

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2011-12 Faculty Senate was held at 12:20 p.m., Monday, August 22, 2011, 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	Ms. Jamie Earls
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. Penny Willmering
Dr. Alex Mirkovic	Dr. Robin Lasey
Dr. David Eshelman	Ms. Annette Stuckey
Dr. Sherman Alexander	Dr. Cathi McMahan
Dr. Tom Limperis	Dr. Ernest Enchelmayer

Dr. Johnette Moody was absent. Dr. Robert Brown, President and Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, were visitors.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT

Dr. Brown expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the Senate and thanked the members for their service. Dr. Brown asked those present to introduce themselves.

Dr. Brown reported that 2010-11 was an excellent year with the University receiving a re-accreditation report from The Higher Learning Commission with no restrictions, conditions, recommendations, or required interim reports. He stated this is an indication of the institution's overall health. Dr. Brown noted several challenges currently facing the University, including the requirement that hours required for baccalaureate degree programs be reduced to 120, performance funding which will begin in 2013-14 using 2012-13 data, and implementation of the common course numbering system. Dr. Brown stated he was tentatively looking at additional screening of faculty applicants and advised he would work with the Senate if this was deemed necessary.

REPORT BY VICE
PRESIDENT

Dr. Watson reported the institution has until July 1, 2013, to fully implement the common course numbering system, but emphasized that work would need to begin during this academic year. He stated the institution's degree programs, with few exceptions, will need to be pared to 120 credit hours during the fall semester in order to meet catalog deadlines. Dr. Watson noted this legislation is aimed at "saving money" as it costs the State more if the student gets a degree at an institution where the degree program requires more hours than at another comparable institution with a lower hour requirement.

Dr. Brown noted issues relating to taking attendance and asked the Senate to take a stance. Approximately \$500,000 per year is being returned in federal financial aid funds due to the institution's inability to document participation of certain students in classes.

Dr. Brown thanked President Smith for her willingness to serve as chair. Dr. Watson advised of his willingness to attend Senate meetings as needed. They then excused themselves from the meeting.

- CALL TO ORDER** President Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the new senators, stating they “will learn a lot about the campus” through serving on this committee. She then distributed a handout on Robert’s Rules of Order prepared by the previous year’s chair, Dr. Bean.
- ADDRESS BY CHAIR** President Smith noted several items from the spring semester still pending: finalizing the Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards Committee function; subcommittee report on textbook policy; topics for discussion with SGA; discussion on the university’s policy relating to retirement funds; discussion with Dr. Watson on tenure, promotion, and years of credit; and review of the Student Services’ security plan. She also noted members of Career Services would like to visit with the Senate this fall.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** President Smith asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2011, meeting.
- Motion by Dr. Mirkovic, seconded by Dr. Walton, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.
- President Smith stated she will use the projection system to display agendas and minutes when the Senate meets in Pendergraft 325 the balance of the semester.
- NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS** President Smith asked for nominations for the position of Chair-Elect. Dr. Walton nominated Dr. Bullock, and Dr. Lovely nominated Mr. Futterer.
- Motion by Dr. Eshelman, seconded by Dr. Willmering, for nominations to cease. Motion carried.
- Mr. Futterer was elected chair-elect.
- President Smith asked for nominations for the position of Secretary.
- Mr. Futterer nominated Dr. Bullock and moved that nominations cease and he be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Ms. Stuckey. Motion carried.
- Motion by Dr. Lovely, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to amend the agenda and add an item to Old Business: Revive Current Subcommittees. Motion carried.
- MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE** President Smith announced the fall meetings will be held on September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6 at 3 p.m. in Pendergraft 325. She asked if the Senate wished to adjust the time for the December 6 (Reading Day) meeting.
- Motion by Dr. Lasey, seconded by Dr. Eshelman, to change the meeting time to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Earls suggested an amendment to include a lunch at noon. Dr. Lasey accepted the amendment. Motion carried.
- APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE** President Smith reported 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. Michael Garner (College of Applied Sciences), Dr. Qing Zeng (College of Arts and Humanities), Dr. Kadir Nagac (College of Business), Dr. Christine Austin (College of Education), and Dr. Cynthia Jacobs (College of Natural and Health Sciences).
- Motion by Dr. Eshelman, seconded by Dr. Helms, to accept these nominations. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE	<p>President Smith reported that Dr. Shelia Jackson has agreed to serve a three-year term on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Underwood, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.</p>
APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	<p>President Smith announced that Ms. Susan West had agreed to serve a three-year term on the Professional Development Committee.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Mirkovic, seconded by Dr. McMahan, to approve this nomination. Motion carried.</p>
CONFIRM AD HOC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<p>Motion by Dr. Helms, seconded by Ms. Earls, to approve the following members for the 2011-12 ad hoc Technology Committee: Mr. Ed Leachman (College of Applied Sciences), Dr. Carey Roberts (College of Arts and Humanities), Dr. Loretta Cochran (College of Business), Dr. Christine Austin (College of Education), and Dr. Jason Patton (College of Natural and Health Sciences). Motion carried.</p>
APPOINTMENTS TO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ADJUNCT SUPPORT	<p>President Smith reported that she and Dr. Eshelman had attended the adjunct dinner at Lake Point and noted the adjunct faculty are excited about the continuation of this committee, through which they have a voice. She proposed the following four full-time faculty members to serve on this committee for 2011-12: Dr. Eshelman, Dr. Cathy Baker, Mr. Ken Shores, and Dr. J. J. Mayo.</p> <p>Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Willmering, to accept these nominations. Motion carried.</p>
FACULTY COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS	<p>President Smith asked Dr. Lovely to address this issue.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Lovely, seconded by Mr. Futterer, that appointed members of elected standing faculty committees should not serve as chairs.</p> <p>Mr. Futterer noted the <i>Faculty Handbook</i> would have to be amended to enforce this rule. Dr. Lovely reported several faculty had approached him concerning this issue and were concerned about the appearance of appointed faculty serving as chairs, emphasizing that chairs set agendas for committee meetings. Dr. Walton observed that the appointed members are still faculty and, since chairs are elected by the committees themselves, stated he did not see a reason for the Senate to establish such a rule. Ms. Earls moved for close of the debate and a vote.</p> <p>Motion failed.</p>
OLD BUSINESS: SPECIAL PROBLEM COURSES	<p>President Smith noted this item was brought forth from the spring and concerned issues of faculty load, particularly for faculty in Art. She stated she would ask the Art faculty if they wished to appear before the Senate at a later meeting.</p>
REVIVE CURRENT SUBCOMMITTEES	<p>President Smith asked Dr. Lovely for his comments. Dr. Lovely stated there were four current subcommittees which would need to either be continued or disbanded. First, he stated the subcommittee on review of the common textbook policy was formed late in the spring semester and currently has three members: Dr. Lovely, Mr. Futterer, and Dr. Eshelman. No other members volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.</p>

