

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Thursday, October 13, 2005, at 4 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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| Ms. Peggy Lee | Dr. Joe Moore |
| Dr. Carey Roberts | Mr. Rick Ihde |
| Dr. Jeff Robertson | Dr. Shelia Jackson |
| Dr. Jeff Mitchell | Dr. Trey Philpotts |
| Dr. Robert Fithen | Ms. Marti Wilkerson |
| Dr. Scott Kirkconnell | Ms. Sarah Robison |
| Dr. Brenda Montgomery | Dr. Richard Knight |

Dr. Carl Greco and Dr. Sid Womack were absent. Dr. Donna Vocate, Dr. Robert Allen, and Dr. Richard Smith were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Wilkerson called the meeting to order and asked for action on the September 15, 2005, minutes. Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Knight, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Ms. Lee, seconded by Dr. Jackson, 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. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Montgomery, to consider all proposals from each department together for the purposes of making motions for approval. Motion carried.

A. Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Ihde, to: (1) add a minor in Geography requiring the following: GEOG 2013, Regional Geography of the World; GEOG 2023, Human Geography; and 12 hours of Geography electives with no more than 3 hours in GEOG 4991-4, Special Problems in Geography; and (2) add PHIL 4103, Advanced Logic, and PHIL 4093, American Philosophy, as additional courses eligible to be taken for completion of a minor in Philosophy (i.e., six hours from PHIL 2013, PHIL 3023, PHIL 3033, PHIL 3053, PHIL 3063, and PHIL 4103, and six hours from PHIL 3003, PHIL 3013, PHIL 3113, PHIL 3203, and PHIL 4093). Motion carried.

B. Department of Speech, Theatre, and Journalism

Motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Montgomery, to change the title of SPH 3073, Group Discussion, to Group Communication, and change the course description. Motion carried.

C. Department of Biological Sciences

Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to change the course number of BIOL 4091, Coastal Ecology, to BIOL 4094; add prerequisites: BIOL 2124, Principles of Zoology, and BIOL 2134, Principles of Botany; modify the course description; and approve the change for implementation by May, 2006. Motion carried.

D. Department of Physical Sciences

President Wilkerson noted that items a and f on the agenda for Physical Sciences would not be considered at this meeting. Motion by Mr. Ihde, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to: (1) (a) combine CHEM 3341, Biochemistry Laboratory, and CHEM 3343, Principles of Biochemistry, into a single course, CHEM 3344, Principles of Biochemistry, and change the course description; (b) modify the Curriculum in Chemistry General Option as follows: change CHEM 3343, Principles of Biochemistry, to CHEM 3344, and reduce electives from 4 hours to 3 hours; and (c) modify the Curriculum in Chemistry A.C.S. Option as follows: change CHEM 3343, Principles of Biochemistry, to CHEM 3344, and reduce electives from 3 hours to 2 hours; (2) modify the Curriculum in the Geology Professional Option (as shown in the 2005 Freshman Catalog Supplement) as follows: (a) delete AMST 2003, American Studies; (b) require GEOG 2013, Regional Geography of the World; (c) delete ENGL 2003, Introduction to World Literature, or PHIL 2003, Introduction to Philosophy; (d) add General Education Humanities 3 hours with footnote 1; and (e) add footnote 4 to GEOL 3124, Invertebrate Paleontology, or Elective; (3) modify the Curriculum in Physical Science Physics Option (as shown in the 2005 Freshman Catalog Supplement) as follows: (a) delete MATH 1113, College Algebra; (b) delete MATH 1203, Plane Trigonometry; (c) require MATH 1914, Precalculus; (d) reduce Electives from 3 hours to 2 hours; (e) change Electives from 6 hours to 6-3 hours to balance with PHYS 4991-4; (f) change footnote 3 to read: Seven hours of electives must be from physical sciences, biology, engineering, computer sciences; and (g) change footnote 4 to read: Must complete both PHYS 4113 and 3 hours PHYS Electives (PHYS course offered in alternating years); and (4) modify the Curriculum in Physical Science Nuclear Physics Option as follows: (a) add ELEG, 2103, Electric Circuits I, ELEG 2111, Electric Circuits Laboratory, and ELEG 2113, Electric Circuits II; (b) replace PHYS 4991, Special Problems, with PHYS 4991-4, Special Problems; and (c) adjust Electives accordingly. Motion carried.

