

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Molly Brant, Dr. Linda Kondrick, and Dr. Deborah Wilson were absent. Dr. John Watson, Dr. Jeff Woods, Dr. Joshua Lockyer, Dr. Joseph Swain, Mr. Wyatt Watson and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ward called the meeting to order and asked for a motion in regard to the minutes of the August 26, 2014, meeting.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRICULAR
ITEMS

President Ward asked the Senate to consider the curricular proposals by department, rather than voting to approve as a block.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to approve the following curricular proposals from the Department of Behavioral Sciences:

Department of Behavioral Sciences

1. Add ANTH 2833, Cultural Resource Management, to the course descriptions.
2. Change the prerequisites for PSY (SOC) 2053, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, from Prerequisite: MATH 1113, College Algebra, and PSY 2003, General Psychology, or SOC 1003, Introductory Sociology, or consent; to Prerequisite: MATH 1003, College Mathematics, or higher, and PSY 2003, General Psychology, or SOC 1003, Introductory Sociology, or consent; and
3. Modify the Curriculum in Psychology, Rehabilitation Science, Sociology, and Criminal Justice as follows: change the mathematics requirement: MATH 1113, College Algebra, or Higher; to Mathematics^{1,T}

Following the motion, Dr. Patton expressed concern over the change in the math requirement from College Algebra to College Math. He stated he was aware of the state law that now permits this change in curriculum requirements, but he did not agree with the trend of departments replacing College Algebra with College Math, and felt College Algebra should be a minimum requirement. Dr. Bishop responded that the Recreation and Park Administration program uses College Math as the general education math requirement, and he was very pleased with the outcome. He stated the course uses practical applications and true life uses for math, rather than strictly formulas and memorization. Dr. Patton agreed

that the course content was relevant and useful, but he did not feel it should replace College Algebra. Dr. Finan responded students pursuing the science areas need College Algebra, but for non-science majors, College Math was appropriate. Dr. Huss informed the Senate that the Behavioral Sciences faculty were involved in the decision and were originally reluctant to make the change. He stated, through a collaborative discussion with faculty in the Math department, the Behavioral Sciences faculty were able to present which math concepts were vital for their students to succeed in statistics, and the Math faculty were able to demonstrate the skills students would gain in College Math. Dr. Huss reported that the Behavioral Sciences faculty became convinced College Math was the more appropriate prerequisite for their general majors, but noted the students who plan to pursue advanced degrees will be directed to a higher level math course.

President Ward recognized Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and invited him to address the Senate. Dr. Watson reiterated that College Algebra has a place in the STEM areas, but stated courses that promote math literacy and quantitative thinking are more applicable to other academic majors. Mr. Futterer expressed satisfaction that both departments had done their due diligence, and called for the question.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Mason, to approve the following curricular proposals from the Department of History and Political Science:

Department of History and Political Science

1. Add GEOG 3403, GIS II – Planning Applications, to the course descriptions;
2. Modify the Curriculum in History as follows: a) delete three hours of Elective; b) add three hours of 3000-4000 level Geography Electives; and
3. Add the Curriculum in Cultural and Geospatial Studies

President Ward noted the change to the name for the Cultural and Geospatial Studies degree, which was originally titled Anthropology and Geography. Dr. Jeff Woods, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, explained the program was renamed after it was determined the original name could cause confusion, but also because the department wanted to emphasize the inclusion of a GIS component in the program.

Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Mason, seconded by Dr. Huss, to approve the following curricular proposals from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration:

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration

1. Modify the Curriculum in Recreation and Park Administration Therapeutic Recreation Emphasis as follows: delete three hours of approved electives; add RP 3023, Camp Administration; delete Footnote 2 and change Footnote 3 to Footnote 2; and
2. Combine the current Recreation Administration Emphasis with the current Turf Management Emphasis in the Curriculum in Recreation and Park Administration to create a new Recreation Sport Management Emphasis as follows: (a) Delete the Curriculum in Recreation and Park Administration Turf Management Emphasis; and (b) Change the name of the Curriculum in Recreation and Park Administration Recreation Administration Emphasis to Curriculum in Recreation and Park Administration Recreation Sport Management Emphasis; and modify the curriculum as follows: 1) add RP 3763, Introduction to Turfgrass Management; RP 3793, Turfgrass Pest Control; and RP 4753, Sports Field Management and Design; 2) delete PE 4103, Principles and Methods of Adapted Physical Education; and 3) reduce the Approved Electives from 12 hours to 6 hours.

