

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2015-16 Faculty Senate was held at 12:35 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, in the Williamson Hall Dining Room. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Michael Rogers
Ms. Melissa Darnell	Dr. Timothy Leggett
Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Debra Hunter
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. Johnette Moody
Dr. Marc Fusaro	Dr. Jason Patton
Mr. Ken Futterer	Dr. Rebecca Shopfner
Dr. James Stobaugh	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Shelia Jackson	Dr. Dana Ward
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. Jon Clements
Dr. Chris Kellner	Dr. Deborah Wilson

Dr. Linda Kondrick was absent. Dr. Robin Bowen and Dr. AJ Anglin were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Futterer called the meeting to order and distributed a copy of the agenda with his notes. He welcomed Dr. Robin Bowen, University President, inviting her to address the Senate.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT AND
VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Bowen reported 2015-16 will be focused on the strategic planning process. She emphasized that she wanted the process to include as many constituents across campus as possible, with no one at the end able to say they did not have an opportunity to participate. Once a plan is drafted this fall utilizing the working groups, the work in the spring will be dedicated to finalizing the plan and determining what additional costs from the plan the university would be able to bear.

Dr. Bowen distributed results from the Great Colleges to Work For survey and noted items categorized as “fair to mediocre” and “warrants attention” (see Appendix A). She asked for feedback from the faculty in these areas and requested the Senate determine how best to gather this information; she stated she would also ask for feedback from the Staff Senate. After gathering feedback from across campus, she will review the information and work with the administration, faculty, and staff to improve these areas of concern. She noted she would again want to participate in the survey at a future date to determine progress, and stated the survey was not expensive.

Dr. Bowen reported that the past year was dedicated to improvement of salaries across campus, an effort she will continue this year in order to bring everyone eligible to 90 percent of the CUPA median. This year she stated she is also focused on working with the legislature to bring equity to the funding formula utilized for higher education. Dr. Bowen emphasized that no student at another institution is “worth” more than a student at Arkansas Tech. When questioned why she thought her effort might be successful when efforts by the previous president had not been, she stated a good relationship with the governor’s office may be key.

Dr. Hunter asked if efforts in growing the University’s endowment were increasing, and Dr. Bowen responded that she is working to “broaden our circle” and will be spending more

time out of her office working on this initiative. Dr. Bowen stated she is always available by email and to let her know when there are questions or concerns. She thanked the Senate for their time and excused herself from the meeting.

President Futterer invited Dr. AJ Anglin, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, to address the Senate.

Dr. Anglin welcomed everyone back to campus. He stated he had met with President Futterer last week and stated he is a strong supporter of the Faculty Senate. Noting his short tenure, he encouraged the Senate to continue to have strong relationships with the new vice president and invite him/her to attend meetings to hear discussion. He stated the academic vice president needs to know what the faculty are thinking and are talking about in order to be an advocate. Having the vice president in the room will also facilitate a productive discussion.

Dr. Anglin noted the advertisement for the new academic vice president had been posted with applications already being received. He stated his tenure may be as short as January, 2016, or as long as June, 2016, depending on the successful candidate's availability. He reported the promotion and tenure policy review currently underway will continue with Dr. Jeff Woods regardless. He wished the Senate the best of success for this academic year.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ADDRESS BY CHAIR

President Futterer stated he would postpone his address as chair until a later date and asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Futterer called for a motion in regard to the minutes of April 28, 2015.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, 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 Faculty Senate Chair-Elect. Dr. Bishop nominated Dr. Fusaro; Dr. Stobaugh nominated Dr. Huss; and Dr. Wilson nominated Dr. Jackson. Dr. Jackson declined the nomination.

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Clements, that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Dr. Fusaro declined the nomination.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Rogers, that Dr. Huss be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Futterer asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Secretary and nominated Dr. Fusaro.

Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Huss, that nominations cease and Dr. Fusaro be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

President Futterer noted the list of proposed Senate meeting dates and times for 2015-16 (i.e., September 8, October 13, and November 10 at 3 p.m.; December 9 at 1 p.m.; February 9, March 8, and April 12 at 3 p.m.; April 27 at 1 p.m.). The meeting place will be Rothwell 456.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Futterer distributed a list of the standing committee appointments to be made by the Senate and asked for nominations for these positions by next week. He will contact the individuals himself to ask them to serve.

