

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, October 14, 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. Kevin Mason
Dr. Kathy Pearson	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. Busch and Dr. Womack were absent. Dr. Kenneth Pippin, Dr. Mary Ann Rollans, Mr. Michael Roys, Mr. Bill Harmon, Mr. Ted Lodes, Mr. Chris Glenn, Dr. Lyman Harris, Dr. Dan Martin, Dr. James Gadberry, Dr. Jeff Mitchell, and Ms. Faye Hawks were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Sparacino called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Kirkconnell to address the minutes. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that he had reviewed procedures concerning the approval of minutes in *Robert's Rules of Order* and had noted that minutes should first be read and then time allowed for corrections or amendments before approval. Dr. Kirkconnell then proceeded to read the minutes of the September 9, 2003, meeting as they had been distributed. Mr. Futterer asked that he be given credit in the minutes for an opinion stated in the section "Administrative Appointees to Elected Standing Committees." The statement as amended would read: "A further opinion was voiced by Mr. Futterer that such allegations impugn the integrity of all administrative appointees, as well as the appointing administrators, and that such assertions constitute *prima facie* violations of the principles of collegiality." Ms. Wilkerson also noted that a statement made by President Sparacino regarding the "Follow-Up on Insurance Committee" issue had been left out of the minutes and asked that it now be inserted. The minutes for this section would be corrected to include the following statement at the end of the paragraph: "President Sparacino recommended that future Presidents-Elect invite Mr. Moseley to meet with the Senate for discussion of health insurance proposals to assist in bridging the apparent communication gap." There being no other additions or amendments, President Sparacino stated that the minutes were now approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRICULAR
ITEMS

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

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

A. Department of Behavioral Sciences

Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Dr. Mason, to correct typographical errors for prerequisites for RS 4123, Survey of Counseling Theories, as listed in the

course descriptions; change the course number only of CJ/SOC 3043, Crime and Delinquency, to CJ/SOC 2043; cross-list SOC 2033, Social Problems, as CJ/SOC 2033; and add an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice program to the program offerings. Motion carried.

B. Department of Agriculture

Motion by Ms. Wilkerson, seconded by Dr. Mason, to delete the curriculum in Pre-Forestry from the undergraduate catalog; change the course name of AGBU 2063, Introduction to Agriculture Economics, to Principles of Agricultural Macroeconomics, and change the course description; change the course name of AGBU 2073, Principles of Agriculture Economics, to Principles of Agricultural Microeconomics, and change the course description; change the course name of AGBU 3143, Agriculture Economics, to Intermediate Agricultural Micro- economics; add AGBU 3133, Intermediate Agricultural Macroeconomics, to the course offerings and required curricula in agriculture business (excluding the horticulture and animal science options); and delete three hours of required electives to be replaced by the new course. Motion carried.

C. School of Community Education and Professional Development

Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to add a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree to the program offerings, and add BAS 3003, Special Problems, and BAS 4006, Capstone Project, to the course offerings and the B.A.S. required program curriculum. Motion carried.

PRODUCTION/
PRESENTATION OF
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES

President Sparacino referred this item to Dr. Kirkconnell. Dr. Kirkconnell reported that he had spoken with several individuals (i.e., Ms. Pat Chronister, Dr. Kenneth Walker, Dr. Robert Bolen, and Ms. Faye Hawks) concerning history surrounding production of the Faculty Senate's minutes and appropriate parliamentary procedure. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that precedent for the minutes as a "bare bones" summary of discussion and actions only was apparently set during a time of "turmoil" on campus and that the Senate may wish to decide what manner of presentation is now preferred. Dr. Kirkconnell also noted that the role of the Recording Secretary, currently a position held by Ms. Chronister, may also need to be discussed. Dr. Greco asked that discussion concerning presentation of the minutes be held first and made a motion to require additional detail similar to that presented in the September 9, 2003, minutes for all future minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robertson.

Initial discussion concerned reading of the minutes. Mr. Futterer asked that this be dispensed with for future meetings. Dr. Kirkconnell reported that this can be done as long as minutes are distributed in advance, giving members the opportunity to review them prior to the meeting.

