We are ranked in Engineering and Architecture, Vet Med is working towards that; she also mentioned College of Education and its work. We want to make our good programs better and continue to tell their story. It was noted this might be a good part of that brief one-page fact sheet that COFSP is putting together. Discussed topics to continue talking about-- look at all the jobs that come because there are workers being educated here. Talked about how many graduates are now staying after graduation; the number has gone up significantly in the last few years. Graham suggested that should be in the fact sheet too.

Peterson thanked the committee for having her and invited them anytime to the 8020 committee.

4. Any New Business?

a. Have a look at the merit salary system?

This was briefly discussed and will be kept on the agenda. Lynn-Sherow commented on compression at the university.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

"Pizza and Politics" if you can attend (flyer attached).

Next meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2011, Union room 212, 3:30 pm with our invited legislators and faculty senate leadership.