

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Monday, November 12, 2007, at 3 p.m. in Room 300 North of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Cheryl Smith, Dr. Pat Buford, and Mr. Rick Ihde were absent. Dr. Cathy Caldwell, Dr. Jeff Robertson, Dr. Charles Gagen, Dr. Rebecca Burris, Mr. Andy Anders, Mr. Ed Leachman, Dr. Donna Vocate, Mr. William Byrd, and students from Mr. Byrd's advanced news reporting class were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Tim Smith called the meeting to order and noted the presence of the news reporting class. He stated that the students wished to record the meeting for instructional purposes and asked for a motion to allow the recording. Motion by Dr. Kirkconnell, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to allow the recording of the meeting. Motion carried.

President Smith asked for action on the October 8, 2007, minutes. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Dr. Cannon, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

President Smith asked to amend the agenda to discuss the issue of campus safety under Old Business. Motion by Dr. Cannon, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to amend the agenda and include this item for discussion/action. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRICULAR
ITEMS

The following action was taken with regards to recommendations from the Curriculum Committee.

Motion by Dr. Philpotts, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to approve the following proposals:

Department of Emergency Administration and Management

(a) modify the prerequisites and co-requisites for EAM 4033, Emergency Management Research Methods/Analysis, from prerequisites: MATH 2163, Introduction to Statistical Methods, or BUAD 2053, Business Statistics, or SOC 2053, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, co-requisites: EAM 1003, Living in a Hazardous Environment, and EAM 1013, Aim and Scope of Emergency Management, or consent of instructor to prerequisites or co-requisites: EAM 1003, Living in a Hazardous Environment, and EAM 1013, Aim and Scope of Emergency Management, or consent of instructor.

Department of Art

(a) modify the prerequisites for ART 4233, Techniques for Illustration, from prerequisites: ART 1403, Two-dimensional Design, ART 2303, Figure Drawing, and ART 3213, Basic Advertising Art, and Sophomore Review, to prerequisites: ART 1303, Introduction to Drawing, ART 1403, Two-dimensional Design, ART 2303, Figure Drawing, and ART 2403, Color Design, and Sophomore Review.

Department of Music

(a) add MUS 4853/5853, Music of the World's Peoples, to the course descriptions (graduate course will be considered by Graduate Council).

Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy

(a) delete the following courses from the course descriptions: POLS 3443, Soviet Successor States and East European Politics; POLS 4403, Current Issues in Global Politics; and HIST 3463, Modern European Political Theory; (b) change the course number for the following courses: HIST 4463, History of Russia, to HIST 3533; HIST 4473, History of England to 1689, to HIST 3543; HIST 4493, History of England since 1689, to HIST 3553; HIST 4603, The Modern Far East, to HIST 3603; HIST 4703, History of Modern Africa, to HIST 3703; HIST 3133, American Political Ideas, to HIST 4103; HIST 3143, American History through Film, to HIST 4163; and HIST 3193, History of American Disasters, to HIST 4173; (c) change the course number for GEOG 2033, Physical Geography, to GEOG 3033; (d) change the title for POLS/PHIL 3063, Political Philosophy, to Modern Political Thought, and modify the course description; (e) change the title for POLS 2513, Sources and Methods in Political Science, to Research Methods I; (f) modify the course description for HIST 1503, World Civilization I, and HIST 1513, World Civilization II; (g) modify the course description for HIST 2003, United States History I, and HIST 2013, United States History II; (h) add HIST 4503/5503, History of Christianity, to the course descriptions (graduate course will be considered by Graduate Council); (i) add POLS 3253, Classical Political Thought, to the course descriptions; (j) add POLS 3513, Research Methods II, to the course descriptions; (k) modify the minor in Political Science; and (l) add the minor in Religious Studies.

