

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. All members were present:

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

- CALL TO ORDER President Lovely called the meeting to order and asked for a motion in regard to the minutes of the August 26, 2013, meeting.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES **Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.**
- NEW BUSINESS:
NOISE LEVEL
NEAR HINDSMAN
BELL TOWER Dr. Bosold stated she has not yet experienced any issues this term with the noise level resulting from events held at the Hindsman Bell Tower, but she expressed concern for the upcoming exit exams that will be given to Nursing students in Dean Hall. Mr. Futterer suggested she speak to Ms. Susie Nicholson, Vice President for Student Services and University Relations, and provide her with the exam dates in advance. President Lovely suggested this item remain on the agenda for the following Senate meeting to see if any further issues arise.
- FORMULATION OF
SUBCOMMITTEE
EXAMINING
FINANCIAL ISSUES President Lovely expressed his willingness to form a subcommittee with the purpose of examining the financial statements provided to him through the Board of Trustees monthly meeting agenda. He stated, traditionally, the Faculty Senate Chair retains the agenda, but has not previously summarized or disseminated the information therein. When no motion to form a subcommittee was made, President Lovely stated this item would be removed from the agenda.
- CHANGE IN
CURRICULAR
DEADLINES Ms. Pat Chronister, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, stated in recent years, both the Faculty Senate and the Curriculum Committee have reviewed curricular proposals that lacked a certain degree of preparation and thoroughness. She reported the Deans' Council had discussed this issue over the summer and decided the curricular review by the departments should be held in the spring to allow additional time for review and revision of the proposals. Ms. Chronister stated the new deadline for submitting curricular proposals to the Dean for inclusion in the subsequent academic catalog will be July 1, beginning in 2014. She stated this would allow ample time for Academic Affairs and the Registrar to review each proposal and, when necessary, return to the department for revision. She indicated this would allow the Curriculum Committee to review the proposals as early as September, rather than November or December, as a result of the current deadline of October 1.

Dr. Bishop asked if proposals finalized by the departments prior to July 1 could be submitted early. Ms. Chronister indicated early submission of proposals is welcomed and encouraged. Dr. Bishop then asked if the Curriculum Committee could meet in the spring to approve proposals for the next catalog cycle. Ms. Chronister stated she did not believe the committee would have any objection to reviewing proposals in the spring. Dr. Kondrick mentioned her department had been informed, with little notice, of necessary curricular changes required by the Arkansas Department of Education, which would have caused difficulty in meeting a July 1 deadline. Ms. Chronister responded exceptions would be granted for curricular changes being submitted for the purpose of maintaining compliance with the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and any accrediting bodies. Dr. Rogers questioned whether the July 1 deadline would apply to both cosmetic and non-cosmetic changes. Ms. Chronister replied cosmetic changes can be submitted at any time throughout the year, and the July 1 deadline would only apply to non-cosmetic changes.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kellner, for the Faculty Senate to support the July 1 deadline for all curricular proposals.

Discussion following the motion centered on the accuracy of stating “all curricular proposals” when the deadline applies only to non-cosmetic proposals.

Motion by Dr. Bishop, seconded by Dr. Bosold, to amend the motion from “all curricular proposals” to “non-cosmetic curricular proposals”. Motion carried.

Discussion following the motion to amend centered on the addition of verbiage concerning the exceptions for extraneous circumstances, such as compliance with legislation or accrediting bodies.

Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Bishop, to amend the motion to include “with the exception of extraneous circumstances (such as compliance with legislation or accrediting bodies)”. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kellner, for the Faculty Senate to support the July 1 deadline for non-cosmetic curricular proposals, with the exception of extraneous circumstances (such as compliance with legislation or accrediting bodies). Motion carried as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:
CAMPUS
EMERGENCY
PROCEDURES

Mr. Futterer stated the emergency procedure booklets developed by Public Safety and Student Services had been distributed to the faculty. Ms. Chronister mentioned the booklets would be placed in each academic classroom on campus, most likely on the back of the classroom doors. Mr. Futterer suggested this item be removed from the agenda as it has been resolved.

AD HOC
TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

President Lovely read the names of the faculty serving on the ad hoc Technology Committee for 2013-14: Dr. Jason Warnick, Dr. Loretta Cochran, Dr. Christine Austin, Ms. Beth Gray, and Dr. Jason Patton.

