

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2007-08 Faculty Senate was held at twelve o'clock noon, Monday, August 20, 2007, in the Private Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Dr. Cheryl Smith	Dr. Tim Smith
Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Sammie Stephenson
Dr. Jeff Mitchell	Dr. Annette Holeyfield
Dr. Pat Buford	Dr. Robert Fithen
Dr. Scott Kirkconnell	Ms. Sarah Robison
Dr. Andrew Cannon	Dr. Cathy Baker
Dr. Hanna Norton	Dr. Willy Hoefler
Dr. David Ward	

Dr. Trey Philpotts and Mr. Rick Ihde were absent. Dr. Robert Brown, President, Dr. Jack Hamm, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Peter Dykema were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Tim Smith called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Brown for any comments. Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation to the Senators for their willingness to serve and noted that he could be called upon at any time. Dr. Brown invited the Senate to a social dinner at Lake Point at a date and time to be determined later.

Dr. Hamm stated that he was looking forward to another good academic year and emphasized that the office of Academic Affairs is always ready and willing to assist the Senate in its work.

FINAL EXAMS

Dr. Hamm then addressed the issue of final exams brought up by the Senate during the spring semester (e.g., final exams not being given during finals week, being given early, not being given at all). He reported that he had spoken with the deans concerning this issue and distributed a draft of a survey developed by the Deans Council. The survey attempts to assess the concerns of the Senate and ascertain how the faculty at large sees the issue. He asked the Senate to review the draft and hold discussion on the issue. He advised that he would be willing to attend a future meeting of the Senate to discuss the issue if requested. Dr. Hamm stated that he would take any feedback from the Senate and confer with the deans. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that at one time the faculty in his school received a directive from the dean each year which stated that the final exam schedule was not to be deviated from. He stated that it made it easier for the faculty member to resist pressure to change the exam schedule. Dr. Bishop questioned why the final exam schedule is not published with the schedule of courses. It was noted that the exam schedule encompasses block exams which change each semester. If the block exams could be "set," then the final exam schedule would not change and could be printed much earlier. Dr. Hamm emphasized that no action would be taken until the Senate and Deans Council agreed upon the appropriate response to this issue.

At this time, Dr. Brown and Dr. Hamm excused themselves from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES	President Smith asked for action on the minutes of the May 2, 2007, meeting. Motion by Dr. Buford, seconded by Dr. Cannon, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as distributed. There being no amendments or corrections, motion carried.
INTRODUCTIONS/ ADDRESS BY CHAIR	President Smith asked each Senator to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for their willingness to serve.
NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS	President Smith asked for nominations for the position of Chair Elect. Dr. Kirkconnell nominated Dr. Holeyfield. Dr. Holeyfield respectfully declined the nomination. After discussion it was decided to postpone the election of officers until the end of the meeting to allow the Senators time to consider possible nominees.
MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE	After discussion, the regular meeting time, day, and place for the fall semester were set for 3:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month in Pendergraft 300 North.
APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	President Smith noted that he had contacted several individuals regarding committee appointments who were both eligible and willing to serve: <i>Academic Appeals Committee</i> : Dr. Richard Smith (School of Business), Dr. Kevin Costley (School of Education); Dr. David Eshelman (School of Liberal and Fine Arts), Dr. Robin Lasey (School of Physical and Life Sciences), and Dr. Scott Jordan (School of Systems Science); <i>Professional Development Committee</i> : Dr. Peter Dykema; <i>University Promotion and Tenure Committee</i> : Dr. Chris Kellner (one-year term to replace Dr. Paula Pendergrass who retired) and Mr. Ken Shores (three-year term). As no objections were made to any nominations, President Smith stated that he would contact the individuals and make the final appointments.
OPEN FORUM	<p>President Smith presented a letter drafted by Dr. Kirkconnell thanking the Board of Trustees for their service to the University. He read the letter and then passed it around for signatures.</p> <p>Dr. Mitchell asked that next month's agenda include old business from the spring semester concerning the student athlete and missing classes due to athletic events. He noted that this issue had been addressed at the Gulf South Conference this summer. Dr. Thomas DeBlack, who is the faculty athletic representative on the Athletics Committee, will address the Senate concerning this issue.</p> <p>Dr. Mitchell indicated that someone had mentioned to him at the end of the spring semester that the Senate had held a dinner meeting in May where the meeting portion was not open to the public. President Smith noted that this concern had been relayed to him also and suggested that the Senate consider amending the By-Laws to make clear that the meetings are open. However, President Smith also stated that the meeting in question for the spring semester was technically not a meeting as it had not been called by the Senate, no agenda had been presented, and there were no minutes. Dr. Mitchell advocated the position that, if any policies are discussed, there should be an open part to the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Kirkconnell distributed information to the Senators advocating considerations to increase faculty influence and participation and also listing issues the Senate might wish to consider during this academic year. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that the Senate should consider the following approach when dealing with issues presented for consideration: <i>Do your</i></p>

homework. In the end, speak with one voice. Consider the overall good of the institution and don't get sidetracked into focused, special-interest (or, self-interest) areas. Visit with constituents and discuss at the school level what the general faculty "take" on issues before the Faculty Senate might be.

Dr. Kirkconnell listed issues from the May 2, 2007, minutes which could be considered by the Senate this year: *Student (and faculty?) honor code development. Faculty administration of final exams before finals week. Campus safety improvements. How to effectively look at general education issues without provoking "turf battles." How to promote healthy lifestyles. Use of information-distribution modalities (such as the Doc Bryan Kiosk) for inspirational messages. Improvement of hiring practices.* Dr. Kirkconnell noted an article printed on the back of his distribution which was titled "Readers make good workers." He stated that good readers generally make good instructors, and this could somehow become part of the hiring practices of the university.

Dr. Kirkconnell suggested that these items be sent to appropriate faculty committees for consideration. President Smith asked the Senators to consider how best to proceed.

Dr. Norton asked what the next step in examining the final exam issue was. President Smith asked that the draft survey distributed by Dr. Hamm be reviewed and to bring any suggestions to the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS

President Smith noted that Dr. Carey Roberts is willing to maintain the Faculty Senate's website. However, he stated that Dr. Roberts does not want to maintain membership lists on the Elected Standing Committees website. It was suggested that, since Academic Affairs sends out a standing committees list, the membership lists on the Elected Standing Committees website be discontinued. The committees would still be able to post agendas and minutes on the site. President Smith stated that he would talk to Dr. Roberts about the issue and that he would also correspond with the chairs and secretaries of the faculty elected standing committees to ask that they send him their minutes to be posted to the site.

President Smith asked that the Senators look over the survey and the By-laws prior to the September meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Smith asked for nominations for the position of Chair Elect. Dr. Kirkconnell moved that Dr. Norton be elected to the position of Chair Elect; seconded by Dr. Holeyfield. Dr. Norton indicated her willingness to serve. Motion carried.

President Smith asked for nominations for position of Secretary. Dr. Norton moved that Dr. Stephenson be elected to the position of Secretary; seconded by Dr. Buford. Dr. Stephenson indicated her willingness to serve. Motion carried.

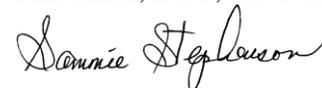
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Smith, D.M., President



Sammie Stephenson, Ed.D., Secretary