

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2008-09 Faculty Senate was held at 12:25 p.m., Monday, August 18, 2008, in the Private Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Dr. Cheryl Smith	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Sammie Stephenson
Dr. Eric Lovely	Dr. Annette Holeyfield
Dr. Pat Buford	Dr. Larry Morell
Dr. Linda Bean	Ms. Beth Gray
Dr. Andrew Cannon	Dr. Cathy Baker
Dr. Hanna Norton	Dr. Jeff Robertson
Dr. David Ward	Dr. Trey Philpotts
Mr. David Mudrinich	

Dr. Robert Brown, President, Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tim Smith were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Norton called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Brown for any comments.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT

Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation to the Senators for their willingness to serve and asked to give a campus update. He reported that enrollment for the fall semester is currently down approximately 100 students from last year which, if it holds, would be the first decline in fall enrollment since 1997; however, he noted that total student semester credit hours for fall is holding even with last year's number. As for the entering freshman class, Dr. Brown stated that this group was one of the best academically qualified he had seen at Tech. He thanked those serving as Bridge to Excellence mentors for their willingness to participate in the program.

Dr. Brown reported that construction for the new freshman advising center and classroom building is underway. This building will also hold the International Student Services office and the School of Business and is expected to be completed in early 2010. At that time part of the Corley Building will be remodeled and expanded to allow engineering faculty to move into the space previously occupied by Business. The Energy Center will then be renovated for the Speech, Theatre, and Journalism department. A space has also been identified in this building to house the television station, which will then move out of Crabaugh.

Dr. Brown stated that half of Critz Hall has been remodeled, and students started moving into this facility this past Saturday. When Physical Plant's new facility is completed on Red Hill, the rest of the building will then be remodeled for student housing. Hughes Hall, originally a residence hall, will also be renovated for use as student housing. At that time, approximately 2,500 beds will be available on campus for residence life. He reminded the Senators that research indicates students who live on campus do better academically.

REPORT BY VICE
PRESIDENT

Dr. Watson distributed drafts of three items: final exam schedule, general education committee structure and function, and a textbook royalty policy. He invited comments on all three items. Dr. Watson noted that the final exam schedule was revised to have as few

exams as possible on the final exam day (Tuesday) as grades will be due by midnight of the next day (Wednesday). The proposed general education committee will initially be appointed as an ad hoc committee so that it may function immediately this fall. Dr. Watson noted that the textbook royalty policy had been previously presented to the Senate, and reported that suggestions made had been incorporated into the current draft. He stated that he intends to take the textbook royalty policy to the Board of Trustees in September for action.

Dr. Watson stated he will be available when called upon for the Senate and their deliberations this academic year. Dr. Brown asked the Senators for their leadership on the issue of attendance accounting, noting that this issue “has become critical for us.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, Dr. Brown and Dr. Watson excused themselves from the meeting. President Norton asked for action on the minutes of the May 2, 2008, meeting. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to approve the minutes as distributed. There being no amendments or corrections, motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS/ ADDRESS BY CHAIR

President Norton thanked everyone for their willingness to serve and noted her belief that one of the main roles of the Senate is to “keep our colleagues informed.” She asked that the Senators let her know of issues to be addressed as the year progresses. President Norton commented that one item which has been talked about for several years is the establishment of an area at which faculty could gather.

The Senators then each introduced themselves.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Norton asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Dr. Smith nominated Mr. Futterer. There being no other nominations, Dr. Smith moved that nominations cease and Mr. Futterer be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Dr. Ward. Motion carried.

President Norton then asked for nominations for the position of Chair-Elect. Dr. Philpotts nominated Dr. Bishop. There being no other nominations, Mr. Futterer moved that nominations cease and Dr. Bishop be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Dr. Smith. Motion carried.

MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE

After discussion, the regular meeting time, day, and place for the fall semester were set for 4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in Pendergraft 325.

APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

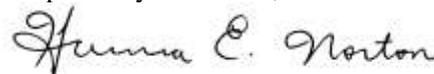
President Norton noted that she had contacted several individuals regarding committee appointments who were both eligible and willing to serve. For the Academic Appeals Committee she submitted the following names: Dr. Stephen Jones (School of Business), Dr. Tim Leggett (School of Education); Dr. William Schumann (School of Liberal and Fine Arts), Dr. Elizabeth Brennan (School of Physical and Life Sciences), and Dr. Mike Fairbanks (School of Systems Science). Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Mudrinich, to accept these nominations. Motion carried.

President Norton reported that Dr. Mostafa Hemmati had agreed to serve on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Bean, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.

President Norton indicated that Ms. Melinda Wilkins had consented to serve on the Professional Development Committee. Motion by Dr. Bean, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.

- OLD BUSINESS:
STUDENT HONOR
CODE INITIATIVE
UPDATE
- President Norton asked Dr. Tim Smith to speak to this issue. Dr. Smith reported that sixteen individuals from across campus had responded last spring to his invitation to form a steering committee to look at implementation of a student honor code. A meeting of the steering committee was held at the end of last May and the issue was “discussed from a faculty/staff viewpoint” as students were unable to attend this meeting. He reported that the University is now a member of the Center for Academic Integrity and this entity has surveys available which can be used to determine what Tech’s faculty want to see in an honor code. Dr. Smith stated that this group will meet again soon this fall and he will report back on their progress.
- CAMPUS SECURITY
SYMPOSIUM
UPDATE
- Dr. Smith also reported on this initiative. He stated that only a small number of individuals had responded last spring to an invitation to serve on this committee. He noted that he will contact these individuals this fall and see if they are still willing to serve. The purpose of the symposium is to educate faculty and staff on emergency procedures. At this time, Dr. Smith excused himself from the meeting.
- OPEN FORUM
- Mr. Futterer asked that the items presented by Dr. Watson be placed on the action agenda for the September meeting.
- President Norton noted that Dr. Brown’s compensation packet has been made available on OneTech and stated she also has a printed copy.
- Dr. Lovely asked that the free speech policy as printed in the *Student Handbook* be placed on the September agenda for discussion. Additionally, he noted a letter written by Dr. Gary Biller, Vice President for Student Services, which appeared in the last spring edition of the *Arka Tech* and asked that this letter be included with the agenda materials.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS
- President Norton asked the Senators to mark their calendars for the next meeting on September 10 at 4 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT
- The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Norton, Ph.D., President



Ken Futterer, M.M., Secretary