

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Friday, April 11, 2008, 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. Trey Philpotts
Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Hanna Norton
Dr. Willy Hoefler	Dr. Sammie Stephenson
Dr. Jeff Mitchell	Dr. Cathy Baker
Dr. Pat Buford	Dr. Andrew Cannon
Ms. Sarah Robison	

Dr. David Ward, Dr. Annette Holeyfield, Dr. Scott Kirkconnell, Dr. Cheryl Smith, Mr. Rick Ihde, and Dr. Robert Fithen were absent. Dr. Eldon Clary, Dr. Theresa Herrick, and Dr. Tom Nupp were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Tim Smith called the meeting to order and asked for action on the March 14, 2008, minutes. Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Buford, to discuss the minutes. Motion carried. President Smith noted a “typo” in the Open Forum section and asked that the wording be changed from “...and that she would be ask Dr. Clary to attend” to “and she would ask Dr. Clary to attend.” Motion by Dr. Buford, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRICULAR
ITEMS

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

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Ms. Robison, to consider the following proposals. Motion carried.

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration

(a) add HA 1063, Hospitality Technology, to the course descriptions; (b) add HA 1923, Introduction to Food and Beverage Management, to the course descriptions; and (c) add HA 4243, Advanced Lodging Operations Management, to the course descriptions.

There being no discussion, President Smith indicated that the proposals were approved by general consent.

GENERAL
EDUCATION

President Smith welcomed Dr. Clary to the meeting and asked him to address the Senate. Dr. Clary reported that he and Dr. Norton are both members of the Assessment Committee and that he had spoken to Dr. Norton about the possibility of forming a committee to oversee general education. He noted that current practice is to have an ad hoc committee of the Curriculum Committee review any general education proposals brought forward. Dr. Clary indicated that as a consultant evaluator for The Higher Learning Commission he has visited several campuses as part of a review team and that one of the first groups that the team wants to meet with is the general education committee. Dr. Clary described this committee as being responsible for the supervision and monitoring of general education. During the last HLC visit in 2000, the university was using the CAAP exam for assessment of general education, which has now been discontinued as the primary assessment tool.

Dr. Mitchell, noting that he was taking a devil’s advocate position, stated that the faculty in the departments are responsible for their curricula, not a university committee. Dr. Clary responded that general education is a university function, not a departmental function as all students take general education courses. Therefore, all departments must necessarily be involved in changes to general education.

When questioned how such a committee should be structured, Dr. Clary stated that the Senate should determine that after due consideration. Dr. Clary emphasized his personal belief that general education is “too important not to have some body monitoring the process and the general education core.” Dr. Philpotts questioned the mechanism for approval of a new standing committee; it was noted that a new committee would require a vote of the full faculty and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Dr. Philpotts, seconded by Dr. Bishop, to create a subcommittee of the Senate to review this issue and make recommendations to the Senate in the fall. Motion carried. Dr. Bishop, Dr. Buford, Dr. Norton, and Dr. Philpotts volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

OLD BUSINESS:
ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY/
STUDENT HONOR
CODE

President Smith reported that he, Dr. Christine Austin, and Dr. David Underwood had met with the Student Affairs Committee, a subcommittee of the Student Government Association, to continue discussion of the student honor code. He distributed information, including a tentative timeline developed by Dr. Austin, which had been given to the student committee. President Smith indicated his belief that the students were very receptive to the idea even though they still had several questions about implementation and management of a student honor code. The timeline developed by Dr. Austin includes a fall, 2009, implementation date which would necessitate work on the proposal to commence this spring and continue through the summer and into the next academic year. President Smith reported that a steering committee must first be developed which would include interested faculty, staff, and the student committee. After discussion, it was decided that President Smith would send an email out to faculty and staff soliciting interested volunteers to serve on the steering committee.

STANDING
COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS

President Smith reported that the standing committees ballot is ready. He has posted the list of uncontested positions on the Blackboard course site and will send an email to the “class list” giving instructions for participation in the election. President Smith reminded the Senators that the election will take place the week of April 21. After discussion, it was also decided that an announcement concerning the election should be placed on One Tech.

CAMPUS
SECURITY/
SYMPOSIUM

President Smith reported that he had spoken with Dr. Hamm this week concerning the proposed symposium and Dr. Hamm had indicated the support of the administration for the initiative. He noted that Dr. Hamm had sent him a link to an agenda for a national security conference to be held at the University of Central Oklahoma as an example. Dr. Cannon emphasized that the Senate should proceed with the initiative in order to “get ahead of the curve and not get run over by the curve.” After discussion, it was decided that President Smith would talk to Ms. Beth Gray, incoming senator for the School of Community Education and a member of the Emergency Administration and Management department, concerning the symposium. He will also send out an email to solicit volunteers from the faculty to work on this project.

Dr. Stephenson emphasized that the Senate may need to set a timeline to make sure that this project is accomplished. Dr. Philpotts also indicated that emergency procedures already developed by the EAM Department should be sent out to faculty as soon as possible.

CAMPUS SAFETY
UPDATE

Dr. Mitchell reported that he had looked at the situation behind Williamson Hall concerning poor visibility in pulling out from the parking lot on the Williamson side of Fargo and that he concurred with Dr. Bishop's assessment that the situation needs to be looked into. He noted that he had written a detailed email to Steve Lawrence in Public Safety. He stated that he has also renewed efforts in trying to contact Mayor Williamson about the proposed pedestrian bridge over Highway 7.

Dr. Mitchell questioned whether a series of tunnels run under the campus. Dr. Baker reported a tunnel system running under the three "pits" at McEver Hall.

Dr. Norton reported that North Fargo has a new crosswalk with a pedestrian sign. Dr. Herrick reported that the traffic around Williamson Hall is supposed to be rerouted this summer but that she did not have any details.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Mitchell, referencing the recent possible theft of personal information of full-time faculty in Academic Affairs, stated that a faculty member had indicated to him that they had contacted TIAA-CREF and that a password can be put on the retirement account at the request of the faculty member.

Dr. Mitchell reported that he had read a blog referencing a restriction on free speech at Arkansas Tech. He noted that anyone can put anything on a blog, but that this blog had claimed a speech restriction involving the campus radio station, television station, and the student newspaper in that the journalists are not supposed to mention anything about the Razorbacks or any sporting event having to do with the University of Arkansas. He asked if this claim could be substantiated. Dr. Norton noted that journalists generally try to write or speak to newsworthy items for their audience. She stated that she would check with her colleagues in the Speech, Theatre, and Journalism department concerning this issue.

Dr. Baker questioned whether the Senate was going to pursue additional information on how the theft in Academic Affairs could impact the faculty. President Smith noted that he had spoken to Dr. Hamm earlier in the week about this issue and that the university is not talking publicly about the items stolen. However, he stated that Dr. Hamm had indicated that any faculty member wanting more details can talk to staff in Academic Affairs. It was noted that Computer Services is currently reviewing encryption software that can be centrally controlled through Computer Services and placed on administrative computers across campus containing sensitive information on faculty, staff, and students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Smith reported that the athletics practice schedules for next fall will be posted sometime this summer on the Athletics webpage.

President Smith stated that the next meeting of the Senate would be on May 2, 2008, which is Reading Day. It was suggested that the Senate meet earlier on that day as no classes will be held. President Smith stated that he would consider setting an earlier meeting time for that day.

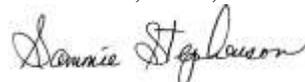
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Smith, D.M., President



Sammie Stephenson, Ed.D., Secretary