

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in Rothwell 456.
The following members were present:

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

Mr. Neal Harrington, Dr. Annette Holeyfield and Dr. Deborah Wilson were absent.
Dr. Robin Bowen, Dr. John Watson, Dr. David Underwood, Mr. Michael Stoker,
Dr. Sandra Smith, Dr. Charles Gagen, Ms. Cheryl Chaney, Dr. Eric Lovely,
Dr. Susan Hastings-Bishop and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ward called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to allow Dr. Robin Bowen, University President, to address the Senate as the first order of business.

Motion by Dr. Mason, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to amend the agenda to add an address from Dr. Bowen as the first order of business. Motion carried.

Dr. Bowen invited Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to first address the Senate. Dr. Watson informed the Senate that he would be returning to faculty as of December 31, 2014. He indicated he was in good health and felt this was the best time for this decision. He stated although there would always be reasons to stay and new milestones to reach, there would also always be a new person to step in and accomplish those things. He expressed his appreciation for and confidence in Dr. Bowen, asking the senators to continually support her. Dr. Bowen announced there would be a celebration in honor of Dr. Watson on December 3 at 3:30 p.m. in the Chambers West Dining Room.

Dr. Bowen stated the administration was now in the initial search process for a Vice President for Government Relations and a Vice President for Academic Affairs. She acknowledged these searches could not feasibly be completed by January 1, 2015. She then described companies in which cadres of retired higher education administrators, such as Presidents and Vice Presidents, are available to institutions on an interim basis. Dr. Bowen stated the university intended to select an interim Vice President for Academic Affairs for an estimated 18 month appointment using such a pool of candidates. She noted this would allow the administration time to begin a full search in earnest during the fall of 2015, without requiring a change in administrators in the midst of the strategic planning process. Dr. Bowen emphasized the importance of faculty input into this decision, and asked that the Senate select three members to serve on a panel to develop and ask questions of the candidates, with one or two alternates identified in the event of a schedule conflict.

Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Moody, to designate a panel to interview candidates for the interim appointment of Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Rogers suggested the existing subcommittee collaborating with the administration serve as the panel. Dr. Huss, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Kondrick, and Dr. Kellner, as members of the subcommittee, agreed to serve. Dr. Fusaro and Mr. Futterer also agreed to serve as needed.

Motion carried.

Dr. Bowen stated the interim appointment would not postpone progress on key issues such as faculty salaries. 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 the October 14, 2014 meeting.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Huss, to approve the minutes as distributed.

Dr. Kellner requested, on page five under Old Business: Senate Membership/Drafted Letter of the distributed minutes, the statement “Dr. Kellner noted the concerns prompting the original faculty vote to change the membership may no longer exist under the new administration” be corrected to include “but could resurface in the future”.

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Kondrick, to amend the minutes as requested.

Motion to approve as amended carried.

NEW BUSINESS: CURRICULAR ITEMS

President Ward asked the Senate to consider the curricular proposals by department. He reported the Department of Emergency Management had requested to withdraw all items of the curricular proposal from consideration, other than item 5.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to strike items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 from the curricular proposals from the Department of Emergency Management, with consideration given only to item 5. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to approve item 5 of the curricular proposal from the Department of Emergency Management as follows:

Department of Emergency Management

5. Modify the course description for EAM 3206, Externship, as outlined in the proposal.

Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Mason, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to approve the following curricular proposals from the College of Natural and Health Sciences as follows:

Department of Biological Sciences

2. Add the Prerequisite: Score of 19 or higher on the reading portion of the enhanced ACT or completion of ENGL 1013, Composition I, to BIOL 1004, Principles of Environmental Science;
3. Add the Prerequisite: Score of 19 or higher on the reading portion of the enhanced ACT or completion of ENGL 1013, Composition I, to BIOL 1014, Introduction to Biological Science.

Department of Physical Sciences

1. Add the Prerequisite: Score of 19 or higher on the reading portion of the enhanced ACT or completion of ENGL 1013, Composition I, to PHSC 1004, Principles of Environmental Science.

Dr. Kellner reported he had performed an analysis using data from Institutional Research on student outcomes and success rates for BIOL 1014. He stated there was a relatively strong relationship between a student's ACT score in Math and success in BIOL 1014. Mr. Futterer suggested the same relationship likely exists for all courses, so to increase success rates for all courses, it could require a change to the university's admissions standards. Dr. Tucci questioned the relevance of the analysis correlating the Math ACT score to course success when the proposed change would add a Reading ACT score prerequisite. Dr. Kellner stated his intention was to revise the original proposal to instead add a prerequisite of 19 or higher on the Math portion of the ACT or successful completion of MATH 0903, Intermediate Algebra.

The following discussion centered on the ability and willingness of the Senate to approve the revised proposals which appeared significantly different than what had been presented to the Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee. Senators also suggested, if this was truly a university wide issue, the admissions standards be reviewed during the strategic planning process. Dr. Kellner felt the revision would improve upon the original proposal and would not need additional review by the Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee. Dr. Brant indicated it was the role of the Curriculum Committee to determine if the revision is an improvement. Mr. Futterer called for the question.