Motion carried.**ONLINE COURSE
EVALUATIONS**

President Ward recognized Mr. Wyatt Watson, Director of Institutional Research, and invited him to address the Senate regarding online course evaluations. Mr. Watson reported, for the spring 2014 semester, the Department of Math and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences piloted fully online course evaluations for all courses which were selected to be evaluated. He stated in the spring 2013 semester while using paper evaluations, the participation rate was 70%, and the spring 2014 semester participation rate was 56% with fully online evaluations. Additionally, he noted the rate of substantive comments was 53%, once null or duplicate responses were removed. Mr. Watson reported the Deans and Department Heads had agreed to extend the pilot campus wide for the fall 2014 semester, and he invited comments and concerns from the senators.

Dr. Rogers asked for the rate of substantive comments in the spring 2013 semester. Mr. Watson responded he does not collect that data for paper evaluations, as approximately 35,000 sheets were distributed for spring 2013. He mentioned Dr. Patricia Buford, Associate Dean for Engineering, believed there were not only more comments from students, but the comments were of better quality and more value. Dr. Kellner inquired as to the window of time students are given for participation. Mr. Watson stated, for online evaluations, the evaluation opens once a course is 80% complete and closes when a course is 93% complete, which for a typical fall course allows approximately two weeks. Mr. Harrington questioned if a student who no longer attends the course but had not dropped the course would be able to complete an evaluation. Mr. Watson responded the students who are dropped with an “FE” for excessive absences prior to the evaluation opening date will not receive the evaluation, but students who have not dropped the course or received a grade of “FE” will receive the evaluation.

Mr. Watson stated Institutional Research would continue to send faculty a summary sheet for the fall and spring term, with all courses and comments on a single page. Dr. Fusaro noted the online course evaluation results are combined and display all responses and comments together by course, rather than being able to see the specific comments attached to an individual set of numeric ratings, which can at times provide perspective for the comments. Dr. Patton asked if the evaluations would be accessible on mobile devices. Mr. Watson answered the evaluations should be accessible from most smartphones.

Mr. Watson thanked the Senate and excused himself from the meeting.

**PHASED
RETIREMENT
POLICY**

Dr. Mason distributed a phased retirement policy from the University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees which was implemented last year for the Senate’s consideration. He stated his interpretation of the policy implied a positive impact for both the faculty members and the administration. He explained when older, tenured faculty members are undecided regarding retirement, but then decide at the end of an academic year not to return the following fall, it can create a hardship for the department to find a replacement on such short notice. Dr. Mason stated the phased retirement policy enables the university to better gauge and prepare for when faculty will be retiring by allowing faculty to voluntarily sign a phased retirement agreement, up to five years prior to retirement. He then described the benefit to the faculty member as reduced expectations for service and scholarship, allowing the faculty member to solely teach. Dr. Moody asked if she could present this to her department for feedback and continue a discussion at the next meeting. President Ward agreed, asking the senators to discuss this within their departments, and determine if there is sufficient interest to form a subcommittee to proceed.

**OLD BUSINESS:
FACULTY
WEBPAGES**

Dr. Fusaro reported the personalized faculty webpages, which were temporarily unavailable, are once again accessible at <http://faculty.atu.edu>. He stated all faculty members who have a webpage on this server were emailed instructions for adding the mandatory disclaimer to each webpage as a footer. Dr. Finan mentioned the disclaimer verbiage was lengthy and

asked if he could instead link to the disclaimer rather than fully displaying it on his webpage. He also mentioned the link to his personalized webpage on his departmental faculty page directs the visitor to a general listing of faculty webpages, rather than directly to his webpage. Dr. Fusaro responded he believed that was due in part to the disclaimer being displayed on the general listing of faculty webpages. Dr. Finan requested that he either be allowed to link directly to his faculty webpage and add the disclaimer verbiage, or continue to link to the general listing of faculty webpages, but not be required to display the disclaimer again on his own webpage. Dr. Fusaro stated he would submit Dr. Finan's requests to the subcommittee.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Dr. Holeyfield reported the campus recreation subcommittee had toured the Hull building facilities, including the swimming pool area. She stated the subcommittee was in agreement that the facilities were lacking and the pool was beyond repair. Dr. Finan suggested the university instead build a new recreation facility. Mr. Harrington noted the limited hours Tech Fit is open for general use and reported he is no longer able to access the football stadium stands for running. Dr. Holeyfield responded that Tech Fit is an academic classroom and lab, serving as a simulated fitness facility for students, and was not built with the intention of serving as a campus recreational facility. Dr. Rogers stated a recreational facility that includes a swimming pool is not only a resource for the campus and community, but is also a recruitment tool to make an impression on prospective students. Dr. Holeyfield emphasized the strain that has been placed on the Hull building by having it serve as a facility for academics, the community, student services, and athletics simultaneously.

