

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Friday, October 9, 2009, at 4 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Jim Walton	Dr. David Eshelman
Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Penny Willmering
Dr. Eric Lovely	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Gill Richards	Mr. David Mudrinich
Dr. Linda Bean	Dr. Annette Holeyfield
Dr. Alex Mirkovic	Dr. Cathy Baker
Dr. Larry Morell	

Dr. Jennifer Helms, Dr. Jeff Robertson, Dr. V. Carole Smith, and Dr. Tom Limperis were absent.

CALL TO ORDER

President Bishop called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion by Dr. Morell, seconded by Dr. Willmering. Motion carried. President Bishop asked for any amendments or corrections. Motion by Dr. Bean, seconded by Dr. Mirkovic, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS:
END OF TERM
SCHEDULE/FINAL
EXAMS

President Bishop asked for a report from the sub-committee reviewing this issue. Dr. Lovely asked to yield the position of chair to Mr. Futterer; motion by Dr. Mirkovic, seconded by Dr. Eshelman, to appoint Mr. Futterer as chair of the sub-committee. Motion carried. Mr. Futterer distributed information for review, which included an outline of the reasons why the end of term schedule was initially changed (i.e., MWF classes were 100 minutes short on class time and implementing “checkout” of graduating seniors) and possible revisions to the schedule. He also emphasized that Dr. Watson has asked for assurances that faculty will have a final exam/activity during exam week if those minutes are counted towards a calculation of class time.

Mr. Futterer briefly outlined the possible revisions to the end of term schedule, including moving to a four-day exam period with finals given on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday (this option assumes that the final exam period will count towards the 100 minute deficit); adding five minutes to the MWF class times in order to make up the 100 minute deficit and having finals run Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday; and deleting a stated “Final Exam Week,” with finals given on the last few days of classes (this option assumes no change in the current class schedule but includes deletion of exam week). Other suggestions included shortening the final exam time period and reverting to the previous final exam week schedule. Mr. Futterer pointed out that the previous final exam week schedule had not allowed for time for “checkout” of graduating seniors.

President Bishop stated a mechanism for ensuring that faculty give final exams can be recommended to Academic Affairs with enforcement being in the hands of the Vice President. Dr. Eshelman suggested that the Senate encourage all faculty to notify their department heads of their plans for final exams. Several noted that some department heads are requiring faculty to provide this information prior to final exam week but some are not.

Mr. Futterer stated he would collate all suggestions and call a meeting of the sub-committee next week. President Bishop stated that he could call a meeting of the Senate for the specific purpose of reviewing this issue if the sub-committee felt this necessary.

President Bishop asked to add two items to the action agenda for New Business. He stated that Dr. Magrans, the Senate's appointment to the General Education Committee, had asked to step down and the Senate needed to replace him. This would be Item C. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to add this item to the agenda. Motion carried.

President Bishop reported that the chair of the General Education Committee had asked the Senate to review the membership requirement for the College of Professional Studies and Community Outreach, which would be Item D. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to add this item to the agenda. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: SALARY EQUITY SURVEY

President Bishop asked for a motion relating to this issue. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Richards, to discuss the issue of the faculty salary equity survey. After discussion, Mr. Futterer retracted his motion in order to not set a precedent of requiring motions before discussion. The Senators agreed to discuss the issue.

Dr. Lovely reported that Dr. Joe Stoeckel and Dr. Tom Nupp had declined the Senate's invitation to meet today to discuss this issue. Dr. Lovely noted certain issues with the faculty salary equity survey conducted in Academic Affairs during the spring semester: (1) salary equity adjustments are irregularly made and are triggered when a faculty member's salary falls below 85 percent of the median salary of a comparison group using CUPA data organized by rank and discipline; (2) there is an apparent lack of transparency concerning the methodology used for the survey; (3) there is a one-year delay in equity adjustments for promotions; (4) no consideration for years of service is included in the calculation; (5) there is confusion concerning how the comparison group of institutions included in the survey is determined; and (6) the concern that, for certain disciplines, there is insufficient data from the comparison group to calculate an accurate median salary.

