

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Dr. Sherman Alexander	Dr. Robin Lasey
Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Eric Lovely
Dr. Ernest Enchelmayer	Dr. Kevin Mason
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. Cathi McMahan
Mr. Ken Futterer	Ms. Annette Stuckey
Mr. Neal Harrington	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Annette Holeyfield	Dr. David Ward
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. Deborah Wilson
Dr. Chris Kellner	

Dr. Carey Bosold, Dr. Johnette Moody, and Dr. Michael Rogers were absent.
Dr. Malcolm Rainey attended as a visitor.

CALL TO ORDER	President Futterer called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013, meeting.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Underwood, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS: CURRICULUM ITEMS	President Futterer called for a motion to approve the previously tabled proposal from the Department of Agriculture. Motion by Dr. Holeyfield, seconded by Dr. Underwood, to approve the Agriculture proposal as follows: Department of Agriculture 1. Delete the Curriculum in Agriculture Business Pest Management Option. Motion carried.
REPORT BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROMOTION AND TENURE ISSUES / FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISIONS	Dr. Lasey reported she had been unable to complete the work of this subcommittee. She stated, with her Senate term ending, she would attempt to finalize a proposal over the summer for the continuing members of the subcommittee to submit in the fall.
REPORT BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP	President Futterer reported the faculty elections had a 60% participation rate, which was an increase from previous years. He asked if there was a need to continue the subcommittee as the changes proposed to the faculty in the election each passed. Dr. Lovely stated, assuming these changes are presented to the Board for final approval, he had no issue with dissolving the subcommittee.

Motion by Dr. Lovely, seconded by Dr. Wilson, to disband the subcommittee reviewing Faculty Senate membership. Motion carried.

REPORT BY
SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ACADEMIC
DISHONESTY

Dr. Kellner reported the subcommittee had not met since the previous Senate meeting. President Futterer recommended this subcommittee persist until the fall semester, as the university could move into an honor code model through the strategic planning process.

REPORT BY
SUBCOMMITTEE
ON OFFICE HOURS

Dr. Finan stated he had discussed the reduction of required office hours with multiple faculty, and he did not find any interest in changing the policy. He asked the Senate, as a group representative of the faculty at large, if they had an interest in this policy changing.

Motion by Dr. Finan, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to disband the subcommittee reviewing the office hours requirement. Motion carried.

CAMPUS
EMERGENCY
PROCEDURES

President Futterer tabled the discussion on campus emergency procedures until the Office of Public Safety finalized the emergency procedures pamphlet and were able to present it to the Senate.

POLICY ON
FACULTY/STAFF
FINANCIAL AID

President Futterer reported he discussed the faculty/staff waiver policy with Dr. Watson, and he felt it was time to review a possible change. President Futterer stated it is often difficult for dependents to complete a degree in the time allowed.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Lovely, to establish a subcommittee to investigate the policy on faculty and staff financial assistance for campus study. Motion carried.

President Futterer volunteered to chair the subcommittee. Dr. Kellner and Dr. Enchelmayr volunteered to serve on the subcommittee as well.

REPORT ON
FACULTY HIRING
PRACTICES AND
REVIEW OF
INTERNATIONAL
FACULTY STATUS

Dr. Huss distributed the results of the survey and reported 82 faculty participated in the survey, with 36 additional faculty beginning the survey but not completing it. Dr. Lovely stated the goal of the survey was to provide a proper polling instrument to gauge the perception of the faculty in regard to the university's hiring practices. Dr. Huss mentioned one issue made evident by the survey responses and comments was the difference in hiring procedures across campus. Dr. Lovely stated, when combining responses of "Strongly Agree" and "Agree", almost one-third of the faculty showed concern the administration unnecessarily interferes with the hiring process. Dr. Huss clarified it was almost one-third of the 82 faculty who responded to the survey.

President Futterer stated the subcommittee had been tasked with both reviewing faculty hiring practices and the policy on international faculty status. He acknowledged the subcommittee had done as much as possible to encourage the university to take a different approach in hiring international faculty, but he also felt the subcommittee should continue their task of reviewing hiring practices across campus.

OPEN FORUM

President Futterer relayed an email he received from Dr. Bosold, reporting another noise disturbance resulting from the Red Flag Campaign event held at the Hindsman Bell Tower.

Motion by President Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to add an item revisiting the issue of noise disturbances during academic hours under New Business on the fall agenda. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Futterer stated Dr. David Eshelman had sent a statement on behalf of the Adjunct Support Committee. Dr. Eshelman reported the committee had devised a survey to be administered during the fall 2013 term, asking the adjunct faculty to rank a list of issues and

share any additional concerns not mentioned in an attempt to identify their needs. President Futterer announced Dr. Carey Roberts would be relinquishing the duties of website maintenance for the Faculty Senate. He recommended the Senate send Dr. Roberts a letter of thanks for this service he has provided for quite some time. Dr. Lovely concurred. President Futterer asked what would be the best method for having the minutes and agenda posted to the website in the future. Dr. Lasey suggested having the elected secretary of the Senate absorb that responsibility.

Motion by Dr. Lasey, seconded by Dr. Underwood, to include the oversight and maintenance of the website as a duty of the elected secretary for the Faculty Senate. Motion carried.

President Futterer thanked the senators for their service over the past year. Ms. Stuckey also thanked the Senate and stated it had been an honor to serve.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Futterer, M.M., President



Sean Huss, Ph.D., Secretary