Department of Speech, Theatre, and Journalism

(a) add the following courses to the course descriptions: JOUR 1411, 1421, Print Practicum; JOUR 2411, 2421, Print Practicum; JOUR 3411, 3421, Print Practicum; and JOUR 4411, 4421, Print Practicum; (b) modify the prerequisites for JOUR 3143, News Reporting, from prerequisites: ENGL 1013, Composition I, or ENGL 1043, Honors Composition I, to prerequisites: ENGL 1013, Composition I, or ENGL 1043, Honors Composition I, and JOUR 2143, News Writing; and (c) modify the minor in Journalism as follows: delete JOUR 3143, News Reporting, and add JOUR 2143, News Writing.

Department of Biological Sciences

(a) add BIOL 2881-4, Special Topics in Biology, to the course descriptions; (b) delete FW 4116, Internship, from the course descriptions; add FW 4112, Internship, and FW 4114, Internship, to the course descriptions; (c) add FW 4054/5054, Waterfowl Ecology and Management, to the course descriptions (graduate course to be considered by Graduate

Council); (d) add FW 4064/5064, Wetland Ecology and Management, to the course descriptions (graduate course to be considered by Graduate Council); (e) add FW 4103/5103, Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management, to the course descriptions (graduate course to be considered by Graduate Council); and (f) modify the Curriculum in Health Information Management as follows: delete COMS 2003, Microcomputer Applications, and add MGMT 2013, Management Productivity Tools.

Department of Nursing

(a) modify the course description for NURN 4024, Community Health Nursing; and (b) add the prerequisite NURN 4024, Community Health Nursing, to NURN 4045, Professional Practicum Synthesis.

Department of Physical Sciences

(a) modify the prerequisites for CHEM 2124, General Chemistry I, from prerequisites: scores of 21 or higher on the math and the English portions of the ACTE exam, a “C” or better in CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry, or approval by the department head of Physical Sciences to prerequisites: score of 21 or higher on the math portion of the ACTE; or MATH 1113, College Algebra, or equivalent; or a “C” or better in CHEM 1114, A Survey of Chemistry; or approval of the instructor; (b) modify the prerequisites for CHEM 3254, Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry, from prerequisites: CHEM 2124, General Chemistry I, to prerequisites: CHEM 2134, General Chemistry II; (c) modify the prerequisites for CHEM 3344, Principles of Biochemistry, from prerequisites: CHEM 3254, Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry, and BIOL 1014, Introduction to Biological Science, or BIOL 1114, Principles of Biology, to prerequisites: CHEM 3264, Mechanistic Organic Chemistry, and BIOL 1014, Introduction to Biological Science, or BIOL 1114, Principles of Biology; (d) delete CHEM 2143, Environmental Chemistry, from the course descriptions; and add CHEM 3313, Environmental Chemistry, to the course descriptions; (e) change the title of PHYS 1114, Survey of Physics, to PHYS 1114, Applied Physics; (f) in the text description of the Physical Science programs on page 187, modify the paragraph to read as follows: The description and curricula for each of the various degree programs in the physical sciences are listed below. Note that for every degree program in this department, there is a non-course requirement involving an exit interview with the Department Head as part of the formal process for graduation; (g) modify the Curriculum in Chemistry A.C.S. Approved Option as follows: delete PHYS 2014, Physical Principles I, and PHYS 2024, Physical Principles II; and add PHYS 2114, General Physics I, and PHYS 2124, General Physics II; (h) modify the Curriculum in Chemistry General Option, and A.C.S. Approved Option as follows: delete BIOL 1014, Introduction to Biological Science; and add BIOL 1114, Principles of Biology; and (i) add the Curriculum in Chemistry Biochemistry Option.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to amend the motion to approve and table the addition of FW 4103, Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management, until the Department of Biological Sciences consults with other departments concerning this course addition. Motion as amended to approve all proposals except FW 4103 carried.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

President Smith asked Dr. Norton, Assessment Committee Representative, to speak to this item. Dr. Norton reported that the Assessment Committee has been working on making sure that measures of assessment are in place for the general education goals approved last spring. Sub-committees are reviewing each goal and are working on identifying direct and indirect measures for assessment of the goal. Dr. Norton noted that the Assessment

Committee will host a workshop in the spring for department heads and those who received assessment grants. President Smith asked if the Assessment Committee's efforts were tied to any of the Higher Learning Commission deadlines. Dr. Norton responded that she does not know specifically the ties into the HLC report but indicated her belief that efforts in assessment will be reflected in a part of the accreditation report.

