**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES March 5, 2010 -- draft, not yet approved.**

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Gilbert at 3pm with an initial quorum of 18 members.

NEW BUSINESS:

**1) Dr. Andy Sustich discussed SGOC proposal 10SP004 on GPA Recalculation for Graduate Degrees.**

Dr. Sustich noted that the reasoning for the suggested change in policy was that some students begin a Master’s degree in one college before determining that the degree program is a bad fit for them then change to a Master’s program in another College. Under current policy it is very difficult to ever overcome GPA problems from the first Master’s program. Under the new policy only graduate level grades in the new College would count. Originally, the policy draft said only graduate level grades in the current Department, but there was a suggestion that this could be misused to make changes between very closely related degrees. Documents were distributed of a survey of what other colleges are doing. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Dr. Richard Wang and seconded by Dr. Roy Aldridge. After discussion including verification that programs could opt in or not, the motion carried 16 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstain.

**2) Dr. Andy Sustich discussed SGOC proposal 10SP005 on an Accelerated Master’s Proposal.**

This proposal would allow Colleges to opt in to a program whereby students who apply for the Accelerated Master’s Program would be able to count up to 12 hours on both their undergraduate and masters program if they matriculate into the related ASU master’s program. The limit by graduate school would be 12 hours, but colleges could limit this to a lower number of hours. The initial proposal idea came from Chemistry where some students come in with 30 hours when they begin their 4 year degree and wind up taking most of what could be 5000 level courses while in undergraduate school and have little left they can take if they stay at ASU for their Masters. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Dr. Win Bridges and seconded by Dr. Richard Burns.

Questions on the proposal centered around whether the students would pay graduate or undergraduate fees. Discussion suggested that it would probably be undergraduate. Another question was whether this might cause some students with undergraduate scholarships to purposely delay graduation. Discussion suggested some do already. There was a question as to whether students might finish their 4 year degree and immediately take the 12 hours elsewhere to graduate school. The response was not on the front end, though the grades would likely be posted as graduate courses after the first full semester of graduate work; acceptability as transfer work after that point would depend on the other school. There was a question as to whether students might delay and ask for the credit in 3 or 4 years; the response was that they have to apply to the program up front. A question was asked as to WHEN the students in the accelerated program would be required to take GRE/GMAT or other admissions tests. Dr. Sustich noted that these exams are not a graduate student requirement but program requirements, therefore the programs would have to determine the answer to that question. A Senator asked if the program has been cleared by ADHE and HLC. Dr. Sustich said it had been cleared by ADHE, but he was uncertain if already cleared by HLC or not. Dr. Cooksey noted that the credits would count for ADHE formula funding only once, not twice. Dr. Bridges asked if the courses involved would have to be on-campus or on-line. The assumption was that they would be on-campus, but it was unclear that that has been addressed. Dr. Wang emphasized the opt-in arrangement as a plus to avoid accreditation problems. The motion passed 20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.

**3) SGOC 102P006 – Smoking Policy Proposal**

A motion has made by Senator Roy Aldridge and seconded by Dr. Amany Saleh to accept the proposal. A copy of the proposed smoking policy was presented in the agenda packet though there was no one available to discuss its merits. Senators who are also SGOC members noted that it was unclear as to who wrote the proposal. There were comments made on the proposal that it was vague as to who gets the money from fines, privacy concerns as to persons smoking in rented homes including the yard, or how smoking in private automobiles would be handled. One or more Senators wondered why chewing tobacco was not included in the ban; Dr. Horton suggested the intent of the Arkansas Act was to protect non-smokers from second hand effects. The motion failed with 10 for; 11 against; 0 abstain.

OLD BUSINESS:

**1) Exigency Plan and Rationale – The most recent draft from the Faculty Senate Exigency drafting committee and existing handbook policy was distributed and discussed by Dr. Louella Moore.**  Dr. Moore noted that financial exigency is essentially defined as a financial crisis so severe that it might require layoffs of tenured faculty in spite of their normal contractual status. The proposal was drafted to address revisions in an existing Faculty Handbook policy rather than global concerns of staff and other university employees, yet nothing in the draft would preclude staff, students or other groups with their own handbooks from being consulted in the case of financial exigency. It was noted that Staff do not have a Jonesboro only handbook and waiting for a global policy could result in delays and/or having the policy essentially drafted at the system level. Dr. Moore noted that normal Shared Governance procedures do not require a pre-endorsement of the proposal before it is sent to the SGOC, but given that the proposal affects primarily faculty the Faculty Senate could choose to endorse the proposal in principle on the front end at the Senate’s option. Senator Burns asked if Senators could have time to take the proposal back to their constituents for discussion before endorsement. Dr. Moore noted that she was concerned that if we wait another two weeks the semester could be over before the proposal has time to make it through the system, however, endorsement of the proposal in concept would not preclude Senators from making changes when the proposal officially comes back to the Senate as a shared governance proposal. Dr. Robert Baum made a motion to endorse the proposal in principle, seconded by Dr. Jack Zibluk. The motion carried 20 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstain.

**2) Chair Gilbert brought up a request she had received from Dr. Potts to appoint Faculty to work with Staff on a Mt. Home /private company distance learning program evaluation team.**

Discussion centered around what good an evaluation team would be and why an academic evaluation should be conducted jointly with staff. Dr. Wang suggested asking the Chancellor to discuss the committee purpose with the Faculty Senate before making a decision about whether to appoint members to the task force.

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

**Notes prepared by Dr. Louella Moore as substitute for regular Secretary of the Senate, Dr. Amy Claxton.**