

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, November 11, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Annette Holeyfield	Dr. Charles Busch
Dr. Sid Womack	Mr. Ron Robison
Dr. Joe Moore	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Scott Kirkconnell	Ms. Darla Sparacino
Ms. Peggy Lee	Dr. Trey Philpotts
Ms. Marti Wilkerson	Dr. Jeff Robertson
Dr. Carl Greco	

Dr. Mason and Dr. Pearson were absent. Dr. Dan Martin, Dr. Eldon Clary, Dr. Cathy Caldwell, Dr. Jack Hamm, Dr. Ursula Chandler, Dr. Terri Earnest, Dr. Charles Gagen, Mr. James Willcutt, Mr. Andy Anders, Dr. Micheal Tarver, Dr. Donna Vocate, Dr. Georgena Duncan, and Dr. John Krohn were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
of
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Sparacino called the meeting to order and asked for action on the minutes of the October 14, 2003, meeting. Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Lee, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. President Sparacino asked for any amendments or corrections. There being none, motion by Ms. Lee, seconded by Dr. Womack, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
REPORT BY
VICE PRESIDENT

President Sparacino asked Dr. Hamm to address the Senate. Dr. Hamm stated that he had asked to speak with the Senate in order to give an update on the issue of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee providing feedback during the promotion and tenure process. He reported that he has spoken to several constituencies involved in this process, including the deans, the promotion and tenure committee, the University Counsel, and the President. Several methods by which feedback could be given have been discussed; however, no process has yet been agreed upon by all parties. Dr. Hamm stated that the most difficult part of this issue is resolving how to “provide feedback and avoid litigation.” He assured the Senate that he will continue to work on this issue. Dr. Hamm noted that he has provided what assistance he could in the past to faculty who have approached him and that he will continue to do so.

Dr. Kirkconnell stated that he had previously been told that approximately 5 percent of those applying for promotion are unsuccessful each year; Dr. Hamm replied that the percentage is actually slightly higher than that. Some applicants have sought detailed feedback so that they could be told what specific steps they need to take to guarantee future success in promotion. Dr. Kirkconnell mentioned that such detailed, binding feedback is not given, for example, to medical school applicants. Not only are academic and intellectual factors evidenced by transcripts, letters of recommendation, and volunteer activities considered, but congressional districts, sizes of applicant pools in the year of application, etc., also play a part, so that, as is the case for Supreme Court nominees, there simply is no way to guarantee success. Dr Hamm averred that it may be possible to identify some weaker areas, but, in most cases, applicants need to present stronger indications that they have contributed high

quality teaching, service, and scholarly activities. He also noted that any process involving feedback would apply only to promotion, not tenure.

Ms. Wilkerson asked if the creation of an advisory group to assist in this area had been considered. Dr. Hamm responded that he had considered this option also and went on to state that he will have another discussion with the promotion and tenure committee on this issue once they complete their current deliberations.

Dr. Hamm reported that he has been working with the deans to define a process to publicize and promote scholarly works of the faculty. He distributed a draft of a process by which data on presentations, publications, research grants, etc., may be collected and stated that Academic Affairs would then collate the material for presentation in a nice publication. He asked that the Senate review the draft and provide feedback. Dr. Hamm thanked the Senate for allowing him to speak and excused himself from the meeting.

After discussion, motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to address this issue at the next meeting to allow time for consideration. Motion carried.

CURRICULAR
ITEMS

The following actions were taken with regards to recommendations from the Curriculum Committee:

Motion by Dr. Womack, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to consider all proposals from each department/school together for the purposes of making motions for approval. Motion carried.

President Sparacino asked that the order of the agenda be suspended to allow the proposals from Foreign Languages to be presented first as Dr. Chandler had another commitment. Motion by Dr. Kirkconnell, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to so suspend the order of the agenda. Motion carried.

A. Department of Foreign Languages and International Studies

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Womack, to add FR/GER/SPAN 3213, Advanced Grammar and Usage, to the course descriptions and required curriculum in Foreign Languages; add FR/GER/SPAN 3223, Short Story, to the course descriptions and required curriculum in Foreign Languages; and revise the Foreign Language curriculum as follows: delete FR/GER/SPAN 1014 and 1024, Beginning Language I, II, from the required curriculum; add the two new courses referenced above; add a three-credit-hour upper division elective requirement; and re-total the electives to ensure 124 required hours. Dr. Chandler mentioned that it is quite difficult to achieve language proficiency equivalent to that of a native speaker without an “immersion experience,” but that the proposed and other initiatives are part of an ongoing effort to make graduates perform at just such a high level. Motion carried.

