



Chancellor and provost address campus about scheduling, graduation rates, recruitment

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

Chancellor Todd Shields and Provost Calvin White spoke to faculty and staff of Arkansas State University about scheduling, graduation rates and recruitment strategies.

The chancellor and provost said they want more classes scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

White said he took his college math classes on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule to learn better.

"I was there Monday, Wednesday and Friday and they made me come to class. I only had Saturday and Sunday to goof off until I was right back in class. The touch points were there. That's what we're asking you to do," the provost said.

Jessica Gregory, lead operations manager for the Office of Admissions, said she takes classes at A-State.

"I've noticed for several years, we don't have a very good relationship with our non-traditional students. So, we don't have a lot of classes that are after (5 p.m.), which would be beneficial for them and me," Gregory said.

Gregory asked the chancellor and provost if they planned to address this issue.

White said he wants 80% of classes to be taught from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Then, he wants 10% of classes to be taught from 7:30-10 a.m. and the other 10% of classes to be taught from 4-7 p.m.

"When I say that there's a certain percentage of classes that should be between the hours of



Provost Calvin White, Ph.D. (left) and chancellor Todd Shields, Ph.D. (right) discussing upcoming plans for Arkansas State University at the Campus Conversation.

four and seven, it's for the non-traditional students who come on our campus," White said.

The provost said this scheduling change would also help student-athletes with rigid practice schedules or students who have to work.

In addition, the chancellor said the campus will be changing the minimum number of students who can take a class. He said this would even out workloads among faculty.

"Even in primetime, we're offering courses that really will have three, maybe four students in it," Shields said. "When you have financial issues that we're starting to struggle with,

that's really difficult. It's also really unfair because a lot of times the junior faculty will be the ones that take on those additional responsibilities."

He said changing the minimum class size may help with funding and the faculty-to-student ratio.

"It's not something that I really want to champion because we have quite a few faculty per student," Shields said.

He said when legislators see the current ratio, they think the campus has too many employees and does not want to give the university additional funding.

Shields said A-State has a higher-than-normal rate of

seniors who drop out. He said this can be a result of mental health problems.

"The incoming class has more mental obstacles facing them than any other generation," Shields said.

He said he wants professors and advisers to be proactive and reach out to students who seem to be struggling.

"Every study says that if (students) don't feel like they belong, they're not going to stay, they're going to go someplace else," Shields said.

The provost said some departments have been scheduling important classes in the summer, which can

deter students from finishing their degrees on time.

"We have some people who are scheduling graduation requirements in the academic program in the summer. That's called building in your salary in the summer," White said.

In addition, he said the new class size minimum could help alleviate this problem since many of these courses have very few students.

CONTINUED: CAMPUS CONVERSATION, 4A

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Remakes, reboots and sequels: the end of originality in Hollywood
- Streaming has become what it swore to destroy

NEWS, 3A

- Art + Design offers community art classes
- A-State celebrates Day of the Dead
- Camryn Ross crowned Miss A-State
- Campus Crime

NEWS, 4A

- Meet Glen Hoffsis, founding dean of College of Veterinary medicine
- Lit'l Bit Christmas raises money for athletics scholarships

SPORTS, 1B

- New players and new jerseys for a new season
- New additions to student sections
- Red Wolves cook the Cajuns 37-17

ARTS & E, 2B

- A-State Theatre presents "Noises Off"
- "You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling" about Elvis after watching "Priscilla"

LIFE, 3B

- Lit'l Bit Christmas brings Christmas spirit to A-State
- Q&A with U-Hall Elevator Haters
- Leftover Halloween candy cookie recipe

Student Government Association continues discussion on "Traditions Without Borders"

ANNA COX

COPY EDITOR

Student Government Association continues discussion on "Traditions Without Borders" and housing scholarship

The Arkansas State University Student Government Association (SGA) tabled two out of three of their resolutions, passing only one.

Rachel Mooneyham, a junior strategic marketing major from Jonesboro sponsored the bill "Traditions Without Borders." She is the chief of staff for SGA.

The bill would pair up international students with domestic students, faculty and staff during holiday meals such as Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Mooneyham said Taron Robinson, the director of international programs, has been someone who helped her work through the logistics and policies of having faculty or staff host at their home.

"Discussing the things that we need to hash out, I'll probably talk to Taron again, to get those things added in

there that they wanted amended and then hopefully present it and hopefully it gets passed."

The bill was ultimately tabled, to give the senators time to meet with Mooneyham to discuss the amendments they would like to see.

Senator Jonathan Schaufler, a junior nursing major from Salem, Arkansas, has been working on a resolution about adding lactation rooms to buildings on campus.

Schaufler said the experience of breastfeeding is intimate and providing lactation rooms gives the mothers a space to comfortably feed their children.

"A lot of these nursing mothers don't have a place to go. I know they have covers and things but it is a very exposed procedure and a very intimate process to do out in the open."

Schaufler said that there will be something that will add extra privacy in the lactation room, such as walls or curtains.

Another bill tabled at the meeting was SR 23/34-01. This bill deals with a housing scholarship. Garrett Partain, a senior political science major

with a minor in Spanish from Lepanto, Arkansas, presented this bill. He is the president pro-temp for SGA.

Partain's bill was created to be a housing scholarship awarded to students in need of further housing assistance. Currently, the senate has decided to do a trial period which would cover the costs for students who have to stay on campus during the extended stay breaks.

This bill has been in the works since the last academic school year.

However, the senate was unable to decide what breaks to include in the current bill, with it being voted to ultimately table the discussion until the next meeting.

"It's a process, especially considering we are all students who have full time credit hours," Partain said.

Partain said when something gets tabled, it will come up at the next meeting.

"In real life, senates tabling a discussion kind of kills a resolution or kills a bill because someone has to bring it back up. In SGA we use modified rules,



Photo by Anna Cox | Copy Editor

Garrett Partain (far right) presenting his housing scholarship bill at the SGA meeting.

so we can't just kill bills, we have to actually talk about them."

Partain said he hopes the bill will be passed at the next meeting.

The bill passed was for the graduation cords for the senators. Vice president Micayla McGowen, a junior marketing major from East End, Arkansas, presented the amendment.

McGowen said that the reason she wanted to

make amendments to the bill was because of how unfair the requirements listed were to the senators.

The amendment to the original bill would allow graduating individuals who are not currently serving in an SGA position but made a "significant" contribution through SGA would have the right to receive and wear

the cords during graduation.

"The requirements were that for you to receive the graduation cord, the executive board basically voted on it and they made it to where you received it or not, and to me, that just didn't seem fair," McGowen said.

"Traditions Without Borders" and Partain's housing scholarship will be revisited at the next SGA meeting Nov. 28.