

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 3 p.m. in Room 300 South of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Jeff Robertson, Ms. Sarah Robison, and Mr. Rick Ihde were absent. Dr. Robert Brown and Dr. Jack Hamm were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Jackson called the meeting to order and asked for action on the March 14, 2007, minutes. Motion by Dr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Cheryl Smith, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Ms. Buford, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

President Jackson noted three items for action which had come to her attention after preparation and distribution of the agenda and asked that the agenda be amended to include these items under New Business. Motion by Dr. Norton, seconded by Dr. Montgomery, to add standing committee elections, appointment to Assessment Committee, and webmaster to the agenda. Motion carried by majority vote.

OLD BUSINESS:
SEXUAL
HARASSMENT
POLICY

President Jackson asked Dr. Brown to speak to this issue. Dr. Brown invited the Senate to a dinner at the Lake Point Conference Center on May 3 and noted that a discussion of the sexual harassment policy would be held. The time for the dinner was set for 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Brown and Dr. Hamm left the meeting at this time.

ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY

Dr. Kirkconnell reported that he had met with the Student Government Association concerning the issue of academic integrity and possible implementation of a student honor code. He stated that the idea had been well received. Although the SGA president had not been able to attend today's meeting, he had notified Dr. Kirkconnell that the Student Affairs Committee has been asked to review the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:
STANDING
COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS

President Jackson distributed an email received from Dr. Robertson concerning the standing committee elections. She noted that he had already developed the ballot using the results of the school elections. As Dr. Robertson will be going off the Senate after this spring, she asked for a volunteer to assist him with this spring's election for future reference. Dr. Cannon volunteered to work with Dr. Robertson. After discussion, it was decided to hold the elections for a three-day period, April 24 to April 26. Notices will be sent out to the faculty.

APPOINTMENT TO ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE President Jackson noted that Dr. Montgomery's term of service on the Senate would end this spring and asked for a volunteer to serve as the Senate's representative on the Assessment Committee. Dr. Norton volunteered.

WEBMASTER President Jackson stated that Dr. Roberts had been serving as the Senate's webmaster and his term of service was most likely up as he was appointed by Dr. Brown. Dr. Roberts stated that he was happy to continue as the webmaster for the foreseeable future as long as there was no objection.

OPEN FORUM Dr. Roberts questioned the status of the Senate's recommendation concerning release time for the chair. President Jackson stated that Dr. Hamm had taken the recommendation under advisement but no decision has been made. She noted that she had attended a meeting of the state Faculty Senate chairs and had inquired as to what other institutions do. Some are able to give release time; some do not give release time; and some compensate the chair with a stipend, such as overload pay.

Dr. Mitchell reported an issue with a student athlete missing the equivalent of three weeks of classes to date due to games. He stated that the student had followed all procedures in place to be excused for a university-sanctioned event but expressed his concern with this situation. Dr. Mitchell questioned whether a limit on class absences due to sanctioned events should be considered. Dr. Cannon noted that he was a member of the Athletics Committee and he would bring this issue up at the next meeting. Dr. Cannon observed that most student athletes are very conscientious in keeping up with their classes as grades and attendance affect their eligibility. It was noted that there are very few mandates from the NCAA concerning class attendance. Dr. Cannon stated that some institutions allow student athletes to register first in order to build class schedules with the least interference from scheduled practices and games. Dr. Norton reported that the Advising Center has a list for the advisors to use in building class schedules for athletes which notes the times to avoid for each sport. She stated that this type of list could be made available to all advisors. Dr. Cannon stated that he would advise the Athletics Committee of the Senate's discussion and concerns and ask the Athletics Committee to work on this issue and perhaps report back to the Senate by the fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS President Jackson reported that the Curriculum Committee had approved two proposals last week, both of which concerned general education. Discussion was held concerning the possibility of beginning discussion of these proposals in May since the complexity of the issues may necessitate delaying their consideration until fall, 2007, when the new Faculty Senate would have sufficient time to become knowledgeable of the issues so that they could formulate informed and carefully considered recommendations. Motion by Dr. Cheryl Smith, seconded by Dr. Tim Smith, to table discussion of these proposals until the September Senate meeting. Motion carried.

President Jackson asked if sufficient business remained to justify a May meeting. It was decided that the Senate would meet in May in order to consider any reports or recommendations from the SGA on the issue of academic integrity and from the Athletics Committee concerning the issue of student athletes and class attendance. The meeting will take place one week early to avoid finals week.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Shelia L. Jackson in cursive script.

Shelia Jackson, Ph.D., President

Handwritten signature of Scott Kirkconnell in cursive script.

Scott Kirkconnell, Ph.D., Secretary