

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Wednesday, November 8, 2006, at 3 p.m. in Room 300 North of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Cheryl Smith	Dr. Tim Smith
Dr. Carey Roberts	Mr. Rick Ihde
Dr. Jeff Robertson	Dr. Shelia Jackson
Dr. Jeff Mitchell	Dr. Trey Philpotts
Dr. Robert Fithen	Dr. Sammie Stephenson
Dr. Scott Kirkconnell	Ms. Sarah Robison
Dr. Brenda Montgomery	Dr. David Ward
Ms. Pat Buford	Dr. Andrew Cannon
Dr. Hanna Norton	

Dr. Jack Hamm, Dr. Glen Bishop, Dr. Robert Schwartz, Dr. Mary Ann Rollans, Dr. Cathy Caldwell, and Mr. Wyatt Watson were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Jackson called the meeting to order and asked for action on the October 11, 2006, minutes. Motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Cannon, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Dr. Philpotts, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
AD HOC
COMMITTEE
REPORT ON
COURSE
EVALUATION
FORM WORDING

President Jackson referenced the draft wording for the course evaluation form she had distributed by email prior to the meeting and asked Dr. Hamm for comments. Dr. Hamm recommended the Senate distribute the suggested wording to the general faculty and ask for feedback prior to the December meeting. He indicated that resolution of this issue by the end of January at the latest will allow sufficient time for ordering revised forms for the spring student evaluation process. President Jackson questioned whether implementation of the form could be delayed until fall if needed to allow additional time for review. Dr. Hamm indicated that this was a possibility; however, he stated that it was his "hope" that this issue could be resolved in time to allow for implementation in spring. Dr. Kirkconnell expressed his concern that the students on the ad hoc committee had not attended any of the meetings and asked if it were still possible to solicit student input. Dr. Hamm suggested that the Senate might want to ask the Student Government Association for feedback. Dr. Montgomery questioned whether course evaluation forms filled out incorrectly (e.g., course number, section number, instructor, etc.) were "thrown out" and not scored. Mr. Watson indicated that cover sheets for each course and section were filled in by the departments prior to scanning the forms to alleviate relying on the information filled in by the students. After discussion, it was decided to send the suggested wording to the general faculty by email tomorrow and ask for responses before the Thanksgiving break.

Dr. Hamm reported that the strategic planning committees working on university vision, university distinctiveness, core values, planning assumptions, and driving forces were nearing completion. He noted that the University had held a Stakeholders Conference on

November 2 which was well attended by faculty, staff, students, and community leaders. He announced that another Stakeholders Conference will be held on November 30 and urged all Senators to participate in this conference if possible. Dr. Hamm stated that committees are currently considering initiatives for each strategic planning goal; once these are determined, he indicated the next step in the process will be to determine operational issues for each initiative. This will most likely occur during the spring semester, at which time the strategic plan will be finalized. Dr. Hamm expressed his appreciation to the Senate for their time and left the meeting.

CURRICULAR ITEMS

President Jackson asked each guest representing a curricular item to introduce themselves when called upon. The following actions were taken with regards to recommendations from the Curriculum Committee.

Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Ward, for the Senators to ask questions of the appropriate guest for only those proposals, or parts of a proposal, for which they need clarification. Motion carried. After questions and discussion, motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Norton, to approve the following proposals:

Department of Emergency Administration and Management

(a) delete EAM 3043, The Politics of Disaster, from the course descriptions; (b) change the course number for EAM 4201-15, Externship, to EAM 3206, Externship, and modify the course description; (c) add EAM 3243, Introduction to Terrorism, to the course descriptions; (d) add EAM 3133, Applied Principles of Personnel Management, to the course descriptions; (e) delete the Interdisciplinary Core Sociology and Environmental options from the Curriculum in Emergency Administration and Management and modify the curriculum; and (f) reduce the number of hours required for the minor in Emergency Administration and Management from 21 hours to 18 hours and modify the curriculum as follows: delete EAM 3003, Developing Emergency Management Skills, EAM 3013, Public Policy Issues in Emergency Management, EAM 4023, Information Technology and Emergency Management, EAM 4033, Emergency Management Research Methods/Analysis, and EAM 4043, Disaster and Emergency Management Ethics; delete the notation that EAM 4993 may be used as a substitute for one of the indicated courses; and add twelve hours of upper division EAM Core Classes.

