

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING January 13, 2012

In attendance: Julia Norrgard, Brian Bowen, Chris Hall, Albina Balidemaj, Edmond Muhaxheri, Besnik Bislimi, Shpend Ahmeti and Taulant Ramabaja.

I. Call to Order

JNorrgard called the meeting to order at 10:06.

II. Welcome/Rules for Guests

JNorrgard welcomed guests and senate members to the meeting. Chair went over rules for guests.

III. Prior Meeting Minutes (December 9, 2012)

Motion set forth to accept the Minutes of the December 9, 2011 meeting by EMuhaxheri, seconded by BBislimi at 10:08.

Motion carried.

IV. Comments by President Hall

CHall wished everyone a "Happy New Year!"

V. Comments by Vice President, RIT Academic Affairs Bowen

BBowen informed the Senate that they were making good progress on the Grading Policy. The new campus-wide Grading Policy should be fully implemented and active at AUK by the end of the current year.

BBowen went on to state that the new Faculty Appointments and Promotions doctrine should show clear distinctions between qualifications and positions by the end of this month. However, there still was some concern regarding full-time and part-time positions. JNorrgard wanted to know who was appointed to help decide on what qualifications each position would require. BBowen informed her that David Wetzel, along with others, was involved in determining the qualifications.

BBowen brought up one last topic regarding the current class schedules for this upcoming quarter. He was concerned that students didn't have enough forewarning about what classes were being offered throughout the year. Currently, there is a new schedule put together each quarter. This prevents students from making long term plans in regard to their academic schedules. The Senate will discuss this issue at a later date.

VI. Old Business

National Holiday observance: JNorrgard asked if the senate wants to set a policy regarding holidays and if so, what should it cover. CHall suggested that they should appoint someone from the Senate and from Student Government to research more on the topic and then report to him. CHall also stated that RIT has not published any concrete schedule for holidays. Instead, RIT has a tentative schedule in place which includes National Holidays. SAhmeti urged that they find a government official who could verify which holidays are legally allowed to be observed in Kosovo. This would make sure that we were in clear observance of the law. CHall agreed and asked that one of the Senate members be appointed to look further into this matter. JNorrgard suggested that SAhmeti and TRamabaja would be good candidates for this appointment.

This discussion was postponed until next meeting due to a lack of information at 10:15.

VII. New Business

Rename an Academic Unit, [Vision and Rationale]: BBowen expressed that there was a need for a laboratory on campus. There was a clear necessity for this by Media, IT, and science students. In light of this, BBowen presented a document titled *Vision and Restructuring for the "Media & IT" Academic Unit* which stated his reasoning behind merging the two departments into one. Therefore, BBowen proposed that the current "Media and IT" Academic Units be renamed as the "Media, Science, and Technology" Academic Unit. This newly structured Unit would be responsible for existing Media, IT and science courses (Biology and Chemistry), as well as taking the lead for planning the previously proposed Environmental & Health Science Laboratory and all future science and technology based curriculum.

CHall asked if this would change anything to the current majors. BBowen responded that it would have no affect on the current majors offered. Instead, it would provide a specifically designed area for those students to improve their Media, IT and science skills. JNorrgard assured everyone that students and teachers alike were enthused about the idea.

BBislimi felt that this was unfair to the other majors who would not be getting additional funding to promote their own agendas. His request was in regard to the Economics students. Therefore, BBislimi asked for equal money from CHall to be granted to Economics students. CHall informed BBislimi that they weren't diverting any funds to this proposal. Instead, the departments involved were funding it themselves through grants, projects, and other fund raising methods thus making BBislimi point invalid.

In response to BBislimi's concern, JNorrgard expressed that the new lab would be beneficial to all students, not just Media, IT and science students. By creating a lab,

students can develop critical thinking, data collection, and other practical skills which could help them in all subjects and majors.

Motion set forth to accept the proposal, *Vision and Restructuring for the "Media & IT" Academic Unit*, and all it entails by ABalidemaj, seconded by EMuhaxheri at 10:26.

Motion carried..

AUK Tenth Year Anniversary: CHall informed the senate that they were approaching their tenth anniversary this upcoming year. The class of next year would mark this achievement. In light of this, CHall proposed a series of events to celebrate the occasion. CHall informed that Jim Myers (and others) was putting together a history that would highlight AUK's beginnings. CHall also noted that the celebration would honor long serving faculty and staff members and that there would be a message sent out to staff and faculty asking their permission to conduct various interviews. JNorrgard mentioned that it would be a good idea to brainstorm further regarding what events could be organized throughout the year this upcoming summer. JNorrgard also expressed that they should start looking for people interested in helping organize the event now.

Transition to Semester System: ABalidemaj was interested in discussing the repercussion for students when they transfer over to the new system. It was clear that this would disrupt students' classes and credits. Furthermore, it would hurt those students who were lagging behind in classes or wanted to retake courses. ABalidemaj said that they should push students to finish on time by making them take five courses a quarter, instead of four. The 3.0 GPA restrictions would still apply. However, student plans should be carefully looked at so that students know what credits they need to graduate. EMuhaxheri asked if the Senate could see the class grid. ABalidemaj informed him that they were still working on it but that they would have the grid together by next meeting. . SAhmeti stated that it would be unfair to lagging students who would be overwhelmed by this added pressure to finish on time.

JNorrgard informed that there would be future discussions of this matter.

Faculty Retreat planning and funding: BBislimi was concerned that there was no funding for a faculty retreat when there clearly is one for the staff. He expressed that this was unfair and proposed that they get funding to create one for faculty as well. BBislimi focused on the point that it would help bring together faculty members and promote synergy amongst co-workers. CHall asked if he had a proposal to submit and, if so, was it an affordable trip. BBislimi said that he did not have a proposal, but continued to press CHall for funding. CHall countered that this was backwards, proposal first, then funding. CHall also stressed that they were short on money and that he would need a clear budget before proceeding.

VII. Additional Business

Tuition Increase and Scholarships: TRamabaja wanted to address the issue of raising tuition prices and their affect on scholarships. Specifically, if tuition increased would scholarships increase to supplement this change? SAhmeti also noted that with the new Grading Policy scholarships based on GPA would most likely drop. CHall informed the Senate that this would be considered and that they had plans to raise the number of grants and scholarships available to students to help with the increase in price and with the GPA difference.

Saturday and Friday make-up classes: TRamabaja expressed students' concern regarding the legality of holding make-up classes on off days. CHall informed TRamabaja that classes were not to be held on these two days anymore. However, when AUK switches to Semesters, then this would not apply for Friday because classes would go through the entire work week. JNorrgard was curious to know how many classes were being held on Fridays. ABalidemaj informed her that about two to three classes were being made up each Friday. SAhmeti made the point that students and teachers alike may work on Fridays and that this would cause a conflict when scheduling make-up classes on off days. Also he was interested in knowing the reasons why teachers were canceling in the first place. TRamabaja agreed with this point. BBowen expressed his sympathy regarding the matter.

BBislimi made the point that he currently holds exams on Fridays because he was under the impression that he must have at least ten lectures in his course. SAhmeti told BBislimi that he should hold exams during regular class hours like everyone else, JNorrgard seconded this idea. BBislimi didn't agree and argued that this would hurt students because they would have two less lectures in a course. JNorrgard suggested that he lecture for an hour on test days, then give out an hour long exam the second hour. BBislimi didn't concede and the senate dropped the discussion at 10:48.

VIII. Call to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by SAhmeti, seconded by EMuhaxheri at 10:50.

Motion carried.