RESULTS OF
FACULTY
ELECTIONS

President Lovely requested that the minutes reflect the proposed amendments to the constitution of the Faculty Senate, which were voted on by the faculty in spring of 2013, with 60% participation from the faculty at large:

- 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 reported he was scheduled to meet with Dr. John Watson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, on Thursday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, and invited any interested senators to attend as well. He stated the intent of the meeting was to garner advisement from Dr. Watson regarding the university’s transition in the coming year, and to discuss the best strategy for the Senate during this time. President Lovely expressed an aversion for the Senate to become a “lame duck” throughout the transitional period, but instead encouraged the senators to identify and determine which issues to pursue this year and issues to address with the new president.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Kellner, to enter executive session. Motion carried.

President Lovely returned the Senate to regular session.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Huss, to forward the results of the spring election to Dr. Brown and to request the results be taken before the Board of Trustees for final action. Motion carried.

REPORT BY
SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PROMOTION
AND TENURE
ISSUES

Mr. Futterer reported the Senate began reviewing promotion and tenure issues in 2010. Dr. Rogers stated the subcommittee serving the previous year had agreed upon changes to be presented, and the next action would be to draft a letter to Dr. Watson. President Lovely stated Dr. Robin Lasey, the previous chair of the subcommittee, had offered to meet with current members to solidify those details.

REPORT BY
SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ACADEMIC
DISHONESTY

Dr. Rogers expressed uncertainty as to whether any action could be taken by this subcommittee prior to the installment of a new president and the commencement of a strategic planning process. President Lovely encouraged the subcommittee to continue to work toward a proposal that can be presented at the appropriate time. Dr. Rogers stated he did have a proposal drafted that he would circulate among subcommittee members. Mr. Futterer stated this would be a significant change for the university and it could be a matter of a year or more before any strategic planning process is initiated. He suggested any action on this subject be tabled for future discussion.

FACULTY/STAFF
FINANCIAL AID

Mr. Futterer reported he had discussed the possibility of expanding financial assistance for faculty and staff dependents with Dr. Watson, who had offered to speak with Mr. David Moseley, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance. Mr. Futterer stated he had not yet received a response or any additional information.

REPORT ON
FACULTY HIRING
PRACTICES AND
REVIEW OF
INTERNATIONAL
FACULTY STATUS

Dr. Huss stated the results of the survey on faculty hiring practices, which was distributed to the faculty during the spring elections, would be summarized to distribute to the Senate at the subsequent meeting. Dr. Kellner stated, based on the report from Dr. Carl Greco at the August meeting, the recent faculty search in the Electrical Engineering department resulted in the hiring of two new faculty, both of whom were in a status which would require visa sponsorship, which the university does not provide at this time. He stated, of the two newly hired faculty candidates, one withdrew his employment contract, and the second will likely seek employment elsewhere as his visa will expire during the summer of 2014.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Rogers asked if a representative could be invited to address the senators in regard to the hiring process for the new president, and explain the role of the Senate in that process. He emphasized that the senators would be a vital mechanism in keeping their departments and colleagues informed, and indicated such an invitation would display the will of the Senate to be included in the process. President Lovely stated he would discuss that possibility with

Dr. Watson on Thursday, and requested this topic be added as an item of New Business for the upcoming agenda.

Dr. Bishop reported a member from the Supernumerary faculty group had expressed a desire to have representation on the Promotion and Tenure Committee. President Lovely indicated a lack of representation may come from the committee consisting of appointed members rather than elected members.

Dr. Bishop also reported a member of the General Education Committee will be unable to attend the initial meeting due to a time conflict with the member's teaching schedule. Dr. Moody stated, as the outgoing chair of the General Education Committee, scheduling a common time when all committee members are available is very difficult, but every effort is made. Dr. Ward commented, in some instances, the faculty member may need to make other arrangements for the class. President Lovely stated he was unsure how to resolve this issue, and questioned the feasibility for other committees to follow the pattern of the Senate and keep Tuesday afternoons available. Dr. Holeyfield remarked she received notification each term of the faculty who should not be scheduled to teach Tuesday afternoons due to committee meetings. Ms. Chronister clarified she only lists the faculty serving on the Faculty Senate, Curriculum Committee, or Graduate Council. President Lovely stated this issue would be added to the upcoming agenda as an item of New Business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Rogers announced September 17 is Constitution Day and he invited volunteers to read a portion of the constitution at noon at the Hindsman Bell Tower, or the Doc Bryan Rotunda in the event of bad weather. He also stated he would be organizing a group of student volunteers to visit Russellville Junior High School on September 17 and Dwight Elementary on September 20 to develop lesson plans.

President Lovely announced the Art Walk will be held 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. He also stated Mr. Harrington will have an art display in the River Valley Arts Center until September 30.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric C. Lovely, Ph.D., President



Marcel B. Finan, Ph.D., Secretary