At this time the order of the agenda was resumed.

B. School of Liberal and Fine Arts

Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Dr. Womack, to modify the emphasis block in Early Childhood Education for the B.A. in General Studies degree by

deleting ECED 3013, Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom, and adding EDMD 3013, Integrating Instructional Technology. Motion carried.

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C. Department of Art

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kirkconnell, to add ART 2213, Digital Skills for the Graphic Designer, to the course descriptions and the Graphic Design curriculum; add ART 3203, Typography and Layout, to the course descriptions and the Graphic Design curriculum; add ART 4243, Professional Portfolio Preparation for the Graphic Designer, to the course descriptions and the Graphic Design curriculum; delete ART 2203, Applied Graphic Design, from the course descriptions and the Graphic Design curriculum; delete Basic Advertising Art, ART 3213, from the course descriptions and the Graphic Design curriculum; delete Advanced Advertising Art, ART 4213, from the course descriptions (this course is listed in the current footnote 2 as a graphic design option which will be deleted in the revised Graphic Design curriculum); change the course number of ART 1203, Introduction to Graphic Design, to ART 1503, change the course description, and add a prerequisite; change the course name of ART 3223, Three Dimensional Advertising, to Three Dimensional Graphic Design, add prerequisites, and add to the required curriculum in Graphic Design; change the description and add prerequisites to ART 3233, Production Techniques, add to the required curriculum in Graphic Design, and re-total the electives to ensure 124 required hours; and add a statement to the Department of Art catalog page. Dr. Caldwell stated that computer and software access provided for art majors is now very much improved, and that the new building will be a real, much-needed boon to art education. Motion carried.

D. Department of Behavioral Sciences

Motion by Ms. Wilkerson, seconded by Dr. Womack, to add SOC/CJ 3083, Social Deviance, to the course descriptions; and delete CJ 4063, American Constitutional Law 1941-Present: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, from the course descriptions. Motion carried.

E. Department of Music

Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Dr. Womack, to add a statement to the Music Department catalog page requiring an audition prior to enrollment as a music major; and add a statement in the course descriptions, Musical Performance section, requiring permission of the department head before enrolling in applied music sections. Motion carried.

F. Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Womack, to change the course description of HIST 2513, Sources and Methods in History; change the title of POLS 3083, Political Parties and Elections, to Political Parties and Interest Groups, and change the course description; add POLS 2513, Sources and Methods in Political Science, to the course descriptions; add POLS 3113, Congress and the Presidency, to the course descriptions; add POLS 3123, American Political Behavior, to the course descriptions; add POLS 3063, Political Philosophy, to the course descriptions and cross-list with PHIL 3063,

Political Philosophy; change the title of HIST 4043, American Constitutional Law to 1941, to American Constitutional Development, change the course description, and remove the cross-listing with POLS 4043; delete POLS 4063, American Constitutional Law 1941-Present: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, from the course descriptions; change the title of POLS 4043, American Constitutional Law to 1941, to American

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Constitutional Law, change the course description, and remove the cross-listing with HIST 4043; revise the curriculum in Pre-Law and indicate that this curriculum is "Suggested"; add a prerequisite for HIST 2003, U.S. History to 1865, requiring minimum ACT scores of 19 in English and Reading or successful completion of ENGL 1013 or equivalent; add a prerequisite for HIST 2013, U.S. History since 1865, requiring minimum ACT scores of 19 in English and Reading or successful completion of ENGL 1013 or equivalent; add a prerequisite for POLS 2003, American Government, requiring minimum ACT scores of 19 in English and Reading or successful completion of ENGL 1013 or equivalent; and add a prerequisite for GEOG 2013, Regional Geography of the World, requiring minimum ACT scores of 19 in English and Reading or successful completion of ENGL 1013 or equivalent. Motion carried.

G. Department of Speech, Theatre, and Journalism

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Greco, to add JOUR 1911/1921, 2911/2921, 3911/3921, and 4911/4921, Multimedia Practicum, to the course descriptions; change the course description of TH 3513, Stagecraft Technique; add TH 4511/4521, Practicum in Set Construction and Lighting, to the course descriptions; add TH 4611/4621, Practicum in Costume and Makeup, to the course descriptions; add TH 4821/4831, Practicum in Directing, to the course descriptions; and add TH 3711/3721 and TH 4711/4721, Practicum in Stage Management, to the course descriptions. Motion carried.

