

Minutes of  
THE FACULTY SENATE  
OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 4 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Larry Morell, Dr. Trey Philpotts, and Dr. Annette Holeyfield were absent. Dr. David Boop, Director of Career Services, was a guest.

CALL TO ORDER  
APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

President Norton called the meeting to order and asked for action on the minutes of the February 10, 2009, meeting. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Dr. Bean, seconded by Dr. Smith, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Robertson, to amend the order of the agenda to allow discussion of Item A in New Business first. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:  
CAREER SERVICES

President Norton asked Dr. Boop for any comments. Dr. Boop distributed an information packet containing a list of upcoming events to be hosted by Career Services and a summary sheet with definitions, principles and examples of experiential education. He noted that internships, practicums, and clinical work are the best examples of this type of educational experience offered at Tech and announced that his office tries to publish on their website any internship opportunities available to students. Dr. Boop indicated his willingness to work with departments on campus who might be interested in developing other experiential education practices.

In response to a question, Dr. Boop stated that he or a representative had spoken to students in some of the TECH 1001 and CSP 1013 classes concerning career opportunities. Dr. Bean and Dr. Buford both expressed their appreciation for the work being done in Career Services. At this time, Dr. Boop excused himself from the meeting.

The order of the agenda was resumed.

OLD BUSINESS:  
CAMPUS SECURITY  
ISSUES:  
DISSEMINATION  
OF INFORMATION  
TO FACULTY

President Norton asked for comments on the information sheet titled "Responses to Emergencies on the Arkansas Tech University Campus" presented by Dr. Watson at last month's meeting. Ms. Gray reported that a graduate student in emergency management is working on condensed instructions for specific disasters which will later be available to faculty; she noted the student is currently working on instructions for tornado emergencies. Dr. Bishop questioned when the safe areas will be posted in each building; Ms. Gray advised that the areas have been identified and she believed signs are currently being made.

Dr. Buford reported that many of her students did not get the test text message sent out by Public Safety last semester. Several senators indicated a preference for periodic test text

messages and President Norton indicated she would speak with Dr. Biller and Mr. Lawrence about this suggestion.

Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to post the information presented by Dr. Watson on the Faculty Resources webpage. The location of the information should be announced on OneTech and an email should also be sent. Motion carried.

#### UPDATE ON PROMOTION AND TENURE CRITERIA RECOMMENDATION

President Norton distributed a memorandum from Dr. Watson concerning the Senate's recommendations on revising the promotion and tenure criteria in the *Faculty Handbook*. Noting Dr. Watson's lack of support for inclusion of the professional practices criterion as being "directed towards one discipline," namely nursing, Dr. Lovely commented that several of the current criteria include examples of discipline-specific activities. Dr. Stephenson questioned whether making the examples of professional practice more diverse would strengthen the argument for inclusion of the item. Dr. Cannon noted that professional practice could refer to activities in areas besides nursing, such as business and education. Mr. Futterer observed that he also did not see inclusion of "in-service education programs" as being discipline specific, an item which Dr. Watson had also not supported.

Dr. Bishop recommended that the subcommittee meet with Dr. Watson directly to discuss his objections to the proposed modifications. President Norton asked the subcommittee to schedule the meeting with Dr. Watson and report back at the April meeting.

#### UPDATE ON PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

President Norton reported that Dr. Watson had checked further into the issue of a pedestrian bridge across Highway 7 and found the situation to be more political than initially believed since the endeavor would include two state agencies and the City of Russellville. She stated he had advised that further pursuit of the initiative should be directed to Dr. Brown. Dr. Bishop indicated that a community group is looking at formation of a community trail which could include a pedestrian bridge across Highway 7 and stated that Dr. Herrick had spoken with Dr. Brown already as a representative of this group. President Norton stated she would send a memo to Dr. Brown concerning the initiative.

#### UPDATE ON GRADUATION ATTENDANCE POLICY LANGUAGE

President Norton reported that Dr. Watson had proposed revised language for the catalog concerning student participation in graduation: Current: "*Participation in commencement is required of all candidates for degrees except in cases involving hardship. The student may officially petition the Vice President for Academic Affairs in writing for the degree to be awarded in absentia.*" Proposed: "*Participation in commencement is expected of all candidates for degrees. Students who are unable to participate may officially petition the Vice President for Academic Affairs in writing for permission to have the degree awarded in absentia.*" Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to approve the new wording. Motion carried.

