

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2013-14 Faculty Senate was held at 12:45 p.m., Monday, August 26, 2013, in the Williamson Dining Hall. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Sean Huss
Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Chris Kellner
Dr. Ernest Enchelmayer	Dr. Linda Kondrick
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. Timothy Leggett
Mr. Ken Futterer	Dr. Eric Lovely
Dr. Beth Giroir	Dr. Kevin Mason
Mr. Neal Harrington	Dr. Michael Rogers
Dr. Annette Holeyfield	Dr. David Ward

Dr. Sherman Alexander, Dr. Carey Bosold, Dr. Johnette Moody, and Dr. Deborah Wilson were absent. Dr. Robert Brown, President, Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Carl Greco were visitors.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT

Dr. Brown informed the senators about the formation of the Faculty Senate as a representative body of the faculty in the 1950s by Dean Alfred Crabaugh, the only person to hold the title Dean of the College. Dr. Brown reported that certain administrative changes during the 1960s and 1970s resulted in division on campus that the university continues to recover from today. He stated such division was unproductive, and he encouraged the senators, for the transitional period ahead, to remove their "individual hat" and replace it with a "university hat". Dr. Brown then excused himself from the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

President Lovely called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

REPORT BY
VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Watson stated the Faculty Senate made several suggestions to the administration last year, such as changes to the Faculty Handbook and to the promotion and tenure process. He reflected, given the recent announcement by Dr. Brown this would be his last year as President, it may not be the most appropriate time for such changes, as the incoming President will most likely want input and may have additional changes. Dr. Watson invited questions from the Senate.

President Lovely asked for the timeline to bring the changes which were voted on by the faculty to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Watson answered the changes were taken under advisement by the administration, and offered to follow up with Dr. Brown. President Lovely emphasized the importance of these changes being taken to the Board, and stated he was not aware of a period of advisement prior to delivery to the Board of Trustees based on the procedure in the Faculty Handbook.

Dr. Rogers stated the previous year, a Senate subcommittee began work on developing an honor code for the university, and asked if that should be put on hold as well as the changes to promotion and tenure and the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Watson stated that process should proceed and would not have to be part of the university's strategic planning process, which will most likely be put off until the new president is appointed.

President Lovely thanked Dr. Watson for the meal and Dr. Watson excused himself from the meeting.

ADDRESS BY CHAIR AND INTRODUCTIONS	<p>President Lovely thanked Ms. Chronister and Ms. Crouch for their continued support to the Senate, and also thanked Mr. Futterer for his service the previous year as Faculty Senate Chair. He stated he believed it was one of the most productive years for the Senate under Mr. Futterer’s leadership. President Lovely asked those present to introduce themselves.</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<p>President Lovely asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2013 meeting.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Enchelmayer, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>President Lovely asked for a motion to amend the agenda. He proposed to add two items under New Business; item I, appoint one member to the Assessment Committee, and item J, formation of a subcommittee examining financial issues. He also proposed to add one item under Old Business; item B, results of faculty elections.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to amend the agenda as proposed. Motion carried.</p>
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	<p>President Lovely asked for nominations for the position of Chair-Elect. Dr. Huss nominated Dr. Ward.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Kellner, that nominations cease and Dr. Ward be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.</p> <p>President Lovely asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Dr. Finan volunteered for the position.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Enchelmayer, seconded by Dr. Huss, that nominations cease and Dr. Finan be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.</p>
MEETING TIME, DAY, AND PLACE	<p>President Lovely read aloud the list of proposed Senate meeting dates and times for 2013-14 (i.e. September 10, October 8, and November 12 at 3 p.m.; December 10 at 1 p.m.; February 11, 2014, March 11, and April 8 at 3 p.m.; April 29 at 1 p.m.). The meeting place will be Pendergraft 325.</p>
APPOINTMENTS TO ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE	<p>President Lovely proposed the following six appointments to the Academic Appeals Committee: Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman (Arts and Humanities), Dr. Marc Fusaro (Business), Dr. Robert Frasier (Engineering and Applied Sciences), Dr. Aileen Watts (Education), Dr. Rachael Urbanek (Natural and Health Sciences), and Dr. Beth Giroir (Professional Studies/CLL).</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to approve the appointments to the Academic Appeals Committee. Motion carried.</p>
APPOINTMENT TO UNIVERSITY PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE	<p>President Lovely proposed the appointment of Dr. Carl Greco (Engineering and Applied Sciences) to the Promotion and Tenure Committee.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Enchelmayer, to approve the appointment to the Promotion and Tenure Committee. Motion carried.</p>

APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	President Lovely proposed the appointment of Dr. Loretta Cochran (Business) to the Professional Development Committee. Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to approve the appointment to the Professional Development Committee. Motion carried.
CONFIRMATION OF AD HOC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE	Ms. Chronister reported the names of those serving on the ad hoc Technology Committee were not available to be presented at this time. President Lovely stated this would be added to the September agenda for confirmation.
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE ON ADJUNCT SUPPORT	President Lovely proposed the following names for service on the Committee on Adjunct Support for 2013-14: Dr. David Eshelman, Dr. Jason Ulsperger, Ms. Jennifer Lewter, and Ms. Jamie Dalton. Motion by Dr. Giroir, seconded by Dr. Huss, to approve the appointments to the Committee on Adjunct Support. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	President Lovely proposed the appointment of Dr. Jacqueline Bowman (Natural and Health Sciences) to the General Education Committee. Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to approve the appointment to the General Education Committee. Motion carried.
APPOINTMENT TO ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE	President Lovely proposed the appointment of Dr. Ivan Still (Natural and Health Sciences) to the Assessment Committee. Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to approve the appointment to the Assessment Committee. Motion carried.
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL ISSUES	President Lovely stated, as Faculty Senate chair, he will be invited to attend the Board of Trustees meetings this year. He expressed his willingness to form a subcommittee to examine the financial analysis statements within the agenda, if the Senate showed an interest. Motion by Dr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to table this discussion until the September Faculty Senate meeting. Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS: REVIEW OF STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES	President Lovely reviewed the membership and function of each standing subcommittee. He stated the subcommittee reviewing promotion and tenure issues/procedures for revising the Faculty Handbook could be renamed to omit the handbook portion, and solely review promotion and tenure issues. In the discussion of the function of the subcommittee reviewing faculty hiring practices and the faculty’s role/reviewing international faculty status, President Lovely invited Dr. Carl Greco to address the Senate. Dr. Greco stated the current policy of the university does not provide sponsorship for H-1B visas for international faculty. He reported the Department of Electrical Engineering had two vacancies that were advertised during the previous academic year which resulted in two offers of employment being extended and accepted by two faculty candidates. Dr. Greco stated one of these two faculty candidates contacted the university approximately one week ago and asked if the policy regarding sponsorship had changed. He stated when the faculty candidate was informed the policy had not changed, the candidate requested the employment contract to be withdrawn. He reported the remaining faculty candidate currently has an OPT visa that will expire one year from now,

which could result in that faculty member seeking employment elsewhere.

RESULTS OF FACULTY ELECTIONS

President Lovely reported the spring faculty elections included three items, in addition to committee elections, pertaining to amending the constitution of the Faculty Senate. He stated this election had the highest turnout of any faculty election of which he was aware, with 60% of the faculty participating. President Lovely then read the proposed changes aloud, providing the percentage of participating faculty who voted “Yes” to each change:

- I. Proposed change to the membership requirements of the Faculty Senate, requiring tenure to be eligible to serve; 70% of participating faculty voted “Yes”.
- II. Proposed change to eliminate appointed members on the Faculty Senate; 65% of participating faculty voted “Yes”.
- III. Proposed addition to the Faculty Senate constitution regarding the Faculty Handbook, stating the Senate serves as an advisory body on proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook; 91% of participating faculty voted “Yes”.

President Lovely stated the results of this election were taken under advisement, but were not taken to the Board of Trustees. He read the procedure for amending the constitution of the Faculty Senate, and stated there is no step of “advisement” between the faculty voting to pass a proposed amendment, and the proposed amendment being taken to the Board. Dr. Kellner stated there is not a defined timeline on when the proposal should be taken to the Board once voted on. Dr. Kondrick suggested the lack of timeline may be a loophole that should be closed by defining a reasonable time frame. President Lovely stated he would add this as an item of Old Business to every agenda during his service as Faculty Senate chair until this issue is resolved.

OPEN FORUM

President Lovely informed the senators the Open Forum portion of each meeting allows the opportunity for items to be added to the subsequent Senate meeting agenda, or he can be contacted directly before the agenda is distributed.

President Lovely reported Ms. Brandi Tripp from the Office of the Registrar had addressed the faculty at the college meeting for Natural and Health Sciences. He stated she gave a brief, informative presentation on degree audits and academic advising and answered questions from the faculty. He encouraged the senators to invite Ms. Tripp to speak to their departments and colleges as this was applicable information, even to those who have advising experience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION ITEMS

President Lovely congratulated Mr. Futterer on his performance with the River Valley Jazz Ensemble the previous weekend. He announced Mr. Harrington will have an art display in the River Valley Arts Center on September 8 through 30, with a reception from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on September 8. President Lovely also announced Downtown Russellville will be hosting the Art Walk on Friday, September 13 and stated he along with Dr. Huss and Dr. Ward would be playing music on the depot stage from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. that evening.

Dr. Rogers announced the Department of History and Political Science would be hosting activities for Constitution Day on September 17. He asked for student and faculty volunteers to read portions of the constitution during the lunch hour.

Dr. Kellner announced the Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge would be hosting an archery program on September 7 which is appropriate for children ages 5 through 15.

President Lovely reminded the senators the next meeting would be Tuesday, September 10 at 3:00 p.m. in the Ross Pendergraft Library, Room 325.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric C. Lovely, Ph.D., President



Marcel B. Finan, Ph.D., Secretary