

**MINUTES**  
**FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING**  
**December 1, 2011 UNION 212 at 3:30 pm**

In attendance: Karen Blakeslee, Bob Condia, Sharolyn Flaming Jackson, Steven Graham, Peggy Honey, Heather Reed, Drew Smith, David Soldan, Jaebeom Suh, Tim Watts

Absent: Brad Burenheide, Lynn Carlin, Michael Cates, Betsy Cauble, Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, Nate Spriggs

Guests: Andy Bennett, Sydney Carlin, Katie Kingery-Page, Roger Reitz, Tom Vontz,

1. Bob Condia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm
2. The November 3, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted. Motion carried.
3. Visitors: Sydney Carlin, Roger Reitz and members of the Faculty Senate Leadership Council  
Condia had guests and committee members introduce themselves.

Condia informed visitors about the mechanics of FSCOUP and what their focus resource issues are: economic and physical plant. One of their purviews is budgetary needs and planning; therefore talking to state legislators about the current climate is appropriate. President Vontz took the opportunity and welcomed representatives Carlin and Reitz and thanked them for taking time to visit with the Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning. He highlighted that Faculty Senate would like their input on how to better tell our story not only locally, but nationally. Vontz opened the conversation. The below questions were outlined as conversation starters.

- A. How can we help each other tell the story of our land grant institution (150 years in the making) in its many successes and national academic rankings?
- B. Given the declining percentage of state funding, and the parallel increase in student tuition, what can we say to the students and parents about their necessity to accumulate such significant debt before graduation?
- C. President Schulz and the faculty have articulated a vision for 2025 to place K-State as a top 50 research university (public-funded or otherwise). How might the Kansas legislators get behind this ambitious plan?

After brief conversation, Reitz recalled a previous state senator's (conservative republican) mindset that a high school education was all anyone needed. It is difficult to overcome such viewpoints. This year [2012] all matters will be voted on by a 21-19 body. Next year those who go in senate will need to be in favor of Higher Education and the time to consider that is now. Reitz commented there is a problem in Topeka which will impact Kansas State University this coming year and that has to do with filling the needs of the University. Students are very active, but others also need to be involved that have more of a permanent status in the city.

Reitz and Carlin suggested encouraging those ones who are interested to get active. Carlin was reading a statistic just this afternoon that in Indiana over the last 5 years the average yearly household income being spent on education has gone from 12% to 19%. Carlin mentioned there will be a re-districting this coming year, which will make it more difficult during election time. Reitz is confident that concerns CAN be addressed even in this climate if there is a real desire to do something about them. These are the real facts of the matter. Vontz reported that the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents will be putting forward a one-page fact sheet for state legislators.

Carlin believed that one way faculty can truly help is by getting engaged in the business community. Get to know the individuals who are voting, besides faculty, so that an understanding of their viewpoint can be ascertained as well as giving yours to help inform them about what is happening to universities.

Carlin commented that everyone is hurting in the present economy. Two group homes in Kansas, aiding two hundred mentally ill children, were shut down in recent months. This is just one example of what is going on in surrounding communities. She talked about issues such as income tax. If we don't have

income tax, there are no income tax credits. Therefore donations, such as buildings, cash, etc. may become less due to this because there will be no tax benefits for contributing. These are the complicated issues that come up. Reitz noted the need for new and original ideas to raise state money. Everyone wants to cut, but there needs to be ideas about raising funds. Other issues were addressed.

Condia brought up the President's 2025 plan and asked whether it seems hopeful that progress can be made on this. Carlin said that clearing up any misconceptions is important – for example, even if you got a ranking – make sure they know how it happened. Tell your story – tell it how it is and clear up any misconception that it wasn't because enough money is there, but what the losses were even in gaining a ranking, etc. Reitz offered that perhaps Faculty Senate needs to address groups in our community and elsewhere and inform them about the education issues. Honey asked about Foundation and their activities. Could it be part of their mission as well, to give a positive message about Kansas State University, not just raising money? Perhaps part of the message could be, as well thanking donors, also inform them what local senators are doing to work for the university. This would need to be well thought out.

Condia talked about the future of education and mentioned a “Did You Know” page on the internet. Carlin reminded committee members that the appropriations committee meets in Topeka from 9-11 am every day in the Supreme Court room. She invited each of us to attend at least one day during the session as it is very enlightening.

Carlin had mentioned a figure earlier in the meeting about Indiana and Bennett looked up some information. In Kansas, the average is approximately 21% of yearly family income going to education. It was commented by Carlin that education *does* matter and a young person who is a good student and uses their time in college wisely learns a lot more than just what their degree says. Then they are able to find work in a variety of areas, sometimes even outside of what their degree is for. Reed commented that from their recent information (from career and employment services), they learned that out of last year's graduates 90% have gotten jobs.

Kingery-Page briefly discussed Kansas history – she is a fifth generation Kansan. Kansas has many public institutions. Are they open to information about this and working towards protecting education? Carlin commented that the message they get is that parents want to send their kids to private schools where they can control the curriculum. Reitz concurred. Conversation continued. Family incomes are affected by this as private institutions can be very costly.

Reitz said higher education needs a big base of supporters and they need to be heard. The Alumni Association and Foundation could be avenues to help in getting the message out there and our story told. Carlin mentioned that the Citizens for Higher Education group in Kansas City would also be a good group to contact. Sue Peterson is aware of this group as well.

Also, we as faculty should give students a basis – show them the facts matter and what is happening and will happen to the future of higher education. She pointed out that getting money from the state is important, but then another sector suffers. Things are interconnected. One committee member stated he proposed potential fund-raising ideas in his college and is working to research them. These are the kinds of things that need to be done to help offset loss of funding.

Committee members thanked representatives Carlin and Reitz for visiting today and appreciated their insights.

4. Any New Business? None

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2012, union room 205 at 3:30 pm