

Resolution to Investigate Potential Violation of Faculty Primacy

Whereas, Arkansas State University entered into a series of agreements with Higher Education Holdings LLC, also known as Academic Partnerships, a private for-profit provider of on-line degrees in 2009, a unique partnership that involves the privatization of ASU's educational offerings, degrees, instruction and other services, representing a fundamental shift in the nature of faculty roles and relationships, manner of instruction and the nature of the institution itself;

Whereas, HEH/AP is an on-line course-delivery program that was initially implemented with minimum faculty notification, involvement, input and oversight, potentially in conflict with the spirit of shared governance and faculty primacy on curriculum development, instruction, instructional delivery and other matters;

Whereas, ASU has many options for developing its own on-line and distance learning programs, developing partnerships with non-profit providers and other means of delivering on-line and distance learning programs;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of ASU calls for a moratorium on the development, delivery and approval of any new HEH/AP-related programs beyond ones already required by contractual agreement until after the Best Practices Distance Education committee and the Faculty Senate Quality Committee make their reports;

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate Quality Committee be charged with a review of current HEH/AP programs to ensure faculty primacy in the decision-making process and to ensure that no new partnerships be approved until after this committee makes its report; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the existing Distance Learning Committee established by Dr. Potts in the spring, 2010 for the purpose of addressing both academic issues and non-academic issues, be activated by the co-chairs named in the memo from Dr. Potts, with the task of investigating all aspects of HEH/AP in accordance with the original charge, with a report provided to the Senate.

Therefore, be it further resolved to introduce this resolution into the shared governance process to determine if there was an oversight with faculty primacy.