

Minutes of  
THE FACULTY SENATE  
OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2004-05 Faculty Senate was held at twelve o'clock noon, Monday, August 16, 2004, in the Private Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Ms. Peggy Lee	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Sid Womack	Dr. Carey Roberts
Dr. Charles Busch	Dr. Jeff Robertson
Dr. Shelia Jackson	Ms. Darla Sparacino
Dr. Carl Greco	Dr. Trey Philpotts
Ms. Marti Wilkerson	Dr. Kathy Pearson
Dr. Kevin Mason	Dr. Brenda Montgomery

Dr. Joe Moore was absent. Dr. Robert C. Brown, President, Dr. Jack Hamm, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. David Underwood, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Philpotts called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to suspend the order of the agenda to allow Dr. Hamm to make his report first. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Ms. Lee, to suspend the order of the agenda. Motion carried. Dr. Hamm reported that the Executive Council had found a way to fund two programs which have gone unfunded for a number of years: the sabbatical program and a program in faculty research. He distributed two drafts outlining proposed guidelines for submission of proposals for these two programs. He asked the Senators to review the guidelines and provide feedback to Academic Affairs as quickly as possible. He stated that approximately \$80,000 may be available for these two programs. Dr. Hamm noted that he will meet with the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee later in the week and would distribute the guidelines to all faculty as soon as possible. Per the *Faculty Handbook*, proposals for sabbatical leave must be submitted by September 15 each year. Dr. Hamm stated that this deadline may need to be extended this year.

Dr. Brown asked to be recognized and extended his appreciation to the Senate for the exemplary way in which business was transacted last year. He also commended both Ms. Pat Chronister, Recording Secretary, and Dr. David Underwood for their efforts on behalf of the Faculty Senate and the faculty at large. Dr. Brown extended an invitation for another luncheon to be held this fall, courtesy of the President's Office, at which the Senators could meet for an extended session with the President.

Dr. Brown reported that enrollment is currently running 3 ½ percent ahead of last year. He stated that the institution has attained its enrollment management goals and emphasized that continued growth, though possible, would change the character of the institution, something which he does not believe at this time is in the best interests of Arkansas Tech University.

Dr. Brown reminded the Senators that this will be a legislative year. Revenue projections are currently positive. However, he observed that Arkansas's economy normally lags one year behind the nation's economy and noted that scrutiny of public school facilities is now at the forefront of the continuing debate of funding public schools.

Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak with the Senate, and Dr. Brown, Dr. Hamm, and Dr. Underwood excused themselves from the meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, the order of the agenda resumed, and President Philpotts asked for action on the minutes of the April 14, 2004, meeting and the minutes of the April 30, 2004, meeting. Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Sparacino, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Dr. Mason, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

President Philpotts then asked each Senator to introduce themselves.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Philpotts asked for nominations for the position of Chair Elect. Ms. Sparacino nominated Ms. Wilkerson. Motion by Dr. Greco, seconded by Dr. Busch, to cease nominations and elect Ms. Wilkerson to the position of Chair Elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Philpotts asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Ms. Sparacino nominated Dr. Robertson. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Pearson, to cease nominations and elect Dr. Robertson to the position of Secretary by acclamation. Motion carried.

#### MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE

After discussion, the regular meeting time for the fall semester was set for the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in Pendergraft 325, with the first meeting scheduled for September 9.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

President Philpotts announced that five faculty members need to be named to the Academic Appeals Committee by the Faculty Senate. He presented the following names to the Senators for consideration based on their qualifications, availability, and willingness: Ms. Laurie Lucas (School of Business), Dr. Byra Ramsey (School of Education), Dr. James Gadberry (School of Liberal and Fine Arts), Dr. Chris Kellner (School of Physical and Life Sciences), and Ms. Sarah Robison (School of Systems Science). Motion by Dr. Womack, seconded by Dr. Jackson, to approve the recommendations for appointment to the Academic Appeals Committee. Motion carried.

#### APPOINTMENT TO UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE

President Philpotts stated that he had been asked by Academic Affairs to present a name to the Faculty Senate for appointment to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. He stated that Dr. Wayne Helmer met the qualifications for this appointment and was willing to serve in this capacity subject to the Senate's consideration and approval. Motion by Dr. Pearson, seconded by Ms. Lee, to appoint Dr. Helmer to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Motion carried.

#### PROVIDE FOR "OPEN FORUM"

President Philpotts stated that he wished to continue to have "Open Forum" on each month's agenda and asked for a motion. Motion by Dr. Busch, seconded by Dr. Greco, to continue "Open Forum" as a monthly agenda item. Motion carried.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS

President Philpotts asked for any items of information. Dr. Greco reported that Mr. Watson, the Institutional Research Officer, was working on information relating to the grade inflation issue and that information may be available for the next meeting. Dr. Greco also noted that the subcommittee looking at the standing committee election issue had not had a chance to meet this summer, but that a meeting would be scheduled prior to the Senate's next meeting so that a report may be made.

ADJOURNMENT      The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Trey Philpotts in black ink.

Trey Philpotts, Ph.D., President

Handwritten signature of Jeff Robertson in black ink.

Jeff Robertson, Ph.D., Secretary