Department of Professional Studies

(a) add PS 3023, Professional Communications, to the course descriptions; (b) modify the course description for PS 4006, Capstone Project; and (c) modify the curriculum in Professional Studies as follows: delete ECON 2003, Principles of Economics I, PSY 2003, General Psychology, and SOC 1003, Introductory Sociology, as general education social sciences requirements; replace BUAD 3023, Business Communications, with PS 3023, Professional Communications; and modify footnote 1 to read "See appropriate alternatives or substitutions in the General Education Requirements on page 82."

Department of Art

(a) modify the course description for ART 3803, Introduction to Printmaking; and (b) add ART 3903, Introduction to Fiber Arts, to the course descriptions.

Department of Nursing

(a) add NUR 4903, Synthesis of Clinical and Theoretical Nursing, with a \$40 testing fee to the course descriptions; and (b) change the course number for NUR 4806, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community, to NUR 4804, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community, and modify the course description; and modify the Curriculum in Baccalaureate Nursing as follows: delete NUR 4806, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community; add NUR 4804, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community; add NUR 4903, Synthesis of Clinical and Theoretical Nursing; and modify the text on page 180 to change NUR 4806, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community, to NUR 4804, Practicum in Nursing IV – Nursing in the Community.

Department of Physical Sciences

(a) modify the prerequisite for CHEM 3344, Principles of Biochemistry, from Prerequisite: CHEM 3254, Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry, to Prerequisites: CHEM 3254, Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry, and BIOL 1014, Introduction to Biological Science, or BIOL 1114, Principles of Biology; and (b) modify the Curriculum in Physical Science (General Option, Physics Option, Nuclear Physics Option, and Engineering Physics option) as follows: delete COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications.

Department of Computer and Information Science

(a) delete the following courses from the course descriptions: COMS 1201, Introduction to Spreadsheets; COMS 1301, Introduction to Word Processing; COMS 1401, Introduction to Database Systems; COMS 1521, Computer-Aided Design Graphics; COMS 1561, Presentation Graphics; COMS 1903, Applied Computer Graphics; COMS 2723, PC Computer Architecture and Operating Systems; COMS 3033, Application Program Development I; and COMS 3043, Application Program Development II; and (b) modify the Curriculum in Computer Science as follows: delete PHYS 2114, General Physics I, and PHYS 2124, General Physics II; and replace with Science Sequence I and II with footnote 3 “May be satisfied by any one-year science sequence that requires a lab in each course, excluding biological science courses.”

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration

(a) change the prerequisite for RP 3783, Turfgrass Management: Basic Chemical Usage, from Prerequisite: CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry, to Prerequisites: BIOL 2134, Principles of Botany, and CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry; (b) change the prerequisite for RP 4773, Turfgrass Management: Climatic Regions and Cultivars, from Prerequisite: AGSS 2014, Soils, to Prerequisites: AGSS 2014, Soils, BIOL 2134, Principles of Botany, and CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry; (c) change the title of the Park Administration Emphasis to Natural Resource Emphasis; modify the text on page 216 as outlined; and modify footnotes 2 and 3; and (d) modify the Turf Management Emphasis as follows: add RP 2033, Recreation Leadership; and delete SPH 2003, Public Speaking.

Motion carried.

GENERAL
EDUCATION
GOALS

President Jackson asked for comments concerning the recommended general education goals forwarded from the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Mitchell indicated his preference for changing the wording of the introductory paragraph to read “expand that knowledge over

his/her lifetime” rather than “their lifetime.” He expressed concern with the deletion of the goal relating to knowledge of a foreign language or culture. Dr. Norton questioned having this goal as it is not currently attainable in many of the curricula. Dr. Mitchell answered that the general education goals are general and should be part of the “institutional philosophy.” Dr. Roberts asked if this issue is pertinent only to Arkansas Tech or if this is an “Arkansas problem.” Dr. Mitchell observed that to his knowledge no institution in Arkansas had a foreign language requirement. President Jackson stated that the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville does require foreign language for a bachelor of arts degree. Dr. Cannon questioned how many degree programs have courses which expose students to other cultures “in at least a general sense.” President Jackson noted her grave concern that the proposed goals no longer include a “holistic approach to learning.”

