

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Monday, September 13, 2010, at 4 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. 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. Gill Richards	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. Tom Limperis

Dr. James Walton and Dr. Cathi McMahan were absent. Dr. Glen Bishop was a visitor.

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

President Bean called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010, meeting. Motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Lasey, to add Item D to Old Business: General Education Committee Appointment. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Lasey, seconded by Mr. Mudrinich, to amend the order of the agenda and move Item C, Old Business, to Item A. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
REFORMAT OF
EVALUATION,
PROMOTION, AND
TENURE POLICY

President Bean reminded the Senators that a subcommittee consisting of Dr. Helms, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Larry Morell, and she had worked on reformatting and revising the evaluation, promotion, and tenure policy last spring. She noted that the subcommittee had finished its work late in the spring semester and review of the materials had been delayed until the fall. Motion by Mr. Mudrinich, seconded by Dr. Smith, to review and discuss the policy revision. Motion carried.

Mr. Mudrinich stated his belief that it was a “good idea” to reformat the policy. He questioned the addition of wording concerning limiting information submitted for promotion and tenure review to a three-inch binder. President Bean stated that this was suggested by Dr. Watson in a presentation given to faculty last spring to discourage the inclusion of every test given, every syllabus, every teaching evaluation, etc. Dr. Bishop emphasized that the purpose of reordering the policy was to enable faculty to find information in “relevant order.” President Bean stated that Academic Affairs has asked for the ability to track changes, and a subcommittee will need to work to insert that information in the document. Dr. Helms consented to serve again, and President Bean asked the Senate if there were any objections to Dr. Bishop, who is no longer on the Senate, serving. As there were no objections, Dr. Bishop consented to serve. President Bean stated she would also continue service on this subcommittee. The document, with revisions noted, will be presented at a future meeting.

MERIT PAY	President Bean noted the inclusion of materials in the packets concerning the legislation in 1997 and the resulting merit pay policy. She asked for thoughts on this issue. Consensus was to leave the policy in the <i>Faculty Handbook</i> as is for now.
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON HIRING PROCESS AND FACULTY'S ROLE	President Bean asked Dr. Lovely for a report. Dr. Lovely stated that it had been a “bit of a challenge” to get the subcommittee together, and only he and Mr. Futterer had met this past Friday. The full subcommittee will meet next Friday, September 24, at 3 p.m., and a report will be forthcoming for the October meeting.
FACULTY SENATE APPOINTMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	President Bean reported that the previous Senate appointment to the General Education Committee, Dr. Kathy Pearson, had asked to be excused from this appointment due to other commitments. She stated that she had asked Dr. Jason Warnick to serve on this committee and asked for a motion. Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Smith, to appoint Dr. Warnick as the Senate’s representative on the General Education Committee. Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS: FERPA GUIDELINES	President Bean announced that Mr. Pennington was unable to attend today’s meeting due to a conflict. Due to the issues raised by the Senate, however, he had advised that he would be conducting FERPA training sessions during the next several weeks.
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS	President Bean asked Dr. Smith for a report. Dr. Smith stated that the subcommittee had met on August 30 and had decided to look at other institutions’ evaluation forms. The subcommittee will meet again on September 20 and will bring a report to the October meeting.
OPEN FORUM	<p>President Bean asked for any issues. Dr. Lovely reminded the Senate of the subcommittee formed last spring to review membership on the elected standing committees and asked for continued discussion of this item to be placed on the October agenda. He stated that he and Mr. Futterer were the two remaining members of this subcommittee and asked for other volunteers. Dr. Richards volunteered. The subcommittee will meet on September 24.</p> <p>Mr. Futterer noted an email question he had received concerning the money budgeted for the salary increases the University was unable to give due to the Governor’s request that no state employee receive a raise for 2010-11. He stated he had been asked where those funds were and was there a plan for eventually being able to fund the raises. President Bean stated she would ask Dr. Watson to address these questions.</p> <p>Mr. Futterer advised that he had also received an email from one or two concerned faculty concerning the amount of time faculty should spend on campus. The faculty had apparently received some sort of notification implying they should be on campus five days a week. He noted there was nothing stated concerning this in the <i>Faculty Handbook</i> beyond hours stipulated for class time and ten hours each week for office hours. Several senators, including those in the College of Arts and Humanities, stated they had not received any memos or emails to this effect. Mr. Futterer indicated he would consider this a “non issue” unless it resurfaces at a later date.</p>
ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS	<p>President Bean announced that the next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be October 11, 2010.</p> <p>Dr. Eshelman distributed posters for events taking place in his department.</p> <p>President Bean mentioned that the training sessions for curriculum proposals had went well and she hoped that the curricular process this year would go smoothly.</p>

Dr. Mirkovic noted the previous discussion on FERPA and questioned whether an independent attorney could be asked to present information on FERPA to the Senate. Mr. Futterer suggested that someone from the U. S. Department of Education might do a presentation free. President Bean asked Dr. Mirkovic to research this possibility before the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda C. Bean, Ed.D., President



Alexander Mirkovic, Ph.D., Secretary