

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 10 a.m. in Room 300 South 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. Larry Morell
Dr. Sammie Stephenson	Mr. David Mudrinich
Dr. Hanna Norton	Dr. Jeff Robertson
Dr. Annette Holeyfield	

Dr. Trey Philpotts and Dr. Andrew Cannon were absent.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Norton called the meeting to order and asked for action on the minutes of the April 14, 2009, meeting. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Buford, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried. Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Bean, to amend the order of the agenda to allow discussion of Item E in Old Business first. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
REPORT ON
HONORING
STUDENTS AT
GRADUATION

President Norton asked Dr. Stephenson to speak to this item. Dr. Stephenson reported that she had met with Ms. Rhodes, Registrar, concerning having faculty honor the graduates at commencement and Ms. Rhodes was receptive to the idea. Ms. Rhodes had indicated she would ask the Commencement Committee to consider the request. Dr. Stephenson stated that any recommendation made by this committee would have to go to both Dr. Watson and Dr. Brown for approval. President Norton thanked Dr. Stephenson for her report and for pursuing this initiative.

The order of the agenda was resumed.

STANDING
COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS

President Norton expressed her appreciation to Dr. Robertson for working on the standing committee elections and stated that she and Dr. Robertson had met the previous Friday to "count the ballots." She noted one tie on the Library, Instructional Materials, and Equipment Committee; however, one of the individuals involved in the tie would now be ineligible to serve on this committee as the school representative elected was from the same department. By default, this would break the tie and elect Ms. Connie Zimmer to the committee. Motion by Dr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to elect Ms. Zimmer to the at-large position, notify Dr. William Schumann of his ineligibility, and publish the standing committees election results. Motion carried. Several senators indicated that the deans should screen the nominees more carefully to keep this from happening in the future.

Dr. Robertson announced that 121 faculty had voted online and two by paper ballots.

REPORT ON END
OF TERM
SCHEDULE
RECOMMENDATION

President Norton reported on the informal opinion poll conducted on the standing committee ballot concerning changing the end of term schedule and read the options as follows: Option A: leave the schedule as is; Option B: Omit Reading Day, 5 day exam schedule starting one week earlier than current schedule. Wednesday night classes start finals Wednesday night on last class day, with finals on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday at times identical to current times going from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Option C: Omit Reading Day, 4 day exam schedule starting one week earlier than current schedule. Wednesday night classes start finals Wednesday night on last class day, with finals on Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday with times adjusted to start at 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. to omit the need for Saturday exams. President Norton announced the results for each option: Option A: 33 votes, 27.28%; Option B: 28 votes, 23.14%; and Option C: 60 votes; 49.59% (two individuals did not vote on this issue). President Norton stated that the poll results clearly indicate the faculty do not want to leave the schedule as is. She advised that the Senate's recommendation is currently under consideration by Dr. Watson. Dr. Lovely noted that elimination of the block exam times would free up additional exam times and allow the five day exam schedule to be pared down to four days.

REPORT ON
PROMOTION AND
TENURE CRITERIA
RECOMMENDATION

President Norton reported that Dr. Watson supports the Senate's latest recommendation for amending the promotion and tenure criteria and that he will take this recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

REPORT BY
SUBCOMMITTEE
ON MERIT PAY

President Norton asked for a report. Mr. Mudrinich distributed his research notes for review, and noted the current policy in the *Faculty Handbook*. Mr. Mudrinich reported that the University of the Ozarks had voted several years ago to create a salary pool for merit pay. Since then, the faculty have only received merit increases; he cautioned the Senate to make sure that any recommendation made does not eliminate across-the-board, cost-of-living increases.

Mr. Mudrinich referenced his notes and stated that true merit pay does not include one-time bonuses; however, he noted that some universities do not add merit pay to the base salary. Mr. Mudrinich pointed out different methods used by universities in determining merit pay and pointed out that an appeals procedure should also be part of the process. Dr. Morell noted that the salary survey conducted in Academic Affairs, which uses a peer group to determine median market salaries by discipline, "does not jive with merit."

Dr. Bishop stated that he would like to see the subcommittee put together a recommendation to be reviewed by the Senate in the fall. Mr. Mudrinich questioned whether the State provides funds for merit for faculty. Mr. Futterer advised that a separate pool of funds for unclassified merit pay would need to be established should a recommendation for a revised merit pay policy go forth. President Norton observed that the subcommittee can continue to work over the summer and present a recommendation in the fall.

REPORT ON
TRAFFIC
VIOLATION
APPEAL POLICY
FOR FACULTY

President Norton asked Dr. Lovely for a report. Dr. Lovely distributed a draft of a letter to Dr. Watson asking that the administration "...consider revisions to the current parking appeals policy that would not place students in a position to judge faculty or staff, and additionally consider a system that provides reasonable flexibility in the timing of such an appeal." Motion by Dr. Lovely, seconded by Dr. Bishop, to forward the letter to Dr. Watson after removing the word "reasonable" in the last paragraph. Motion carried. President Norton will forward the revised letter to Academic Affairs.

- NEW BUSINESS:** President Norton asked Dr. Lovely to address this issue. Dr. Lovely distributed a copy of Act 749 of 1991 which requires every state agency to implement a recycling program. He noted that the custodians do not have a directive to assist with the efforts being undertaken across campus. Mr. Futterer questioned whether this law is still in effect and Dr. Lovely responded that he assumed it was. Mr. Futterer asked Dr. Lovely to determine whether there have been changes to this law since 1991; if the act is still in effect, he stated that the Senate should request that the University comply with the act. Motion by Dr. Ward, seconded by Dr. Morell, to ask Mr. Pennington, Legal Counsel, to check the statutes for current legislation on this issue. Motion carried. Dr. Lovely will contact Mr. Pennington. Dr. Morell noted that many of the buildings have had a paper recycling company come by each week for several years to pick up paper.
- CAMPUS RECYCLING**
- OPEN FORUM** There were no items for open forum.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS** Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Bishop, to commend President Norton for her service as chair. Motion carried. President Norton thanked everyone for their service and commitment during this academic year.
- ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hanna Norton, Ph.D., President



Ken Futterer, M.M., Secretary