Regarding the motion made, Ms. Hawks advised that if the motion were approved, all secretaries in the future would then be required to include a certain amount of detail in their minutes. Subsequent discussion included issues relating to the selectivity of what to include and what not to include and whom to quote and whom not to quote, the possibility of limited debate due to a desire not to be quoted, the possibility of prepared statements, "verbatim" minutes, the subjectivity versus objectivity of the Secretary in preparation of the minutes, and the definition of "detailed." Ms. Hawks offered the opinion that the Senate itself will ultimately determine the content of the minutes by offering amendments or changes as had occurred today. Dr. Greco restated his motion that the minutes should

include sufficient detail for faculty to understand the issues discussed. The question was called, and the motion failed by a show of hands, four for the motion and six against. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to table any further discussion concerning the minutes until the next meeting to allow time for reflection. Motion carried by a show of hands, six for the motion and four against.

OLD BUSINESS:
GRADE
INFLATION

Dr. Kirkconnell reported that he and Mr. Harmon had recently discussed the issue of grade inflation and that he had asked Mr. Harmon to share some related information with the Senate. Mr. Harmon presented information on an evaluation system used by the U.S. Army which endeavors to “drive inflation out of the system.” When used correctly, resulting evaluations by an officer of those officers reporting to him/her would represent a “bell curve.” Dr. Mason acknowledged that this system would apply to evaluations of faculty but questioned how it would apply to students on the issue of grade inflation.

Mr. Harmon responded that faculty would have an incentive not to give inflated grades if that is one of the criteria by which they are evaluated. Mr. Harmon pointed out that he had never operated in a system that adequately “came to grips” with the problem of inflation of evaluations. Those who were brutally honest in the military setting experienced extremely negative consequences, but that system didn’t work at all until the raters were required, under the oversight of a general officer, to restrain their evaluations or face unfavorable ratings of their own performances.

Dr. Kirkconnell thanked Mr. Harmon for his presentation and began discussion by questioning what role the Faculty Senate might want to play in the determination of whether grade inflation exists on campus and, if so, what actions to take. Dr. Philpotts stated that this is information which would be helpful for the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Dr. Kirkconnell reported that Dr. Hamm had spoken to him of this issue at Homecoming and that Academic Affairs would be glad to provide what information is available concerning this issue. He also distributed information copied from the Internet for the Senators’ review. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that he would consult with Dr. Hamm on this issue and bring it back to the Senate for discussion at next month’s meeting.

RECYCLING
INITIATIVE

Dr. Kirkconnell introduced Mr. Lodes as a concerned student advocating recycling on campus. Mr. Lodes then introduced Mr. Glenn, also a student, who will take over this initiative next year after Mr. Lodes graduates. Mr. Lodes distributed a proposal on recycling which had received support last year from the SGA but was rejected ultimately by the administration due to lack of funding (estimated funding at approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year). He enumerated several reasons for the creation of a recycling program on campus, including the fact that a state law mandates state agencies having a recycling program that is environmentally responsible, teaches students values, and is not being done because recycling has not been assigned a high enough priority. He further stated that his current goal was to simply “make recycling an issue on campus.” Mr. Lodes reported that a recycling committee will soon be formed which will include both on-campus and community representatives and asked that the Faculty Senate form a sub-committee to serve on the recycling committee. President Sparacino asked that the Senators review the proposal and be prepared to respond to this request at next month’s meeting.

OPEN FORUM

President Sparacino asked for any comments at this time. Dr. Mitchell asked to be heard. He introduced himself and stated that he was the President of the local chapter of the AAUP. Dr. Mitchell reported that UCA is currently undergoing a major revision of their faculty handbook under the guidance of a committee formed from elected standing committees and reported that the Tech AAUP chapter is concerned that faculty have “lost control of the process” of changing the faculty handbook on this campus. It was noted that Tech’s handbook is normally changed through recommendations made by faculty committees to the Vice President for Academic Affairs

who then makes recommendations to the President. The President then recommends to the Board of Trustees who is ultimately responsible for the approval or disapproval of changes to the handbook. It was also noted that some changes in the past, notably the current Evaluation, Promotion, and Tenure policy, were initiated by the administration by appointing faculty committees to study and propose changes. Dr. Mitchell stated that an example of a change not taken through any faculty committee was the inclusion in the handbook of the "collegiality clause." He asked that the Faculty Senate consider this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Sparacino announced that Dr. Hamm will speak to the Senate in November concerning the Senate's recommendation regarding the Promotion and Tenure Committee providing written explanations to applicants. She also distributed for quick reference a list of Senators with names, schools represented, office addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. She reported that Dr. Robertson had included most of this information on the Faculty Senate website.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Kirkconnell, Ph.D., Secretary