

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Thursday, October 14, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Ms. Peggy Lee and Ms. Darla Sparacino were absent. Dr. Mary Ann Rollans was a visitor.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Philpotts called the meeting to order and asked for action on the September 9, 2004, minutes. Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Wilkerson, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Ms. Wilkerson, seconded by Dr. Womack, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRICULAR
ITEMS

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

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

A. Department of Business and Economics:

Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Moore, to consider the proposals presented by the Department of Business and Economics. Motion carried. After discussion of the proposals, during which Dr. Mason distributed information relating to how the new Sport and Event Marketing course will fit into the assessment objectives of the Management and Marketing major, motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Womack, to change the footnote in the Economics and Finance curriculum and add MKT 4053, Sport and Event Marketing, to the course descriptions. Motion carried.

B. School of Community Education:

Motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Jackson, to consider the proposals from the School of Community Education. Motion carried. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Womack, to delete EAM 1023, Disaster Planning, from the course descriptions and remove from the Technical Specialty Courses listing in the EAM curriculum; renumber EAM 2023, Principles and Practice of Disaster Response Operations and Management, to EAM 3023, change the title to Principles and Practice of Disaster Planning and Response Operations, revise the Technical

Specialty Courses listing in the EAM curriculum, and revise the course description, including a statement that this course may not be taken for credit after completion of EAM 1023 and EAM 2023; renumber EAM 2043, The Economics of Disaster, to EAM 3143, revise the Technical Specialty Courses listing in the EAM curriculum, and revise the course description; change the title of EAM 3013, Public Administration and Emergency Management, to Public Policy Issues in Emergency Management, revise the Technical Specialty Courses listing in the EAM curriculum, and revise the EAM minor courses listing; and change the title of EAM 4013, Business and Industry Emergency Management, to Business and Industry Crisis Management and revise the Technical Specialty Courses listing in the EAM curriculum. Motion carried.

C. Department of Physical Science:

Motion by Dr. Pearson, seconded by Dr. Jackson, to consider the proposals from the Department of Physical Science. Motion carried. Motion by Dr. Pearson, seconded by Dr. Jackson, to change the pre- and co-requisites of PHYS 4213, Advanced Topics in Physics and Astronomy, as follows: delete the co-requisite of MATH 3243, Differential Equations I, and change the pre-requisites from PHYS 2114, General Physics I, and PHYS 2124, General Physics II, to PHYS 2024, Physical Principles II or PHYS 2124, General Physics II; and change the course description of CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry, to include the following: Prerequisite: a score of 19 or above on the mathematics section of the ACTE exam or completion of MATH 0903, Intermediate Algebra, with a grade of "C" or better. Motion carried.

A discussion was then held concerning whether it would be advantageous to the Faculty Senate to have notes or minutes from the Curriculum Committee meetings in order to facilitate discussion on curricular items. It was noted that any minutes would not be official as the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate generally meet within a few weeks of each other.

OLD BUSINESS:
STANDING
COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS:
PROCESS FOR
CAMPUSWIDE
ELECTION

President Philpotts asked Dr. Robertson to first address the issue of an electronic process for conducting the standing committee elections. Dr. Robertson noted that many of the Senators had reviewed the mock election site via Blackboard and reported that this process would allow the Senate to accomplish "about 95 percent of what we would like to do." Dr. Robertson then explained that one flaw of the Blackboard software is that it will allow a voter to choose or rank listed candidates all as "1" or all as "a" depending on the ranking method being used. Dr. Mason mentioned using Web Surveyor as a tool, but Dr. Greco stated that this software requires a unique ID number in order to ensure only one vote per faculty member. Mr. Futterer then questioned Dr. Robertson as to whether fill-in-the-blank could be used instead where faculty would enter the names of the candidates they wished to vote for rather than using an alpha or numeric system. Dr. Robertson stated that he believed this would solve the problem; it was then noted that any ties in at-large positions could then easily be resolved by having an electronic runoff election.

The discussion then shifted to whether written ballots would be available for those faculty who did not wish to use the electronic method of voting. After discussion, it was decided that an individual representing the Senate would be available in the Library one day during the election process to assist those faculty uncomfortable with utilizing the technology.

President Philpotts questioned how best to demonstrate the proposed process to the faculty at large and solicit feedback. Dr. Robertson stated that he could enroll all the on-campus, full-time faculty into his "class" so that they can try out the election process for themselves.

President Philpotts asked Dr. Greco and Mr. Futterer to formulate survey questions concerning the process which could be incorporated into the “class” site, perhaps attached to the ballot itself, in order to gather feedback. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Womack, to send an email message to all faculty asking them to participate in the mock election and to give the Senate feedback. Motion carried. President Philpotts stated that he would send out the email and that he would also ask department heads to print off the email and place a copy in each faculty member’s mailbox to ensure that everyone sees it.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS

President Philpotts reported that he had spoken with Dr. Hamm concerning the “Guidelines for Faculty Standing Committee School Elections” approved by the Faculty Senate at the last meeting. Dr. Hamm has asked that the guidelines be fleshed out before he presents them to the deans for review. President Philpotts asked the previous sub-committee members (i.e., Dr. Greco, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Robertson) along with Dr. Roberts to revisit the guidelines and develop a practical working document which the deans can use when holding the school elections. Dr. Greco volunteered to chair the sub-committee and stated that he would call a meeting.