TECH
WEBSITE/SCHOOL
AND
DEPARTMENTAL
NAMES

President Smith asked Dr. Mitchell to speak to this item. Dr. Mitchell noted his main concern was that some departments and at least one school have confusing names. He gave as an example a prospective student trying to find which department houses the history major and mentioned that the departments of Social Sciences and Philosophy and Behavioral Sciences and the school of Systems Science might want to review their names to see if more accurate titles are indicated. After discussion, motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Dr. Ward, to invite the departments of Social Sciences and Philosophy and Behavioral Sciences and the school of Systems Science to evaluate their names/titles and determine whether a change is warranted. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
STUDENT
ATHLETES AND
CLASS
ATTENDANCE

President Smith indicated that the athletic practice schedule was distributed to advisors prior to the beginning of preregistration. He asked if this information had been helpful. Several indicated that the information was helpful when advising student athletes as some students are not very forthcoming concerning other obligations on their time. Dr. Bishop noted that the tone of the announcement had "ruffled some feathers" due to language on the practice schedule indicating times for which classes "should not" be scheduled.

President Smith asked if the Senate was willing to assume responsibility for having the practice schedule distributed prior to each preregistration cycle. Dr. Norton noted that it is the responsibility of the student to tell their advisor of other obligations. Dr. Cannon stated that some student athletes were uncomfortable talking with their advisors about their athletic responsibilities. Ms. Robison noted that she always asks her advisees questions concerning their work schedules, practice schedules, etc., so that she knows how to advise them into classes.

Dr. Mitchell suggested that the Athletics Department post this information on their website. Dr. Bishop questioned whether the Senate should invite the Athletic Director to speak to this request. Dr. Stephenson suggested that students be reminded each semester before preregistration of information they need to take with them when they meet with their advisors; it was suggested this could be part of the email the Registrar's Office sends out to students concerning the preregistration schedule. Motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Dr. Norton, to recommend that the athletic practice schedule be updated and posted on the Athletics Department's website in a timely manner prior to each preregistration. Motion carried. Motion by Dr. Stephenson, seconded by Dr. Cannon, that a reminder be sent to students prior to preregistration advising them to take information relating to work schedules, practice schedules, and other extracurricular activities with them to their advising sessions. Motion carried.

GROWTH OF
FACULTY

President Smith asked for comments relating to the information distributed concerning full- and part-time faculty headcounts and full-time equivalencies. It was noted that the teaching full-time equivalency (FTE) is a calculation made by taking student semester credit hours generated and dividing by 12, which is a full-time load for a full-time faculty member. Therefore, the FTE calculated for adjuncts for fall, 2007, is 50.89. Dr. Cannon noted a "generally upward trend" in the adjunct FTE over the past 10 years. Dr. Mitchell commented that he had recently received information concerning national trends in hiring of

faculty from the national AAUP and that Tech “does not look as bad” when compared to those trends. He stated that he would try to bring that information to the next meeting. Dr. Cannon noted that in some disciplines there are fewer new terminally degreed faculty to replace those retiring and that the competition for these individuals is considerable. Dr. Philpotts asked that the information from the AAUP be distributed before the next meeting and that this issue be open for additional discussion at that time.

