November 6, 2026

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 6, 2026

HSS 1028

Attendees:

Banafsheh (Bana) Aghayeeabianeh, Kousik Biswas, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Jason Causey, Michael Cooper, Nicole Covey, Audrey Folsom, Melany Fulton, Stephanie Hoeckley, Julie King, Scott Mangan, Suzanne Melescue, Richard Segall, Alexander Sokolov, Rob Williams

Teams Attendees:

Veronika Scudamore, Eric Dry, Kristin Sumler, Toccara Carter

Proxy Attendees:

Julie King (proxy for Eric West); Addie Fleming (proxy for Kacie Altom); Karen Yanowitz (proxy for Stephanie Gotay); Robert Williams (proxy for Timberly Baker)

Guests:

Meredith McFadden (A-State ARCH)

Absentees:

Kacie Altom, Timberly Baker, Stephanie Gotay, Eric West, John Hershberger, Khem Aryal, Gary Edwards, Bert Greenwalt, John Howard, Mark Lewis, Anne McGee, Mohamed Milad, Pradeep Mishra, Pankaj Nagpal, DayDay Robinson, Marceline Thompson-Hayes, Rollin Tusalem, Kim Vickrey, Jason Zhou

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Audrey Folsom.

Order of the day:

Motion to approve the order of the day made by Julie King; seconded by Rob Williams; all are in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the October 2, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Richard Segall, seconded by Mike Cooper; all in favor, the motion carried.

New Business

Meredith McFadden-A-State ARCH

- A-State Research and Creativity Hub
- Digital Space is dedicated to showcasing scholarly and creative works from A-State students, staff, and faculty.
- Open Access publishes to a robust global network.
- If you go to a conference, study abroad, etc. send it to ARCH.
- Journal hosting, class projects, audio-visuals, data sets, links to publishers, conference materials, and digital exhibits.
- Dataset hosting is available.
- All thesis and dissertations are uploaded.
- All submissions get URL.
- Survey available at arch.astate.edu and will be sent out on faculty listserv
- ALL FREE

First read of resolution regarding system benefit change process--Vote Nov. 20th.

- Scott Mangan – first pass created and now looking for suggestion to reduce the initial draft.
- University is self-funded which is how we pay for healthcare bills
- Not trying to make money, but can't really lose money either
- Possibly look at things like open enrollment window etc.
- Faculty Senators had about 2 days to gather input from our respective colleges.
- The process was also confusing
- Data behind this vote was somewhat unknown about either.
- The benefits committee is a university level committee and that is how you get appointed to this committee. The Faculty Senate selects two representatives to be on this committee.
- Has the self-funded model ever been reviewed for sustainability.
- Some senators are interested in what the main campus opinions are on it.
- In the past someone came into faculty senate to talk about the status of our financial things like insurance payments.
- Maybe benefits representatives could come talk more formally to faculty senate on a schedule about it.
- Why does the systems office always have to wait until the end of the fiscal year for decisions? Why not let the university know quarterly etc.?
- Is this shared governance or just a system decision?
- Spouse can be kept on Vision and Dental.
- Medicare rules need to be discussed for spousal insurance.
- What about self-employed spouses?
- Get comments to John Hershberger ASAP.

MDiscussion of resolution regarding clarification on class cancellations based on feedback--Vote Nov. 20th if pursuing.

- Todd Shields said at a previous Senate meeting that any class cancellations have to be spontaneous. Cannot be scheduled.
- The top issue was instruction time disruption from survey feedback.
- Problem was also having to reschedule exam, lab, clinical time.
- Some students in healthcare cannot have cell phones on them and were not aware of class cancellations.
- Faculty Senate believes it would be good to share this survey results with top leadership on campus.

a. Executive committee will look at best way to send this information and make sure it is properly represented.

Old Business

Committee Reports

- **No committee reports**

Meeting adjourned by Audrey Folsom at 3:53 pm

Minutes Recorded by Alexandr M. Sokolov

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