#### UPDATE ON SUBCOMMITTEE FORMATION TO REVIEW END OF TERM SCHEDULE

President Norton announced that the subcommittee to review the end of term schedule will meet Tuesday, March 17, at 4 p.m. in RPL 300 South. The subcommittee will consist of the following individuals: Dr. Robertson, Dr. Cannon, Dr. Lovely, and Mr. Futterer (representing the Faculty Senate); Ms. Shauna Donnell, Admissions; Ms. Tammy Rhodes, Registrar; Mr. Marty Sabolo, Residence Life; Ms. Shirley Goines, Financial Aid; Ms. Jamie Martin, Student Orientation; Mr. Wyatt Watson, Institutional Research; Ms. Carol Trusty, Food Service; Dr. Biller, Public Safety; and Mr. Steve Mullins, Athletics. Ms. Chronister, Recording Secretary, will serve as a non-voting, resource member. President Norton noted that she would convene the meeting and give them their charge.

#### UPDATE ON FREE SPEECH POLICY

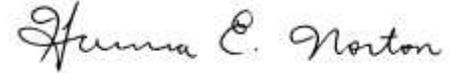
President Norton read an email from Dr. Brown which stated he will present the free speech policy to the Board of Trustees at their March meeting.

- NEW BUSINESS:  
ADVISING AND  
STUDENT  
ATHLETES** President Norton stated that Dr. Vocate had asked her to express to the Senate her concern that a number of students are not being advised by an academic advisor, including student athletes and transfer students. Dr. Vocate has asked for a resolution from the Senate requesting that all students be advised by faculty members within their major departments. Dr. Robertson stated that this is already the policy, but noted the ease with which the policy can be circumvented due to the current advising structure in the Banner student information system. Dr. Lovely suggested adding to the orientation classes discussion with the students on appropriate advising. Mr. Futterer pointed out that the Senate had sent forth a similar resolution last fall and that he does not see anything further the Senate can do. His suggestion that Dr. Vocate discuss this issue with other department heads with the possibility of implementing additional security measures in Banner was accepted.
- STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
ELECTIONS** President Norton asked the Senators to set the date for the spring standing committee elections. After discussion, it was determined the elections will be held from April 17 through April 24. At-large nominees will be asked to provide position statements by April 10. President Norton stated that Dr. Robertson has agreed to set up the electronic ballot; she and Dr. Bishop volunteered to assist him with counting the ballots.
- MERIT PAY POLICY** President Norton asked Dr. Bishop to speak to this item. Dr. Bishop referenced the merit pay policy in the *Faculty Handbook* and proposed a committee be established to review the policy with an eye to revising the policy and procedures to reflect closely the promotion and tenure process. Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, to establish a committee to propose revisions to the merit pay policy. Motion to amend by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Mr. Mudrinich, to establish a committee to investigate standard procedures for merit pay nationally and make recommendations. Motion to amend carried. Dr. Bishop, Dr. Stephenson, and Mr. Mudrinich volunteered to serve on the committee.
- HONORING  
STUDENTS AT  
GRADUATION** President Norton asked Dr. Stephenson to address this issue. Dr. Stephenson commented that she would like to see a tradition started at graduation involving faculty honoring or showing appreciation to students graduating. It was noted that the Commencement Committee is responsible for organizing graduation. Dr. Stephenson volunteered to speak with this committee concerning this issue and report back.
- ESTABLISH  
COMMITTEE TO  
EXAMINE  
PROMOTION AND  
TENURE POLICIES  
AND PROCEDURES** President Norton asked Dr. Bishop for comments on this item. Dr. Bishop noted that, during some of this year's discussions relating to the promotion and tenure policy and its procedures, comments were made concerning criteria it is rumored that the University Promotion and Tenure Committee looks at that are not specified in the *Faculty Handbook*. Motion by Dr. Bishop to establish a committee to examine the Faculty Evaluation, Promotion, and Tenure Policies and Procedures. Dr. Ward emphasized that he could not vote on this motion until he talked with faculty in his school first. Motion to table this item until the April meeting by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Lovely. Motion carried.
- OPEN FORUM** President Norton asked for any comments. Dr. Lovely reported that he recently appealed a parking violation received and had been instructed to appear before a student committee. He noted that this procedure can be both awkward and potentially "problematic from the faculty member's perspective." He asked that this issue be placed on next month's agenda for discussion.
- Dr. Baker raised an issue concerning crosswalks and parking spots on either sides of crosswalks and asked who to talk with concerning this safety issue. President Norton advised that concerns of this nature should be addressed to Steve Lawrence in Public Safety.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS      President Norton announced that next month's meeting is scheduled for April 14.

ADJOURNMENT      The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Norton, Ph.D., President



Ken Futterer, M.M., Secretary