

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2014-15 Faculty Senate was held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, in the President's Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Linda Kondrick
Dr. Carey Bosold	Dr. Timothy Leggett
Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Kevin Mason
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. Johnette Moody
Dr. Marc Fusaro	Dr. Jason Patton
Mr. Ken Futterer	Dr. Rebecca Shopfner
Mr. Neal Harrington	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Annette Holeyfield	Dr. Dana Ward
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. David Ward
Dr. Chris Kellner	Dr. Deborah Wilson

Dr. Michael Rogers was absent. Dr. Robin Bowen, Dr. John Watson, Dr. Eric Lovely and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ward called the meeting to order and welcomed Dr. Robin Bowen, University President, inviting her to address the Senate.

**REPORT BY
PRESIDENT AND
VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Bowen expressed excitement to be at Tech and to work with the Faculty Senate. She asked if the senators had any questions for her. Dr. Kellner asked if Dr. Bowen would embrace the existing vision for the university, with an emphasis on increasing enrollment, or if she had a new vision. Dr. Bowen replied her focus was to grant opportunity and ability for students to attend college. She noted growth in enrollment typically results in increased funding, but stated she is not an advocate of growth at all costs. Dr. Bowen acknowledged Tech may not continue to see the same rate of growth in the coming years, but expressed a desire to reach out to underrepresented student populations in the surrounding communities.

Dr. Bishop asked how Dr. Bowen viewed the university's role in relation to the community and community development. Dr. Bowen responded the two are inextricably tied. She stated the university is an economic engine for the city and community businesses. Dr. Bowen also noted the university houses experts in most fields, which the community could capitalize on as a resource for many local initiatives. She emphasized the importance of fully understanding the needs and economic plan for the state of Arkansas. She commented Arkansas was 49th because there was not a clear plan and if the state would not bring forth a plan, Tech should move forward and be a leader in the state.

President Ward invited Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to address the Senate.

Dr. Watson stated, although the Senate had worked through some tough issues in the previous year, he felt the year ended on a high note, and he looked forward to tackling more issues in the coming year. He encouraged the senators to give thought to the university's overall strategy, including the definition of faculty load, particularly for doctoral faculty. Dr. Watson indicated he wanted to have these broad conversations with the Senate and include faculty across campus.

INTRODUCTIONS
AND ADDRESS BY
CHAIR

President Ward expressed excitement for the upcoming academic year. He stated one strength of the faculty was the diversity of academic activity at which each professor may excel, such as research or teaching. He then asked the senators to introduce themselves and each share a point of pride. Senators expressed pride in their departments, students, and individual projects and achievements.

Dr. Watson asked Dr. Finan the number of textbooks he had authored. Dr. Finan responded he has authored over 30 textbooks that are provided electronically to his students for free. He expressed frustration that he could not post a link to the open source textbooks on his faculty webpage due to the new guidelines. Dr. Watson stated it was his understanding the faculty would be provided with a webpage at <http://faculty.atu.edu> that could be personalized and used for providing such course materials. President Ward encouraged Dr. Finan to visit with Dr. Fusaro, who had served on the ad hoc committee which developed the guidelines.

Dr. Bowen and Dr. Watson thanked the Senate and excused themselves from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Ward called for a motion in regard to the minutes of April 8, 2014.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Mason, to approve the minutes as distributed.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
ELECTION OF
OFFICERS

President Ward asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Chair-Elect. Dr. Holeyfield nominated Mr. Futterer.

Motion by Dr. Mason, seconded by Dr. Kellner, that nominations cease and Mr. Futterer be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Ward asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Secretary. Dr. Finan nominated Dr. Moody.

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Mr. Futterer, that nominations cease and Dr. Moody be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

MEETING TIMES
AND LOCATION

President Ward read aloud the list of proposed Senate meeting dates and times for 2014-15 (September 9, October 14, and November 11 at 3 p.m.; December 9 at 1 p.m.; February 10, March 10, and April 14 at 3 p.m.; April 28 at 1 p.m.). The meeting place will be Pendergraft 325.

COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS

President Ward distributed a list of the following, proposed committee appointments:

Academic Appeals Committee: Dr. Jennifer Samson (Arts and Humanities), Ms. Tracy Cole (Business), Dr. Carl Greco (Engineering and Applied Sciences), Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (Education), Dr. Frank Hardcastle (Natural and Health Sciences), Dr. Chris Trombly (Supernumerary).

Committee on Adjunct Support: Dr. Jason Ulsperger (Arts and Humanities), Dr. Hanna Norton (eTech/Arts and Humanities), Ms. Elaine Tise (Arts and Humanities), Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman (Arts and Humanities)

Professional Development Committee: Ms. Jennifer Coleman (Natural and Health Sciences)

University Promotion and Tenure Committee: Dr. Eric Lovely (Natural and Health Sciences)

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Moody, to approve and confirm the committee appointments as a block.

President Ward requested the appointments to the Committee on Adjunct Support be considered separately.

Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Moody, to amend the previous motion to approve and confirm all committee appointments, with the exception of the appointment to the Committee on Adjunct Support. Motion carried.

President Ward noted that while Dr. Hanna Norton has faculty rank, she is not a full-time faculty member, but he asked the Senate to make an exception as she is heavily involved with adjuncts due to eTech courses and he felt she would serve the committee well.

Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to make an exception to the policy and approve all appointments to the Committee on Adjunct Support. Motion carried.

HANDBOOK UPDATES

President Ward distributed the changes made to the 2014 Faculty Handbook. Ms. Chronister noted since the distributed list of changes had been published, an amended affirmative action policy had been included in the Handbook.

OLD BUSINESS

President Ward reported he had discussed the swimming pool with Dr. Watson who was able to provide additional information on its closure. He stated the swimming pool had multiple issues such as substantial leaks and an antiquated chlorination system. President Ward reminded the Senate, once the university began repairing an older facility, ADA regulations must be met for the renovations. He stated Dr. Watson had estimated the cost for repairing the swimming pool, without including the additional expense to maintain the facility, at near \$750,000. Dr. Finan questioned the Senate's concern with the expense, stating there was no place on campus for any general student or faculty member to run, swim or play tennis.

Motion by Dr. Finan, seconded by Dr. Bishop, to form a subcommittee to pursue athletic activities on campus.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Moody, to amend the previous motion to form a campus recreation subcommittee.

Dr. Holeyfield commented the loss of the track and pool resulted in the loss of classroom lab spaces used for Health and Physical Education courses. Dr. Moody suggested the subcommittee pursue a grant to assist with ADA compliance.

Motion carried.

Subcommittee members are Dr. Finan, Dr. Holeyfield, Dr. Moody, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Kondrick, and Dr. Dana Ward.

OPEN FORUM

The senators did not have any topics of discussion for Open Forum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Harrington announced the art of Mr. Sammy Peters was currently on display in the Norman Hall Art Gallery, and Mr. Peters would be giving a Gallery Talk on Wednesday, September 24 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. David Ward".

David W. Ward, Ph.D., President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Johnette Moody".

Johnette Moody, DBA, Secretary