

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2010-11 Faculty Senate was held at 12:15 p.m., Monday, August 23, 2010, in the Private Dining Room of Chambers Cafeteria. The following members were present:

Dr. Jennifer Helms	Mr. Ken Futterer
Dr. Dan Bullock	Dr. V. Carole Smith
Dr. Eric Lovely	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. James Walton	Dr. Michael Garner
Dr. Linda Bean	Dr. Penny Willmering
Dr. Alex Mirkovic	Dr. Robin Lasey
Dr. David Eshelman	Ms. Annette Stuckey
Mr. David Mudrinich	Dr. Cathi McMahan

Dr. Gill Richards and Dr. Tom Limperis were absent. Dr. Robert Brown, President and Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

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

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT

Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation to the Senate for “the excellent way you conducted your business last year,” noting that serving on faculty governance is both time consuming and important.

Dr. Brown emphasized that, in relation to other campuses both in the state and region, Arkansas Tech is “doing pretty well comparatively.” He reminded the senators that in Arkansas there is a constitutional requirement to balance the state’s budget. During 2009-10, the University absorbed two budget cuts, and he credited cooperation across campus for the University being able to do so with minimal impact to academics.

REPORT BY VICE
PRESIDENT

Dr. Watson expressed his appreciation for the cooperative relationship he has had with the Senate the past two years and noted his willingness to attend meetings during this academic year as needed. Dr. Brown emphasized that he is also available as a resource for the Senate.

At this time, Dr. Brown and Dr. Watson excused themselves from the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS/
ADDRESS BY
CHAIR

President Bean asked those present to introduce themselves. She thanked the senators for their willingness to serve. Regarding recommendations made by the Senate during 2009-10, Dr. Bean first announced that the merit pay policy could not be deleted from the *Faculty Handbook* as it is part of a state-mandated evaluation plan. The recommended new standing committee, Committee on Adjunct Support, will be an ad hoc committee for the 2010-11 academic year, and she noted that the Faculty Senate constitutional changes had been approved by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Lovely requested that, in light of this new information, the issue of the merit pay policy be placed on the next agenda for continued discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES	President Bean asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010, meeting. Motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS	President Bean asked for nominations for the position of Chair-Elect. Dr. Walton nominated Dr. Smith, Dr. Lovely nominated Dr. Mirkovic. Motion by Dr. Walton, seconded by Dr. Willmering, for nominations to cease. Motion carried. After a vote, Dr. Smith was elected chair-elect. President Bean asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Mr. Futterer nominated Dr. Mirkovic and moved that he be elected by unanimous consent. Seconded by Dr. Willmering. Motion carried.
MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE	After discussion, motion by Dr. Walton, seconded by Dr. Eshelman, to set the meeting time and day for 4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month for the fall semester. Motion carried. President Bean stated that an attempt will be made to secure Pendergraft 325 for the meetings.
APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE	President Bean 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 for one-year appointments: Dr. Molly Brant (College of Applied Sciences), Dr. Ernest Enchelmayer (College of Arts and Humanities); Dr. Julie Trivitt (College of Business), Dr. Rebecca Callaway (College of Education), and Ms. Shelly Daily (College of Natural and Health Sciences). Motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Walton, to accept these nominations. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT TO UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE	President Bean reported that Dr. Nina Goza has agreed to serve a three-year term on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Motion by Dr. Walton, seconded by Dr. Underwood, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	President Bean announced that Dr. Marc Fusaro had agreed to serve a three-year term on the Professional Development Committee. Motion by Dr. Eshelman, seconded by Dr. Smith, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	President Bean stated that Dr. Kathryn Pearson had consented to serve on the General Education Committee for a three-year term. Motion by Dr. Walton, seconded by Dr. Smith, to accept this nomination. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT OF EX OFFICIO MEMBER TO GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	President Bean reminded the Senate that the College of Professional Studies and Community Outreach is entitled to a member on the General Education Committee per the current approved membership guidelines. There is only one faculty member currently in this College, Ms. Annette Stuckey. President Bean asked that the Senate once again approve Ms. Stuckey as an ex officio member to ensure representation by this College on the committee for the 2010-11 academic year. Motion by Dr. Lasey, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to so approve Ms. Stuckey. Motion carried.

- APPOINTMENT TO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ADJUNCT SUPPORT** President Bean reported that she and Dr. Eshelman had attended the annual adjunct dinner at Lake Point Conference Center and requested four volunteers to serve on the ad hoc Committee on Adjunct Support. Seven adjuncts had volunteered, and an election was held. The four adjuncts elected to the committee are: Ms. Melinda Hudson (English, College of Arts and Humanities), Ms. Sarah Lawson (Foreign Languages, College of Arts and Humanities), Ms. Christine Kirkland (Biology, College of Natural and Health Sciences), and Ms. Susan Campbell (Management and Marketing, College of Business). President Bean stated that she and Dr. Eshelman had prepared four names of full-time faculty to present for membership on this committee: Mr. Ken Shores (Mathematics, College of Natural and Health Sciences), Dr. David Eshelman (Speech, Theatre, and Journalism, College of Arts and Humanities), Dr. Cathy Baker (Physical Sciences, College of Natural and Health Sciences), and Dr. Cory Shaman (English, College of Arts and Humanities). Motion by Dr. Helms, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to elect these four full-time faculty to the ad hoc committee. Motion carried.
- SUBCOMMITTEE TO ADAPT COURSE EVALUATION FORM FOR ONLINE COURSES** President Bean stated that Dr. Watson has asked the Senate to make recommendations concerning adapting the course evaluation form for online courses. It was noted that Academic Affairs is currently in the process of converting the course evaluation form to a new software which will allow the form to be produced in house and eliminate the need for purchasing scantron forms. President Bean stated that, in order to implement the new forms this fall, any changes recommended specifically for online courses must be sent to Academic Affairs no later than mid-October. She asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to work on this task. Dr. Walton, Ms. Stuckey, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Underwood volunteered to serve. It was suggested that Mr. Wyatt Watson be a resource for this subcommittee as he is actually the one working on the form conversion.
- OLD BUSINESS: SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW HIRING PROCESS AND FACULTY'S ROLE** President Bean asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to review the hiring process and the faculty's role in the process. Mr. Futterer, Dr. Lovely, Dr. Mirkovic, Dr. Willmering, and Dr. McMahan volunteered to serve.
- Dr. Lovely noted again the need to have the merit pay policy on next month's agenda, and President Bean asked Mr. Mudrinich to brief the new senators on what had occurred relating to this issue during the last academic year. Mr. Mudrinich described the process the subcommittee had utilized last year in review of the merit pay policy and the subsequent vote by the Senate to delete the merit pay policy from the *Faculty Handbook*. Dr. Lovely asked that a copy of the guidelines relating to the state's evaluation policy be distributed along with the September agenda.
- OPEN FORUM** President Bean asked for items for discussion. Mr. Futterer noted some confusion concerning FERPA guidelines and asked that the university counsel brief the Senate on this issue at the next meeting.
- Mr. Mudrinich questioned when the Senate was going to continue discussion of the evaluation, promotion, and tenure policy reformat. President Bean stated that this item would be on the agenda for September.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS** President Bean announced that curriculum proposal help sessions will be held on September 8 and 9. More information on this will follow.
- President Bean asked for a volunteer to serve as the Senate's liaison to the Assessment Committee. Dr. Lasey stated she was already a member of this committee and was willing to serve in the capacity also.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda C. Bean".

Linda C. Bean, Ed.D., President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Mirkovic".

Alexander Mirkovic, Ph.D., Secretary