H. Department of Biological Sciences

Motion by Dr. Womack, seconded by Mr. Robison, to make the following changes: Fisheries and Wildlife Curriculum -- change course number and title of FW 4053, Fish and Wildlife Administration, to FW 3053, Fisheries and Wildlife Administration, modify prerequisites, and change the course description; move FW 4003, Principles of Wildlife Management, from the junior year to the senior year; move FW 3053, Fisheries and Wildlife Management, from the senior year to the junior year; change the public speaking requirement from SPH 2003, Public Speaking, to Public Speaking (SPH 2003 or alternate); eliminate unnecessary text (modifiers) from listed courses Applied Physics, Calculus for Business and Economics, and Computer Science Elective; change the recommended computer science course from COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications, to COMS 1003, Introduction to Computer Based Systems; eliminate footnote 3; combine footnotes 4, 5, and 6 and renumber footnotes accordingly; and change the course number of BIOL 4224, Herpetology, to BIOL 3224, cross-list as FW 3224, and change the course description; add BIOL 4881-4, Advanced Topics in Biology, to the course descriptions; change the Computer Science Elective with its footnote recommendation of COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications, to Computer Science (COMS 1003 or alternate) in the Biology curriculum; change the Computer Science Elective with its footnote recommendation of COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications, to Computer Science (COMS 1003 or alternate) in the Biology-Environmental curriculum;

delete BUAD 2043, Principles of Word Processing, from the Medical Assistant curriculum and add COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications; and Medical Technology Curriculum -- add BIOL 1011, Orientation to the Biological Sciences; add BIOL 2004, Basic Human Anatomy and Physiology; add computer science three-hour elective with footnote recommending COMS 1003 or alternate; delete BIOL 2004, Basic Human Anatomy and Physiology, BIOL 3074, Human Physiology, and BIOL 3134, Invertebrate Zoology, from the list of Biology options; add CHEM 2204, Organic Physiological

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Chemistry, to the list of Chemistry options; and delete electives currently listed to account for required course additions listed above. Motion carried.

I. Department of Nursing

Motion by Ms. Wilkerson, seconded by Mr. Robison, to add NUR 3892, Clinical Competency I, and NUR 4892, Clinical Competency II, to the course descriptions. Motion carried.

J. Department of Physical Sciences

Motion by Mr. Robison, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to delete MCEG 1002, Engineering Graphics, from the Geology Curricula, Professional and Environmental Options; add two hours to Electives in the Professional Option; and add two hours to Electives (Geology, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry) in the Environmental Option; change footnotes for Physical Science and Environmental Science curricula as follows: General Option: Footnote 2 to read "Excluding MATH 3003, MATH 3033, MATH 4113, PHSC 1013, and PHSC 1021"; Physics Option: Footnote 3 to read "Excluding MATH 3003, MATH 3033, and MATH 4113"; and Environmental Science: Footnote 2 to read "Excluding MATH 3003, MATH 3033, and MATH 4113"; and add GEOL 1004, Essentials of Earth Science, to the list of courses satisfying the Physical Science General Education Science requirements. Motion carried.

K. Department of Electrical Engineering

Motion by Dr. Womack, seconded by Dr. Robertson, to change the course number of ELEG 2134, Digital Logic Design, to ELEG 2133, change the course description, add a corequisite of ELEG 2131, and update the prerequisite to COMS 2104 (renumbered from 2103 for current catalog); add ELEG 2131, Digital Logic Design Lab, to the course descriptions and required curriculum; delete ELEG 4111, Digital Systems Laboratory, from the course descriptions; delete ELEG 3223, Microcontrollers, from the course descriptions; change the course description of ELEG 2103, Electric Circuits I, to include "or consent of instructor"; change the course description of ELEG 2113, Electric Circuits II, to include "or consent of instructor"; change the course description of ELEG/MCEG 1012, Introduction to Engineering, to delete the current prerequisites and add a corequisite of "MATH 1113 or any higher level mathematics course"; and Electrical Engineering Curriculum -- change the footnote relating to Technical Electives; change the footnote relating to Engineering Electives; replace ELEG 2134, Digital Logic Design, with ELEG 2133, Digital Logic Design, and ELEG 2131, Digital Logic Design Lab. Motion carried.