Dr. Lovely reported the subcommittee on review of the function of the Faculty Salary, Benefits and Awards Committee would be meeting soon. Volunteers for this subcommittee were Mr. Futterer, Dr. Walton, Dr. Willmering, Dr. Lovely, and Dr. Enchelmayer.

Dr. Lovely reported a subcommittee charged last year with updating the Faculty Senate's website.

Motion by Dr. Eshelman, seconded by Dr. Underwood, to disband this subcommittee. Motion carried.

The final subcommittee is charged with reporting on faculty hiring practices and the faculty's role in this process. Dr. Lovely asked that this subcommittee continue, particularly in light of Dr. Brown's comments relating to increased screening of applicants. Volunteers for this subcommittee are Ms. Earls, Dr. Huss, Dr. Lovely, Mr. Futterer, President Smith, and Ms. Stuckey.

OPEN FORUM

President Smith asked for items for discussion. Dr. Underwood asked that Institutional Research provide clarification on how the online course evaluations are being conducted. President Smith will ask Wyatt Watson to attend a future meeting.

Dr. Lovely noted several items he wished to have discussed. He stated that the change in traffic flow on campus due to placement of the security gates and the addition of the new Baswell Techionary could indicate a change in the center of campus. If so, he noted a possible need to change the free speech area.

Dr. Lovely asked that the report of The Higher Learning Commission visit be made available. Dr. Walton asked that Dr. Tarver attend a Senate meeting to discuss this.

Dr. Lovely noted several faculty had approached him confused about what needed to be done differently on attendance accounting. President Smith stated she could invite Tammy Rhodes, Registrar, to a meeting to discuss this.

Dr. Lovely suggested that the chair of the Senate, who attends the monthly Board of Trustees meetings, be allowed to address the Board at each meeting.

Dr. Lovely reminded the Senate of a resolution last year supporting the Fisheries and Wildlife faculty on salary issues. He reported that the graduate program has now had its funding removed and will eventually be discontinued. He stated the teaching waivers and summer support for the FW faculty have been removed and the graduate assistant positions have been taken away. Mr. Futterer questioned who to speak with concerning this issue. Dr. Lovely suggested speaking with either Dr. Gagen, department head, or Dr. John Jackson, program director.

Dr. Lovely recommended a book he had read this summer titled *The Fall of the Faculty – The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters* by Benjamin Ginsberg.

Dr. Lovely stated faculty had several questions about the recent email concerning the online *Faculty Handbook*, particularly since it did not address the changes made. Dr. Underwood noted that a subsequent email had been sent out listing pages with changes. Dr. Lovely stated he had not seen that email, but maybe that would settle that issue. However, he asked what penalty would be imposed if a faculty member did not sign and send in the acknowledgment page asked for.

Mr. Futterer noted the Senate would have to move quickly on the 120 hour baccalaureate degree requirement. Several members indicated they would be interested in joint meetings with the Curriculum Committee to expedite the process.

Ms. Chronister, recording secretary, asked the members to consider a better method for faculty line-up at commencement. Several members indicated they would speak with their constituents and discussion could be held at a later meeting this fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS No items were presented at this time.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



V. Carole Smith, Ph.D., President



Daniel W. Bullock, Ph.D., Secretary