ATU BIODIESEL
PROJECT

President Wilkerson stated that she had requested that Dr. Allen attend today's meeting to discuss his ongoing biodiesel project as it relates to efforts in energy conservation. Dr. Allen stated this project evolved from his teaching interests and a need to demonstrate effectively to his classes how to handle large amounts of materials. He started making biodiesel at home and has been making sufficient quantities to use as fuel for his own personal automobile for the past few years. Dr. Allen stated that during the past school year students in chemistry, engineering, and business participated in a consortium with funding provided by research grants. The students had specific research interests, with the students in business being responsible for developing plans for the production and sale of a biodiesel product. He reported that the business students had won a competition for their business design. Dr. Allen indicated that the cost of production of a gallon of biodiesel, using waste

vegetable oils from restaurants and purchasing a few chemicals, was less than \$1 per gallon. He stated that Dr. Loretta Cochran, one of the faculty advisors for the business students' project, had indicated that the cost per gallon for large scale production of biodiesel would likely be less than \$.50 per gallon. Dr. Allen noted that Dr. Cochran is investigating the formation of a for profit corporation for production of biodiesel to be marketed to a wholesale diesel distributor who would blend the product for actual sale. Under this scenario, the University would be paid a royalty from the corporation for intellectual contributions of the faculty and students involved. President Wilkerson thanked Dr. Allen for his comments.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON THE WEBSITE

President Wilkerson stated that Dr. Mitchell had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda and asked Dr. Mitchell to address the Senate. Dr. Mitchell reported that he had happened to find an unprotected webpage on the Tech website that asked for a social security number. He stated that after a search he had found five webpage forms on the Tech server that requested social security numbers even though the page was not secure. He asked that the Senate consider requesting the Administration to notify the various departments to discontinue this practice. President Wilkerson stated that she had spoken to Dr. Underwood about this issue, and he is unaware of any area on the Tech website where the social security numbers are not secure or hidden. Dr. Kirkconnell noted that even asking for the social security number at all may not be appropriate. Motion by Dr. Philpotts, seconded by Mr. Ihde, to ask Dr. Underwood to attend next month's meeting to discuss this issue. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

President Wilkerson reported that she had spoken to Steve Milligan concerning access to the elected standing committee page where the committee chairs are listed along with links to committee minutes. She reported that he has now given her access, and she plans to update the listing soon.

President Wilkerson announced that the meeting with the Faculty Senate representatives from other four-year institutions will be held tomorrow with approximately ten attendees. She will discuss with the representatives the feasibility of a continuing consortium.

FACULTY FITNESS

President Wilkerson reported that Dr. Jeff Woods, chair of the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee, had looked into whether faculty fitness efforts could have a positive impact upon health insurance rates. He found that the insurance rates would most likely not be impacted by such efforts, at least not in the short term. President Wilkerson reported that she asked Dr. Hamm if a comprehensive health/wellness program was planned for the University, and noted that he had not been aware of any such plans. President Wilkerson stated that she had drafted a fitness survey to send out to the faculty and asked that the Senators review the survey and let her know by email of changes, additions, or deletions. She also distributed a draft Statement of Support for Faculty Fitness that would be sent out to faculty. President Wilkerson asked that this also be reviewed and stated that she would discuss these items at next month's meeting.

CARPOOLING

President Wilkerson advised that she had spoken with Lance Feters, SGA President, concerning the issue of carpooling and that he indicated his impression that the students interested in carpooling are already doing so. She distributed a draft survey that would go to faculty concerning this subject and asked if the Senators were interested in pursuing this

issue. It was suggested that at the very least an electronic bulletin board might be set up to help those wishing to carpool to find other interested parties. President Wilkerson asked that the Senators consider this issue and let her know by email any suggestions.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Roberts stated that page 25 of the *Faculty Handbook* lists the “types” of courses for which student evaluations must be done each semester (i.e., lower level, upper level, general education, graduate course). He stated that he had been told that web courses were now also considered a “type” of course and asked if the same evaluation form was appropriate for web courses. Discussion included how students can evaluate English fluency of the instructor for a web course, how students can evaluate a textbook if none is required, and the possibility of revising the form to allow for a “not applicable” choice. President Wilkerson stated that this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that she would ask Dr. Underwood to also address these concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Wilkerson reported that Mr. Fetters had invited the Senate to a luncheon hosted by the SGA on Monday, November 14, at noon in the East Dining Room. She distributed a signup sheet for those interested in attending and stated that she would send out a reminder of the luncheon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Wilkerson, M.R.C., President



Carey Roberts, Ph.D., Secretary