

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, September 9, 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
Dr. Charles Busch	Dr. Sid Womack
Ms. Marti Wilkerson	Dr. Jeff Robertson
Dr. Carl Greco	

CALL TO ORDER President Sparacino called the meeting to order and asked for action on the APPROVAL OF August 18, 2003, minutes. Motion by Dr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to MINUTES approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: President Sparacino stated that she would like to outline certain items relating ORIENTATION/ to orientation and procedures for the Faculty Senate. She first encouraged PROCEDURES the Senators to review the by-laws as presented in the *Faculty Handbook*. She reported that Dr. Robertson, who will maintain the Senate's website, has included an e-mail link for all the Senators to facilitate contact and has worked to make the website more accessible. She then distributed a sheet and asked that the Senators include their office telephone numbers, campus addresses, and e-mail addresses which she will compile and send out to each Senator for easy reference.

President Sparacino indicated her desire to continue the "Open Forum" as part of each month's agenda. She emphasized that action items are due no later than ten days before each month's meeting to facilitate the preparation and distribution of the agenda.

FACULTY President Sparacino asked Dr. Greco to address this item. Dr. Greco referred *HANDBOOK* the Senators to the agenda item enclosed with their packets and stated that he had been a member of one AMENDMENT elected standing committee which had apparently not met on a regular basis for a number of years. The proposed amendment to the *Handbook* would serve to require that each elected standing committee meet at least once per semester, provide a mechanism for the Senate chair to assure that the meetings take place with the appropriate election of officers, and require minutes to be distributed. Discussion centered on the following points: some committees may have been set up to meet only on an as-needed basis; the function of the committees which do not meet may need to be reviewed; and the rationale that if a committee never meets, there is no way to determine if further meetings should occur. Motion by Dr. Busch, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to approve the proposed amendment. Motion carried. President Sparacino then appointed a sub-committee of Mr. Futterer, Ms. Wilkerson, and herself to begin a review of the elected standing committee functions.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTEES TO ELECTED STANDING COMMITTEES	<p>President Sparacino referred this item to Dr. Kirkconnell who stated that he had been asked to place this item on the agenda for discussion and referenced the appointments to the Faculty Senate in particular. Dr. Busch stated his belief that there are faculty members who feel there should not be administrative appointments to the Faculty Senate due to the belief that those appointees serve "at the pleasure of" and will vote at the direction of the administration. Dr. Kirkconnell, current Presidential appointee, reported that the only communication he had relative to Faculty Senate matters occurred just before Dr. Brown appointed him when he was asked if he would serve the greater interests of the University, to which he said, "yes." Dr. Mason, current VPAA appointee, stated that he has not received even as little direction as Dr. Kirkconnell, but would be "tickled," in some ways, to have one less thing to do. The opinion was voiced that the current appointees are "innocuous," only because there are, at present, no hot controversies pending, but if such contentious issues were in the offing, past experiences involving certain (named) appointees would be repeated, and that this improper influence could, once again, decide close votes. 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 <i>prima fascia</i> violations of the principles of collegiality. After additional discussion relating to when and why administrative appointments began and what process would have to be followed to effect changes, President Sparacino asked for any action on this item. There being none, she asked that the Senators take this issue back to their schools for additional discussion and input and to advise her if the item should be carried forward to the next agenda.</p>
GRADE that Mr. Bill INFLATION	<p>Dr. Kirkconnell stated his belief that this is a significant issue and reported that Mr. Bill Harmon had pertinent information that he would be willing to share. After discussion, Dr. Kirkconnell stated that he would ask Mr. Harmon to attend next month's Senate meeting to address this issue.</p>
RECYCLING INITIATIVE	<p>Dr. Kirkconnell referenced the Student Government Association's continuing interest in this issue and how to address it on campus. President Sparacino will invite a representative of that organization to address the Senate at the next meeting.</p>
FOLLOW-UP ON INSURANCE COMMITTEE	<p>President Sparacino stated that she had spoken to Mr. Moseley concerning the Senate's recommendation from February 14, 2003, that the Insurance Committee meet at least one month prior to selection of an insurance plan. Mr. Moseley had advised that the Insurance Committee had already met twice, that a month's consideration of the proposed insurance plan for 2004 had been given, and that the committee had recommended a plan which will result in only a 4.4% increase in premiums for the upcoming coverage year. 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.</p>

OPEN FORUM No issues were brought up during open forum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/President Sparacino reported that Dr. Hamm is continuing his discussions with
INFORMATION appropriate individuals concerning the Senate's recommendation regarding the
Promotion and Tenure

ITEMS Committee providing written explanations to applicants. She stated that he is
hoping to have his response to this recommendation ready for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Kirkconnell, Ph.D., Secretary