Dr. Finan asked Dr. Watson if it would be feasible to hire students during the winter break to allow Hull to remain at least partially open between semesters. Dr. Watson believed it would be possible and stated he was investigating additional recreational opportunities for students on weekends. Dr. Watson also mentioned the Student Government Association (SGA) had expressed an interest in pursuing a recreational facility, and even mentioned promoting a student fee to help fund it. Dr. Rogers encouraged the Senate to take advantage of the opportunity to work with the SGA, emphasizing the student voice would have as much or more weight than the voice of the faculty.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to charge the subcommittee with identifying long and short term goals for campus recreation.

President Ward asked the senators to survey their departments and send a list of goals and priorities to Dr. Moody to compile. Dr. Moody mentioned she had been asked to assist with the formation of the Staff Senate, and felt input from that body would be necessary as well.

Motion carried.

Dr. Watson thanked the Senate and excused himself from the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

President Ward announced Dr. Ivan Still, the Senate appointment to the Assessment Committee, had resigned from that committee. President Ward recommended Dr. Huss be appointed in the place of Dr. Still.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Mason, to accept the appointment of Dr. Huss to the Assessment Committee. Motion carried.

Dr. Kellner stated he and Dr. Huss had been tasked to investigate the proportion of ATU students requiring remediation, based on a Senate discussion in the spring. He stated they were willing to perform an analysis to track students receiving remediation to determine how many of those students persist through graduation, but he was uncertain how receptive the administration would be to such an analysis. Dr. Kellner stated if he was confident the administration would use the resulting information, he and Dr. Huss would be willing to

invest time into a more in-depth analysis. Dr. Tucci encouraged Dr. Kellner and Dr. Huss to demonstrate to the administration areas in which the remediated students show improvement and areas in which those students do not improve.

Dr. Kellner suggested the Senate petition Dr. Bowen to consider the Faculty Handbook changes voted on and approved by the faculty in 2012. He reminded the senators the changes included restricting Senate membership to tenured faculty when feasible and eliminating the administrative appointments to the Senate. President Ward stated he and Dr. Lovely had visited with Dr. Bowen on these issues, but he felt the Senate should specifically ask her to address the changes. Dr. Kellner stated he would draft a statement to present to the senators at the October meeting.

Dr. Rogers asked if the Senate still had an interest in transitioning to an Honor Code University, noting the subcommittee had exhausted its resources and the next step would likely be for the Vice President for Academic Affairs or University President to take action. He also reminded the senators that a subcommittee at one time was revising the chronology of the promotion and tenure procedure in the Faculty Handbook, but no action had been taken for two years. Mr. Futterer expressed support for the Honor Code University, and asked that be placed back on the agenda. Dr. Rogers stated he would recirculate the work from the subcommittee. Mr. Futterer offered to rewrite the promotion and tenure chronology this term and present a draft to the Senate once completed.

Dr. Kellner described the current online course catalog matrix format as very difficult to use for both students and faculty. The Senate was informed this complaint was brought to Academic Affairs from the Deans and Department Heads over the summer, and Academic Affairs was in the process of reformatting the catalog to not only eliminate the current matrix format, but to also add course titles to the curricula. It was also noted, with the amount of reformatting necessary, the changes may not be reflected until the 2016-17 course catalog. Dr. Kellner expressed satisfaction the issue was being addressed, and did not want to pursue it any further.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Harrington distributed the 2014 exhibition schedule for the Norman Art Gallery.

Dr. Bishop announced the Hospitality program will once again be offering the weekly dinners during the fall semester, with reservations being accepted.

Dr. Bosold announced the Nursing Department would be conducting a “closed pod” drill on Friday at Tucker Coliseum. She explained that in the event of an act of bioterrorism, Arkansas Tech University would be a site that would dispense medicine and treatment, with priority given to students, faculty, staff and their families.

Dr. Rogers announced Constitution Day is September 17 and asked for student and faculty volunteers to participate in a public reading of the constitution at noon in the Doc Bryan courtyard.

Dr. Fusaro announced when the second quarter numbers for the ATU Business Index are released, Russellville will be the city showing the largest growth.

President Ward informed the Senate that the on-campus Counseling Center was a good resource toward which faculty can refer students.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 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