L. Department of Mechanical Engineering

Motion by Dr. Greco, seconded by Dr. Womack, to change Footnote 3 requiring a minimum of six hours of 4000-level engineering electives to a minimum of three hours; change the course description of MCEG/ELEG 1012, Introduction to Engineering, to delete the current prerequisites and add a corequisite of "MATH 1113 or any higher level mathematics course"; add MCEG 3503, Basic Nuclear Engineering, as a prerequisite for MCEG 3512, Radiation Detection Laboratory; and add MATH 3153, Applied Statistics I, as a prerequisite for MCEG 4423, Machine Component Design; and change MCEG 4423, Machine Component Design, from a corequisite to a prerequisite for MCEG 4493, Mechanical Design

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Project; change the corequisite for MCEG 4202, Engineering Design, from MCEG 3413, Fundamentals of Mechanical Design, to MCEG 4423, Machine Component Design; and delete MCEG 4443, Heat Transfer, as a corequisite for MCEG 4442, Mechanical Laboratory II. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: President Sparacino reminded the Senators that this agenda item had been tabled at the last meeting in order to allow a chance for reflection and asked for any further discussion.

PRODUCTION/
PRESENTATION OF
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES

Dr. Kirkconnell stated his satisfaction with the current process of producing and approving the minutes. Dr. Greco pointed out two areas of concern stemming from *Robert's Rules of Order*. He noted that the minutes should not be published until they are approved, and he stated that minutes which are published require the signatures of both the secretary and the chair. Dr. Robertson noted that the minutes are currently displayed on the Faculty Senate website as "unapproved" until acted upon. After discussion, Dr. Kirkconnell stated that as the Senate is just affirming its desire to follow *Robert's Rules of Order*, no motion would be necessary to correct the parliamentary concerns noted.

GRADE
INFLATION

President Sparacino announced that Dr. Clary, who had been asked to speak with the Senate concerning this issue which had been carried forward from the previous meeting, had left the meeting due to illness. She distributed an information sheet prepared by Academic Affairs and asked Ms. Chronister (Recording Secretary) to speak to the statistics. Ms. Chronister noted that the information was prepared on the request of Dr. Mason and spanned a period of ten years from fall, 1993, through spring, 2003. Five columns of information were included for each fall and spring semester: the weighted grade point average for the University (based on the total student population); the percentage of the total student population making the Deans List; the percentage of the total student population making a 4.00 grade point average; the average ACT of first-time entering freshmen; and the average high school grade point average of first-time entering freshmen. Ms. Chronister pointed out that the cutoff score for the Deans List was changed from 3.250 to 3.500 as of fall, 2000. It was also noted that the average ACT scores and high school GPA statistics prior to fall 1997 were not included as their accuracy cannot be verified by the current admissions director. The Senators were also reminded that a new Admissions Policy with moderately higher standards had been effective for the 1996-97 entering freshmen class.

Discussion centered on the slight increase in ACT scores for freshmen (i.e., 21.13 in fall, 1997, and 21.97 in fall, 2002) and what appeared to be a more significant increase in the percentage of students making a 4.00 GPA from fall, 1993 (i.e., 4.55 percent) to spring, 2003 (i.e., 6.92 percent). Dr. Womack stated that certain national tests had been re-normed in recent years because students were performing better

on the tests and emphasized that Tech is getting better students which may account in some part for the perception of grade inflation. Several senators expressed an interest in having the data analyzed to a closer degree. Motion by Dr. Womack, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Dr. Kirkconnell stated that he would ask

Dr. Chris Kellner (a faculty member versed in statistical applications) to see if he can discern some meaningful trends in the numbers. Dr. Kirkconnell also asked that other senators seek help with this analysis of the data from, for example, members of the Math Department. President Sparacino asked that the Senators request assistance from colleagues who may be able to perform statistical analysis of the data and bring that information with them to the next meeting. She will also ask Dr. Clary to attend the next meeting to give his presentation.

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- RECYCLING INITIATIVE President Sparacino noted that this item had also been carried forward from the October meeting and asked for volunteers or other action to assist the students with this effort. After discussion, motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to go on record in support of this initiative as follows: The Faculty Senate give full support to student efforts to establish a comprehensive recycling program at Arkansas Tech University as required by state law. The Senate invites interested faculty to serve as advisors to facilitate the recycling initiative. Motion carried.
- OPEN FORUM President Sparacino asked for any comments at this time. Ms. Wilkerson questioned how to handle issues brought up during Open Forum. President Sparacino reminded the Senate that issues discussed during Open Forum will not be placed on the action agenda unless so requested by a Senator.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS President Sparacino announced that the Senate will need to meet in December as a number of curriculum items are still pending. She asked the Senate if they would also like to take Dr. Brown up on his offer of a luncheon; as this met with a positive response, President Sparacino stated that she would contact Dr. Brown's office to arrange the luncheon.
- ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darla Sparacino, M.Ed., President



Scott Kirkconnell, Ph.D., Secretary