Motion to approve withdrawn by Dr. Mason.

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to send the revised proposals from the College of Natural and Health Sciences to the Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee for consideration.

President Ward clarified the revised proposals would require a prerequisite score of 19 or higher on the math portion of the enhanced ACT or successful completion of MATH 0903, instead of the originally proposed prerequisite of a score of 19 or higher on the reading portion of the enhanced ACT or completion of ENGL 1013. Dr. Kellner agreed.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
REPORT ON
CAMPUS
RECREATION

President Ward distributed a report from Dr. Holeyfield in her absence to address the progress made on campus recreation opportunities, including eight additional hours of Tech Fit availability, and access to the double gym, coliseum and football stadium stands. Dr. Fusaro noted the limited availability of the racquetball courts during the day, and inquired as to how many sections of racquetball courses were being offered. President Ward stated it was his understanding Dr. Holeyfield planned to meet again with the subcommittee and she would be able to address such questions at that time.

REPORT ON
COLLABORATION
WITH
ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Huss reported the subcommittee collaborating with the administration had met with the Adjunct Support Committee and he invited Dr. Susan Hastings-Bishop to address the Senate as a representative of that committee. Dr. Hastings-Bishop acknowledged the difficulty in changing the membership of the Senate within its constitution in the *Faculty Handbook* to include adjunct representation. She also noted the lack of representation for non-tenure track full-time faculty in "visiting" appointments. Dr. Rogers distributed three options for providing representation to these groups on the Senate (Attachment A). The following discussion centered on the openness of the Senate meetings and the willingness of the senators to invite and recognize adjunct faculty who would like to attend. Dr. Huss suggested, rather than a formal change to the Senate membership, extending a standing invitation to the chair of the Adjunct Support Committee to attend Faculty Senate meetings and adding the chair to the Senate email correspondences.

SENATE
MEMBERSHIP/
DRAFTED LETTER

Dr. Rogers reported the general consensus from the faculty he spoke with was a need for action on the changes to the *Faculty Handbook* voted upon by the faculty in the spring of 2013. Dr. Kellner agreed, stating the faculty in his department were in favor of seeking a resolution. Dr. Kondrick suggested the subcommittee which met with Dr. Brown on these issues present them to Dr. Bowen. Dr. Kellner added the Senate should send the letter to Dr. Bowen to introduce the issues prior to her meeting with the subcommittee, then the meeting can allow for further dialog and explanation.

Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Kondrick, to send the drafted letter to Dr. Bowen with a cover letter, requesting a meeting with the subcommittee.

When the verbal vote was indecisive, President Ward called for a vote by show of hand.

Motion carried.

HONOR CODE

Dr. Rogers asked if the Senate would be in support of sending a letter to the administration, requesting the Honor Code be incorporated into the strategic planning process. President Ward reported he would be meeting with the strategic consultants on Friday, November 14, and offered to mention this issue at that time.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to table further discussion on the Honor Code to a later date. Motion carried.

PROMOTION AND
TENURE

Mr. Futterer did not have anything to report, but asked for the topic to be left on the agenda for future discussion.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Finan asked if the Senate has considered conducting a survey to investigate reducing faculty loads. Dr. Rogers replied there were currently three separate subcommittees appointed by Dr. Watson which were reviewing all levels of faculty loads.

Dr. Rogers suggested the Senate present an award to Dr. Watson for his service, similar to what the Senate presented in the Spring to retiring University President, Dr. Robert Brown. Mr. Futterer volunteered to pursue this and Dr. Rogers stated it would be preferable to present the award to Dr. Watson at the December 3 campus reception.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Brant announced the Department of Agriculture would be hosting the annual poinsettia sale on December 4 and 5.

Mr. Futterer stated the jazz ensemble would be performing with ATU Alum Cody Belew in the Witherspoon Auditorium on Thursday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Ward, Ph.D., President



Johnette Moody, DBA, Secretary

Attachment A

Position	Voice	Vote	Options for Method of Selection	Options for Candidate	Change
1 Adjunct Faculty Representative 1 Visiting Faculty Representative	Yes	Yes	a) Appointed by administration b) Appointed by Senate President, approved by body c) Elected by their constituency	a) Any member of constituency b) Create standard based on previous semesters or years of continuous service	1) Increase size of Faculty Senate by 2 positions, one for each constituency 2) Revise Faculty Handbook
1 Adjunct Faculty Delegate 1 Visiting Faculty Delegate	Yes	No	a) Appointed by administration b) Appointed by Senate President, approved by body c) Elected by their constituency	a) Any member of constituency b) Create standard requiring previous semesters or years of continuous service	1) Increase size of Faculty Senate by 2 positions, one for each constituency
1 Faculty Member as Representative for Adjunct Faculty 1 Faculty Member as Representative for Visiting Faculty	Yes	Yes	a) Appointed by administration b) Appointed by Senate President, approved by body c) Elected by their constituency	Follow current standards in faculty handbook for faculty serving on the Senate	1) Increase size of Faculty Senate by 2 positions, 1 for each constituency