MONTHLY STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT	<p>President Futterer stated Dr. Jason Warnick, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, will give monthly updates to the Senate. He reported Dr. Jackson is on the promotion and tenure policy review committee and she will also give monthly updates.</p>
SUPERNUMERY GROUP UPDATE	<p>President Futterer reported the Center for Leadership and Learning had moved to the College of Education, leaving the Department of Professional Studies as the remaining supernumerary group member. He stated, theoretically, this means the College of eTech, where Professional Studies is housed, is without representation. However, he noted the spring elections were held in good faith with representatives from the then supernumerary group elected to committees. President Futterer asked that those elected to represent the larger supernumerary group be allowed to do so this academic year while a solution for future years is sought. There were no objections to his proposal.</p> <p>President Futterer asked what the Senate would propose to address this issue, noting the Department of Professional Studies has five full-time faculty members. Dr. Fusaro suggested the possible need for a constitutional change. Dr. Rogers questioned why eTech is its own college and not part of another college. Dr. Anglin responded that the College of eTech is designed to assist with online learning and delivery of this type of education. He reported the current plan is to have all online courses certified through eTech by 2019. Courses not certified will no longer be allowed to be taught. He noted that some online component for face to face courses would, of course, still be allowed. He emphasized the certification process will ensure standardization of formatting and delivery, with content still under the full control of the department. President Futterer stated he would invite Dr. Hanna Norton, Dean, College of eTech, to a future meeting and allow her to expound on the function and purpose of the College.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Huss, to create a committee to review the Constitution of the Faculty Senate for the purpose of addressing the issue of the College of eTech and its representation.</p> <p>Dr. Rogers stated a committee looking at constitutional issues for the Senate already exists.</p> <p>President Futterer stated that, if the supernumerary group concept is maintained, no amendment to the Constitution is needed and the Department of Professional Studies would remain its sole member until the creation of another academic entity fitting this scenario could be added.</p> <p>Motion failed.</p> <p>President Futterer stated the supernumery group would stand, and elections in the spring would allow for elections to committees by the affected department.</p>
OLD BUSINESS	<p>President Futterer noted two items of business from the spring needing additional discussion. On the office hours policy, he reported Dr. Bowen was comfortable with the reduction in hours to six but felt the policy was too complicated. Dr. Huss reported he would work on simpler language and bring back to the Senate for review.</p> <p>President Futterer referenced the constitutional amendments approved by the Senate in April and asked that clean copies of this document be distributed at the next meeting to allow everyone to be brought up to speed.</p>
OPEN FORUM	<p>Dr. Finan asked to return to the office hours issue and questioned when the change would be effective. Dr. Anglin noted that, depending on when the Senate votes and when the Board of Trustees would see the change, the effective date could be spring, 2016. Dr. Anglin stated office hours should be defined as physical office hours available for contact with students.</p>

President Futterer stated an initiative is underway to examine appointed standing committees and their roles. He stated the same should occur for elected standing committees, and this will be part of new business for a future meeting.

Dr. Rogers questioned the need for the summer graduation, noting not a lot of family were present in the audience. He also questioned why the professional development days were mandatory. Dr. Kellner responded that, from his perspective, if attendance was voluntary, few would attend.

Addressing the summer graduation, Dr. Anglin stated 240 to 250 students actually graduated with approximately 200 attending the ceremony. These students could not be added to the May graduation, which he noted will have an additional ceremony starting in May, 2016. The Ozark Campus graduation will be on Thursday evening, Graduate College on Friday evening, and three ceremonies for the undergraduate colleges will be held on Saturday. The ceremonies will be at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m., and a rotation will be developed. Dr. Finan questioned why faculty have to attend up to three graduations per year and stated a rotation could be set up so each faculty member only had to attend one per year.

Dr. Tucci reminded the Senate of discussion this past October on a phased retirement policy and questioned where this recommendation was in the process. Dr. Moody stated her strategic planning working group was considering this recommendation.

Dr. Kellner asked what role the Senate would have in selecting the new academic vice president. Dr. Anglin responded he did not know. President Futterer stated he would check on this with Dr. Bowen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Rogers and Dr. Moody are both chairs on two of the strategic planning working groups. Dr. Patton is a member of the Executive Planning Committee. President Futterer stated this is the year for faculty participation in the process.

Dr. Huss reported he is working with Chartwells to establish a recovery food program for the community with the eventual goal of setting up a food pantry on campus.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Futterer, M.M., President



Marc Fusaro, Ph.D., Secretary

