

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 4 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Cheryl Smith	Dr. Trey Philpotts
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	

Mr. David Mudrinich and Mr. Ken Futterer were absent.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Norton called the meeting to order and asked for action on the August 18, 2008, minutes. Motion by Dr. Buford, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to approve the minutes as distributed. There being no amendments or corrections, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
EXAM WEEK
SCHEDULE

President Norton reported that the exam week schedule for fall, 2008, has been finalized and distributed by Academic Affairs. Dr. Cannon noted two issues relating to the scheduling of exam week. The first relates to the decision made last spring during strategic planning to verify that students completing degree requirements for a given term have actually done so successfully, which necessitated designating two days after grades are submitted to allow the Registrar's office to "check out" the graduates. Dr. Cannon commented that the second issue affecting the exam week schedule was the need to add two additional class days for MWF three-hour classes, thus ensuring that these classes meet the required number of minutes per fall and spring semester. One solution to this issue proposed by Dr. Cannon would be to add additional minutes to these class periods beginning in fall of 2009; he noted that there may be other solutions to be considered also. Other discussion centered on increased absenteeism by faculty at the commencement ceremonies and concern that the timeframe for submission of grades would affect the types of exams instructors gave. Dr. Cannon asked that Dr. Watson attend the October meeting to discuss these issues.

GENERAL
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

President Norton reported that Dr. Watson is proceeding with implementation of an ad hoc committee to oversee general education for 2008-09. She advised that she and Dr. Watson had met last week and selected the following individuals to serve on this committee: Dr. Kim Troboy (BA), Dr. Trey Philpotts (LFA), Dr. Peter Dykema (LFA), Dr. Hanna Norton (LFA), Dr. Robin Lasey (PLS), Dr. Ruth Enoch (SS), and Ms. Annette Stuckey (CE). She noted that the individual identified for the School of Education had not yet responded. Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to approve these individuals to serve on the ad hoc committee. Motion carried.

Dr. Bishop reported that the sub-committee of the Senate appointed last spring to look at the formation of a regular standing committee for oversight of general education will continue their work this fall. He announced that the sub-committee will meet with Dr. Watson on

Monday to discuss formation of the new standing committee. He noted that the sub-committee will try to have a proposal for the Senate's meeting in November.

TEXTBOOK
ROYALTY POLICY

President Norton asked for any discussion on the proposed textbook royalty policy. There being none, motion by Dr. Bean, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to approve the policy as distributed. Motion carried.

FREE SPEECH
POLICY (*STUDENT
HANDBOOK*)

President Norton indicated that pages 9 and 10 of the *Student Handbook* and a copy of a letter by Dr. Biller printed in the May 1, 2008, *Arka Tech* had been included in the Senators' packets and asked Dr. Lovely to speak to this issue. Dr. Lovely stated that he had several concerns with the free speech policy printed in the *Student Handbook*, particularly relating to its' restrictive nature. He read aloud portions of the policy and stated that, taken literally, certain restrictions in the verbiage could be applied to classroom usage. Dr. Lovely reminded the Senators of a student protest on campus last spring which violated this policy as the students had left the free speech area; however, he stated that no actions were taken against those students even though the policy clearly states that violators of the policy ". . . will be subject to immediate eviction or removal from the campus. . ." He stated his opinion that the policy is "poorly worded" and noted his concern that the wording could allow the administration to selectively enforce the policy.

Dr. Lovely stated that he had looked at the free speech policies at the University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas and commented that Tech's policy was the most restrictive. Dr. Smith stated that she remembered hearing of an incident where a preacher walked around campus shouting abuse at students as one of the reasons why a free speech area had been designated.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to form a sub-committee to develop a new free speech policy for the campus. Motion carried. Ms. Gray, Dr. Ward, and Dr. Lovely volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Dr. Lovely stated that they would try to have a draft for the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Smith stated that she would like to include on next month's agenda an item addressing the criteria for promotion relating to scholarly activity. She stated that the Nursing Department would like to have "professional practice" added into the criteria. Dr. Cannon stated that he had talked with his department head, dean, and Dr. Watson concerning other issues with the promotion and tenure policy. President Norton asked that the senators bring their *Faculty Handbook* with them to the next meeting.

President Norton commented that a system for assisting work study students in finding jobs on campus does not exist. She asked that the Senators talk with staff in their departments to find out how work study students are identified in their areas. She noted that she will also talk with Dr. Boop in Career Services concerning this issue. President Norton stated she will place this item on next month's agenda.

Dr. Robertson observed that students are being enrolled in classes without seeing their advisors and stated that he would like for the Senate to review advising issues and clarify or define the faculty member's role in advising.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

There were no announcements or information items presented.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hanna E. Norton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Hanna Norton, Ph.D., President