

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, February 12, 2002, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Kevin Mason
Dr. Ken Trantham
Ms. Peggy Lee
Dr. Richard Smith
Dr. Paula Pendergrass
Dr. Charles Busch
Dr. David Bell

Dr. Scott Jordan
Dr. Annette Holeyfield
Dr. Steve Shry
Dr. Theresa Herrick
Dr. Scott Kirkconnell
Mr. Ron Robison

Dr. Alex Darkwah and Mr. Ray Wheeler were absent. Dr. Jeff Mitchell was a visitor.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Dr. Pendergrass called the meeting to order and asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 11, 2001, meeting. Dr. Smith noted that the approval of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration applied to programs within the entire School and not just the Department of Business and Economics as shown in the December minutes. There being no other corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:
HEALTH
INSURANCE
CONSORTIUM/
WELLNESS
CENTER

Dr. Pendergrass asked Dr. Shry to address this item. Motion by Dr. Shry, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to have the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee look at the possibility of ATU forming a consortium with other universities in the state of Arkansas as a way of dealing with the ongoing problems of health insurance costs, and to look at the use of the Wellness Center as a possible way to reduce costs. Discussion centered on the possible cost benefits to Tech if documentation on Tech Fit usage could be provided to the insurance carrier. Motion carried. Dr. Pendergrass stated that she would send this item to the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee for review.

OLD BUSINESS:
APPOINTMENT OF
COMMITTEES

Dr. Pendergrass reported that the following individuals had agreed to serve on the subcommittee for review of university promotion and tenure policies and procedures: Dr. Herrick, chair; Dr. Smith; Dr. Bell; Dr. Trantham; and Mr. Wheeler. Dr. Herrick reported that the subcommittee had already met once and that minutes of their meeting were posted on the Faculty Senate's website. She stated that the committee would meet every two weeks and would be reviewing the promotion and tenure policy, the peer review policy, and the issue of elected versus appointed university promotion and tenure committee members.

Dr. Pendergrass announced that the following individuals had agreed to serve on the subcommittee for review of the peer review process, specifically whether faculty should meet with their peer review committee as part of their evaluation: Dr. Shry, chair; Ms. Lee; and Dr. Jordan. Dr. Shry stated that the subcommittee had not yet formally met; however, he had asked each member to speak with faculty in their respective schools

concerning this issue. Feedback obtained thus far indicated similar results to the survey previously sent out by the Faculty Senate. He stated that the subcommittee would have a recommendation at a future meeting of the Senate.

REFERRED
MOTION

Dr. Pendergrass reported that the Curriculum Committee had not yet met on the motion concerning ensuring faculty involvement in curriculum changes which had been referred back to them for additional review.

REMOVAL OF
LANGUAGE

Dr. Pendergrass distributed a memorandum from Dr. Hamm concerning both motions previously made by the Senate to remove the language on collegiality and appointments of full-time administrators with tenured faculty status. She stated that Dr. Hamm had met with her concerning his memorandum and had stated that, since he did not know the history of these issues, he had tried to look at each from an objective perspective. She stated that he had agreed with the Senate and the AAUP that collegiality should not be raised to the same standard as scholarship, teaching, or service. In the memorandum he had outlined the procedure for changing the *Faculty Handbook*, which includes providing a rationale acceptable by him, the President, and the Board of Trustees. Dr. Pendergrass reported that Dr. Hamm believed at this time that the language on both issues in the *Faculty Handbook* was adequate. After discussion, no additional motions were forthcoming, and Dr. Pendergrass stated that the Faculty Senate will accept the wording in the *Faculty Handbook* as it exists at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Pendergrass asked Dr. Smith and Dr. Holeyfield for an update on the search for the Vice President for Academic Affairs position. Dr. Smith reported that the search committee had narrowed the candidates down to a list of five from which Dr. Brown had chosen three for reference checks. The committee is in the process of checking those references and will report findings to Dr. Brown this Friday. He stated that the interview process has not yet been determined but that he would certainly advocate that the Senate be allowed to participate.

OPEN FORUM:
HIRING
GUIDELINES

Dr. Pendergrass reported that Dr. Mitchell had asked her to present this issue to the Senate but that she had instead invited him to attend the meeting to address the item in person. Dr. Mitchell stated that he was present at the meeting both in his capacity as a faculty member and as the current president of the local AAUP chapter. He stated that the AAUP had received a number of complaints from across campus concerning hiring guidelines in some academic departments. He emphasized that this issue appeared to be confined to just a few departments. The complaints being raised centered on the apparent exclusion of some departmental faculty from the hiring process. Dr. Mitchell stated his recognition of the legal right of the administration and the Board of Trustees to make the final hiring decisions but asked that the Senate send a message to the academic departments encouraging faculty participation in the hiring process. Discussion was then held as to the possible content of the message, what procedures the AAUP utilizes upon receipt of complaints, and the professional issues involved related to faculty and the hiring process. Dr. Pendergrass asked that any motion relating to this issue be sent to her two weeks before the next meeting of the Senate to allow for inclusion on the agenda.

ELECTED OR
APPOINTED

Dr. Pendergrass stated that Dr. Stoeckel, chair of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, had sent her a copy of a letter which he had written in response to an inquiry from a faculty member about the process used by the Promotion and Tenure Committee in reviewing portfolios and making recommendations. With Dr. Stoeckel's permission, she distributed the letter (identifying verbage deleted) for review by the Senate. After

discussion concerning whether the Promotion and Tenure Committee membership should be elected rather than appointed, Dr. Herrick stated that the subcommittee reviewing promotion and tenure procedures would be looking at this issue in detail.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Herrick, Ph.D., Secretary