GRADE INFLATION

Dr. Greco asked to postpone this discussion until a later meeting to give him additional time to work through the statistical data provided by the Institutional Research office.

“SPAM” MAIL

President Philpotts asked Dr. Greco to report on this issue. Dr. Greco stated that he had visited with Ken Wester in Computer Services and relayed the concerns of the Faculty Senate relating to the amount of “spam” email being received and the structure of the web directory. Dr. Greco reported that Computer Services is unwilling at this time to change the web directory and that they are working on implementing some additional filters to try to deal more effectively with the “spam.” He also stated that the software being used may be a commercial package which is hard to manipulate or change. After discussion, motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Greco, to invite a representative of Computer Services to discuss this issue with the Senate. Motion carried. President Philpotts stated that he would issue the invitation as appropriate.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT: “COLLEGIALITY CLAUSE”

At the request of the Faculty Senate, President Philpotts had spoken to Dr. Hamm concerning the vote by the Faculty Senate in 2000 recommending removal of the “collegiality clause” from the *Faculty Handbook* and had asked him what the decision of the administration was regarding this recommendation. President Philpotts reported that Dr. Hamm had commented that there apparently had not been a decision; however, President Philpotts noted that Dr. Hamm had made it clear that the administration believes that it would be very difficult to justify removal of the clause. Dr. Busch stated that he had been a member of the Senate during 2000 and had made the original motion to remove this clause from the *Faculty Handbook*. He read the clause as written in the *Handbook* to the Senators and then read aloud six concerns relating to the clause, including the point that no definition is given for what constitutes “collegiality,” which he had presented to the Senate in 2000. Dr. Busch reported that the Senate had also voted to recommend rescinding the “automatic tenuring of administrators,” and he referred to a memo written by Dr. Annette Holeyfield, then chair, which had been sent to the vice president outlining the actions taken by the Senate.

Mr. Futterer noted that the Senate can now either repeat the process and recommend removal of the clause or could write definitions for the terms included in the clause. Ms. Wilkerson stated her belief that new faculty are fearful of this clause. President Philpotts noted that, although the Senate is an advisory committee, the Senate certainly has the right to ask why something recommended is not acted upon. He will invite Dr. Hamm to speak to the Senate on this issue.

HEALTH
INSURANCE/
MR. MOSELEY

President Philpotts reported that he had also spoken to Dr. Hamm concerning the Senate's request for Mr. Moseley to speak with the Senate concerning the status of health insurance and bids for next year. Dr. Hamm had recommended that the Senate work through the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee's chair, Ms. Connie Zimmer. This committee serves on the Insurance Committee as faculty representatives.

MOTIONS AND
OPEN FORUM

President Philpotts commented that he wanted to clarify a procedural issue with the Senators relating to Open Forum and motions. When the Open Forum was initially placed on the agenda a few years back, that year's Senate had declared that the Open Forum would be strictly for discussion and that no motions would be allowed. This determination was only in force for that particular Senate for that year as the *Faculty Handbook* clearly states that the Senate may act on any issue whether present on the agenda or not. President Philpotts stated that he merely wished to ascertain the present Faculty Senate's wishes relating to Open Forum. As some of the Senators noted that any item being discussed can always be tabled, consensus was to place no restrictions on motions being made during Open Forum.

OPEN FORUM

President Philpotts asked if there were any other discussion items. Mr. Futterer questioned why adjunct faculty were given yellow hangtags this year as opposed to red hangtags. It was noted that the yellow hangtags were given to the adjuncts free of charge, but that they could trade for a red one if the adjunct wished to pay for it.

Dr. Busch reported that a federal judge had ruled as unconstitutional a college campus' restriction of free speech areas, noting that the entire campus should be considered a free speech area. He stated that the lawn in front of Williamson Hall had been designated on the Tech campus as the free speech area and asked the Senate to reflect on this issue which he will bring to the table for further discussion at a later meeting.

Dr. Greco questioned whether the Library, Instructional Materials, and Equipment Committee was complying with actions taken by the Senate in the spring to ensure that the standing committee chairs are faculty. After noting that the Director of the Library is considered faculty, it was determined that this committee is in compliance.

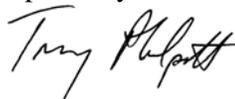
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Philpotts reported that the volume of curricular items will be heavy for the next two meetings, particularly for the meeting in December. He asked if the Senators would be willing to meet on December 2, the first Thursday in December, rather than on December 9 which is during finals week. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Senate to meet December 2 at the regular meeting time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Trey Philpotts, Ph.D., President



Jeff Robertson, Ph.D., Secretary