CAMPUS SAFETY

President Smith asked Dr. Mitchell to address this issue. Dr. Mitchell stated that he had looked at North Fargo Street as requested by Dr. Norton and noted that no speed limit was posted for the entire stretch. He also reported poor visibility due to parked cars when turning right off of North Fargo onto West M Street. Dr. Mitchell advised that he had spoken with Steve Lawrence, Director of Public Safety, concerning these issues. Mr. Lawrence had reported that someone had stolen the stop sign at one end of North Fargo and that he would contact the city to see if they would replace the sign and also put up a speed limit sign. Dr. Mitchell had also asked Mr. Lawrence whether speed bumps could be placed strategically around campus, and Mr. Lawrence had stated that he would look into additional stop signs and speed bumps, especially on South Glenwood. Dr. Cannon advocated closing the street running in front of the Corley Building and Pendergraft Library to pedestrian traffic only. Motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to recommend to the administration that speed bumps and other means for increasing campus traffic safety be pursued as part of an overall plan for the modification of traffic patterns on campus. Motion passed. Dr. Mitchell reported that he would send an email to Mr. Lawrence suggesting the installation of a traffic mirror at the intersection of North Fargo and West M to assist with the visibility issue.

OPEN FORUM

President Smith reported apparent confusion concerning the promotion and tenure process as described in the *Faculty Handbook*. Dr. Bishop indicated that individuals from his department who were applying for promotion and/or tenure had been told by members of the Promotion and Tenure Committee that certain items needed to be in their portfolios which were not listed in the *Handbook*. He also reported that it had been suggested that the annual evaluation for those faculty going up for promotion and/or tenure take place in the fall rather than the spring since they were preparing a portfolio anyway. Dr. Bishop further noted that the *Handbook* states that peer review is formative “but it feeds into the department head’s review which is summative.” He stated that this prevents open sharing of information between the faculty member and the peer review committee.

Dr. Cannon noted a need to “overhaul the system” as this was the only institution he knew of which awarded tenure without promotion to assistant professors. He also noted that faculty with only a master’s degree are normally non-tenure-track and on a “year to year” contract. President Smith asked the Senators to review the appropriate *Faculty Handbook* section before next month’s meeting and consider whether a sub-committee should be formed to review any inconsistencies relating to promotion and tenure.

Dr. Kirkconnell asked President Smith the name of the faculty member who will be invited to speak to the Senate in the spring concerning a student honor code. President Smith stated that Dr. Christine Austin from College Student Personnel will speak with the Senate on this issue.

Dr. Kirkconnell expressed skepticism that a workshop on hiring practices as recommended by the Senate last month would result in “much of a change” and stated that the Senate “needs our own independently garnered information base on these issues.” He distributed an

article concerning smoker-protection laws and noted that some states have laws on the books relating to charging an employee who smokes more for health insurance or requiring an employee to “shower, shampoo and change their clothes after each smoke.” Dr. Kirkconnell reported that he had spoken to Dr. Shelia Jackson concerning inviting Richard Kersh to speak to the Senate on health and wellness issues and what is acceptable for the institution to require relating to employees and lifestyles. Dr. Philpotts noted that this is a different issue from determining what can be legally asked when interviewing a candidate. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that these may be two separate issues but with a “link to looking out for the long term interests of the institution.” He reported that he would contact Mr. Kersh and get back to President Smith. President Smith questioned whether the Senate could approach Mr. Pennington, University Counsel, about speaking to the Senate on hiring practices. Dr. Ward noted that this issue had been discussed in his department, and the consensus was that the department did not want a workshop. They wanted a simple handbook or guide to use for interviewing and hiring. Motion by Dr. Norton, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to place this issue on the action agenda and recommend that Mr. Pennington be invited to speak to the Senate on this issue. Motion carried.

Dr. Norton questioned whether the issue of a fall break had ever been discussed and, if so, why had it been determined that a fall break was not possible. It was noted that preparation of the academic calendar involves several entities on campus and that a committee formed a few years’ back had been unable to come to a consensus on how to change the calendar to accommodate for a fall break. Issues involved include setting graduation in December based on when Christmas falls and setting the starting dates for summer terms to accommodate the majority of students who attend classes in summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Smith reminded the Senators of next month’s meeting on December 3, 2007, which is a week early to avoid examination week.

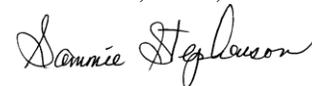
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Smith, D.M., President



Sammie Stephenson, Ed.D., Secretary