Motion by Dr. Richards to form a sub-committee to review the salary equity study. After discussion, President Bishop asked for a vote, stating that the discussion served as a second to the motion. Motion failed.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Mirkovic, to invite the appropriate individual from Academic Affairs to discuss the process and the concerns outlined by Dr. Lovely. Motion to amend by Dr. Morell, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to also request the data that the survey is based on. Motion on amendment carried. Original motion carried.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

President Bishop asked Dr. Morell to comment on this item. Dr. Morell distributed information concerning various technology issues raised as concerns during previous Senate meetings, including information he had gathered from a conversation with Dr. Underwood. He noted that Dr. Underwood is willing to meet with the Senate to discuss the issues in detail and also pointed out that Dr. Underwood is in the process of revitalizing the Technology Committee. It was noted that issues relating to the Tech website were not under the purview of Academic Affairs and Computer Services; the Public Relations Office now manages the website. Motion by Dr. Morell, seconded by Dr. Walton, to invite Dr. Underwood to a future Senate meeting. Motion carried.

Dr. Walton questioned whether the Technology Committee answered to the Faculty Senate. He expressed concern when told that the committee did not report to the Senate and stated his belief that the Faculty Senate should have its own technology committee to address

issues important to faculty. Motion by Dr. Walton, seconded by Dr. Richards, to establish a standing committee on technology. After discussion, Dr. Walton withdrew his motion, stating that he would bring this issue up with Dr. Underwood at the appropriate time.

SENATE
APPOINTMENT TO
GENERAL
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

President Bishop reported that Dr. Magrans had resigned from the General Education Committee and had recommended Dr. Alejandra Carballo, Assistant Professor of Spanish, as his replacement. He noted that Dr. Carballo is in her first year of employment with Tech and that he had not yet spoken to her concerning the possible appointment. Motion by Dr. Eshelman, seconded by Dr. Walton, to approve Dr. Carballo's appointment to the General Education Committee. Dr. Baker stated her opinion that President Bishop might want to talk with her first to make sure she is willing to serve. Motion to amend by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Bean, to approve whomever President Bishop decides to appoint for this committee. Motion carried.

GENERAL
EDUCATION
MEMBERSHIP

President Bishop noted that the College of Professional Studies and Community Outreach only has one faculty member after the realignment of colleges and departments and that this individual did not meet the definition of "regular" faculty. Therefore, this person was technically ineligible to serve on the General Education Committee and the College would not have representation as per the membership guidelines for the committee. Dr. Robin Lasey, chair of the General Education Committee, had requested that the Senate look at this issue. It was noted that Dr. Watson had previously agreed to allow the faculty member to serve as an "ex officio" member of the committee and that Academic Affairs was hoping that the issue would resolve itself as the College grew. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Walton, to allow the chair of the General Education Committee to appoint an ex officio member from the College of Professional Studies and Community Outreach with no voting privileges on a one-year, temporary basis. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Baker reported that one of the adjunct faculty had approached her and questioned whether the Senate would be willing to recommend that full-time adjuncts (teaching 12 hours or more per semester) be allowed to take one course during that semester free of charge. She asked that this issue be discussed at a future meeting.

Dr. Lovely stated that he had received concerns from faculty concerning the faculty's role in the hiring process. He noted that departments are not consistent across campus concerning faculty involvement in the process and in formation of the job advertisement. He asked that this item be discussed at a future meeting.

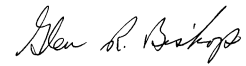
Dr. Richards reported that a faculty member had approached him with concerns relating to the timeliness of reminders by the Registrar's Office concerning the reporting of mid-term grades and asked if this type of issue was one that the Senate would be willing to address. President Bishop assured Dr. Richards that any concern related by a faculty member could be discussed by the Senate if the Senator was willing to put the item on the agenda. After discussion, Dr. Richards stated that he would pursue this particular issue with the Registrar's Office himself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

No items were presented at this time.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen R. Bishop".

Glen Bishop, Ph.D., President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Baker".

Cathy Baker, Ph.D., Secretary