

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2012-13 Faculty Senate was held at 12:35 p.m., Monday, August 20, 2012, in the Private Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Dr. Carey Bosold	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Dan Bullock	Dr. Kevin Mason
Dr. Eric Lovely	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Annette Holeyfield	Dr. Marcel Finan
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. David Ward
Dr. Michael Rogers	Dr. Robin Lasey
Mr. Neal Harrington	Ms. Annette Stuckey
Dr. Johnette Moody	Dr. Cathi McMahan
Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Ernest Enchelmayer
Dr. Chris Kellner	

Dr. Sherman Alexander was absent. Dr. Robert Brown, President and Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, were visitors.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT

Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation for the “orderly way” in which the Senate has conducted business during the past several years. He reminded those present that the consensual relations policy in the *Faculty Handbook* was improved by this body and noted this policy “has come into play” over the past several months. He advised that he will be sending several items to the Senate during this academic year for review.

Dr. Brown stated that approximately 40 percent of the student body receive Pell grants, without which many students would not be able to attend college. This is particularly true in light of the fact that the median income for Arkansas is still around \$35,000. Dr. Brown stated that many federal financial aid programs are under “federal attack” and cautioned that, without these programs, enrollment at the University would significantly decrease.

Dr. Brown reported that the University is anticipating another good year, having financed many budget increases primarily due to growing enrollment.

Dr. Bullock questioned the status of the proposed performance-based funding being initiated by the State. Dr. Brown responded that the new funding formula will begin in year 2013. The goal of the funding formula is to double the number of college graduates in the State within the next 10 years. Data provided by the institutions in 2013 will determine the appropriation funding for each institution and noted that institutions must “earn” their funding by continually improving on performance objectives.

Dr. Rogers questioned whether an enrollment target for the institution exists. Dr. Brown stated that no specific target exists but indicated increasing efforts in online coursework, concurrent credit courses with high schools, and a push for enrollment on the Ozark Campus. He noted both an increase in student semester credit hour production and retention, both of which contribute to the institution’s ability to make its annual budget.

Dr. Kellner questioned whether the graduation rate varies among students by category (i.e., traditional, nontraditional, online, etc.). Dr. Brown stated that it most likely does.

Dr. Brown stated he was grateful that the institution had been able to give faculty a raise this year. He also reported that, although the health insurance copay will go up somewhat, the basic rate paid by the institution per employee for 2012-13 will go down slightly.

REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Watson stated that he was looking forward to working with the Senate during the upcoming year and noted he would be happy to meet with the group at any time asked.

Dr. Brown questioned whether any present knew the history of the Faculty Senate. He stated that in the 1950s, Alfred Crabaugh, Dean of the College, organized the first Faculty Senate. His position today would be that of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Brown emphasized the rich heritage of the committee and the cooperative history between Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate.

At this time, Dr. Brown and Dr. Watson thanked the Senators for their attention and excused themselves from the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Futterer called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. He expressed his appreciation for their willingness to serve and asked those present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Futterer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012, meeting.

Motion by Dr. Lovely, seconded by Dr. Huss, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Futterer asked for nominations for the position of Chair-Elect. Dr. Kellner nominated Dr. Lovely.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Rogers, that nominations cease and Dr. Lovely be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Futterer asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Dr. Huss nominated himself; President Futterer seconded the nomination.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Lasey, that nominations cease and Dr. Huss be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE

President Futterer distributed a list of proposed Senate meeting dates and times for 2012-13 (i.e., September 11, October 9, and November 13 at 3 p.m.; December 4 at 1 p.m.; February 12, 2013, March 12, and April 9 at 3 p.m.; April 30 at 1 p.m.). The meeting place will be Pendergraft 325.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to confirm the dates as proposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY

President Futterer distributed a list of committee appointments made thus far: Academic Appeals, Dr. Sean Reed (Arts and Humanities) and Dr. Rockie Pederson (Education); and University Promotion and Tenure Committee, Dr. Carey Roberts. He stated he had several individuals who had not yet confirmed their willingness to serve and asked that those appointments be confirmed by an email vote.

PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND AD HOC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE	<p>Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to confirm the names presented and approve the recommendation that additional appointments be confirmed by an email vote of the Senate.</p> <p>Ms. Chronister, recording secretary, read the names of the faculty serving on the ad hoc Technology Committee for 2012-13: Dr. Dan Bullock, Dr. Carey Roberts, Dr. Loretta Cochran, Dr. Christine Austin, and Dr. Jason Patton.</p> <p>Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Mason, to confirm the faculty members on the ad hoc Technology Committee.</p> <p>Call for the question on the two pending motions: Motions carried.</p>
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE ON ADJUNCT SUPPORT	<p>President Futterer presented the following names for service on the Committee on Adjunct Support for 2012-13: Dr. David Eshelman, Dr. Regina Thomason, and Dr. Jay Hudkins. As a fourth full-time faculty member is needed for this committee, he asked that someone from the Senate serve. Dr. Enchelmayer nominated Mr. Harrington, who accepted the nomination.</p>
OLD BUSINESS	<p>President Futterer reported that old business from spring would be placed on the September agenda.</p>
OPEN FORUM	<p>President Futterer asked for items for discussion. Dr. Lovely asked that an agenda item for September include discussion of the formation of a subcommittee to review the Faculty Senate membership, particularly relating to appointed members and department heads serving on the committee. President Futterer noted that he had questioned why he was making some of the committee appointments approved today and why some of these were not elected.</p> <p>Dr. Rogers noted two items for future discussion: the peer review process and concerns relating to attracting potential faculty to campus for interviews. President Futterer noted that changes to the <i>Faculty Handbook</i> were recommended a few years ago; those recommendations had not yet been acted on due primarily, he said, to inaction by some Senate members. He stated those recommendations need to be looked at again.</p> <p>Dr. Finan questioned why the faculty research grants do not allow for payment of overloads or adjuncts for a faculty member needing release time for research.</p> <p>Dr. Lovely asked that the active subcommittees from last spring be listed on the September agenda.</p>
ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS	<p>President Futterer asked for any announcements. Ms. Chronister, recording secretary, announced that Dr. Carey Roberts was in the process of updating the Standing Committees website. President Futterer stated he had asked Dr. Roberts to investigate the possibility of an automatic email notification after minutes are posted to the Senate’s webpage.</p> <p>Ms. Chronister also introduced Ms. Jana Crouch, Director of Academic Services in the Office of Academic Affairs, and stated that Ms. Crouch will be attending meetings and would eventually replace Ms. Chronister as recording secretary.</p> <p>Dr. Bosold stated that the new director of health services is Rebecca Gray (formerly Lentz), a graduate of the ATU nursing program. She stated that Ms. Gray is a nurse practitioner and will be able to write certain prescriptions for students. Additionally, Dr. Bosold stated that the hope is faculty will also be able to use the health services facility in the near future.</p>

Dr. Lovely reported that Dr. Robert Allen, retired chemistry faculty member, was not allowed to teach a course as an adjunct this fall. President Futterer stated a discussion on this issue could be held at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Futterer, M.M., President



Sean Huss, Ph.D., Secretary