Dr. Roberts, who is also the current chair of the Assessment Committee, reported that the Assessment Committee had already met to review the proposed goals; and he distributed a letter sent to President Jackson with proposed wording for shorter, more concise goals. Dr. Roberts emphasized that assessment of the general education core is mandated by the State of Arkansas, by The Higher Learning Commission, and by various professional accrediting bodies. He stated that the current ten goals actually consist of 31 to 36 goals when viewed in terms of assessment. The proposed five goals could count as 27 individual goals. He expressed his appreciation to the Curriculum Committee for their work, but noted the Assessment Committee’s concern that the proposed goals are still too complex and not easily measurable or assessed. He indicated that a certain amount of creativity would come into play when trying to measure some of the proposed goals. Dr. Roberts also pointed out that the general education goals relate only to students pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Dr. Roberts suggested sending the goals back to the Curriculum Committee for additional review.

President Jackson determined that the consensus of the Senate was to proceed with distribution of the proposed goals to the general faculty, gather feedback, and discuss this item again at the December meeting. She stated that she would send the goals out with an explanatory memorandum and ask that input be given prior to the Thanksgiving break.

OLD BUSINESS: INAPPROPRIATE GRADES

President Jackson asked for comments relating to the issue of inappropriate grades. Dr. Philpotts referenced his previous suggestion that the average grade for each class be included on the course evaluation summary given to the faculty member each term. Dr. Cheryl Smith indicated that the Nursing Department’s practice of team-teaching caused inaccuracies in the Grade Distribution Analysis in that grades from two or more faculty were used to give students grades in particular courses; she noted that the first instructor listed in the Student Information System was given credit for giving the final grade which skewed the grade point averages shown for those faculty on the report. Dr. Kirkconnell recommended that, as part of the annual evaluation process, faculty are asked to provide explanations for their average grade assignments.

Dr. Philpotts advocated a consistent information sheet to be used in each department on which the instructor’s courses are listed, the course evaluation summaries, and the average grades given for each course. Dr. Ward stated that the ability for the faculty member to provide commentary relating to their average grades could be added to such a sheet.

Dr. Mitchell indicated the need for faculty across campus to view the summary pages of the Grade Distribution Analysis. It was noted that Academic Affairs could send those pages out to the faculty upon request by the Senate.

Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to include the average grade given for each course as part of the course evaluation summary sheet. Mr. Watson stated that this would actually need to become a two-part report as the course evaluation summaries would be on one sheet and the average grades on a second sheet. Motion carried.

Dr. Mitchell asked that Academic Affairs provide the faculty with the Grade Distribution Analysis summary sheets each fall and spring term.

REPORT BY SUB-COMMITTEE REVIEWING SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

President Jackson asked Dr. Mitchell, chair of the sub-committee, to address this issue. Dr. Mitchell reported that the committee had tried to respond to the main points and concerns raised by Dr. Greco during his address to the Senate in October and briefly outlined the changes indicated on the draft distributed with the agenda. Dr. Roberts questioned whether record of an informal complaint will be maintained if the complaint is dismissed. Dr. Montgomery observed that she would want to know if someone had filed any complaint against her to allow her the opportunity to assess whether she needed to “modify her behavior” in some way. Dr. Kirkconnell asked if anyone on the sub-committee had questioned the administration as to why some of the changes between what the Senate proposed and what was approved by the Board of Trustees were made. Dr. Mitchell indicated that no one on the sub-committee had done so. After discussion, President Jackson proposed that this item be continued for discussion at the December meeting and asked the Senators to continue review of this policy and formulate any questions or concerns to be forwarded to the administration after the December meeting.

OPEN FORUM

President Jackson asked for any additional discussion items. Mr. Watson asked to be recognized to make two comments relating to the earlier discussion of the general education goals. He stated that general education goals do not necessarily need to be met with the general education curriculum. He also referenced the proposed goal of “gain knowledge” and questioned whether a student necessarily had to learn everything at Tech or could they have “gained knowledge” at another institution and then transferred to Tech. Mr. Watson noted his concern that if Tech has to assess the goal of “gain knowledge” then this would include a pre-test and a post-test for all students. Dr. Roberts emphasized that the goals needed to be measurable as Tech will have to prove that the students achieved certain learning outcomes.

Dr. Mitchell reported a complaint that the “Senate has too many floating webpages” on the Tech website. Dr. Roberts noted that the institution had received new IP addresses in August for various technical reasons and indicated that faculty need to “clear their cache memory in their web browsers” to remove the old links.

Dr. Kirkconnell referenced the earlier discussion on the course evaluation form wording and emphasized that the Senate needed input from students on the proposal. Dr. Roberts suggested that President Jackson send the wording to the Student Government Association. President Jackson stated that she would do so and also try to meet with the SGA to explain the process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

There were no items presented at this time.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shelia Jackson, Ph.D., President



Scott Kirkconnell, Ph.D., Secretary