

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 325 of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Chris Kellner was absent. Dr. Jason Patton, Mr. Michael Stoker, and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER President Lovely called the meeting to order and asked for a motion in regard to the minutes of the March 11, 2014, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Enchelmayer, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

President Lovely requested the agenda be amended to add an item of old business to allow a report from Mr. Michael Stoker on faculty webpages.

Motion by Dr. Huss, seconded by Dr. Moody, to amend the agenda by adding a report on faculty webpages as the first item of old business. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
SWIMMING POOL Dr. Finan asked the senators if there was any interest in petitioning the new administration to reopen the swimming pool in the Hull Building. He emphasized the importance of the pool for the health of faculty, staff and students. Dr. Rogers stated it was his understanding the pool had been closed for accessibility issues which would have been expensive to correct. He mentioned the City of Russellville has tentative plans for an indoor community pool. Dr. Finan asked Dr. Holeyfield to address the issue. She stated while the pool in the Hull Building has not been cemented in, it has not been maintained and she is unaware of the plans for that space in the future.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Ward, to table further discussion on the swimming pool until the fall. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE Mr. Futterer reported Academic Affairs had agreed to provide the funds for the Senate to present Dr. Brown with an award to recognize his service to the university. He distributed a picture of the award and the proposed wording to be engraved.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Holeyfield, to approve the proposed wording in recognition of Dr. Brown's service.

Mr. Futterer stated his intention was to present the award at the campus wide recognition ceremony on April 23. He mentioned, in the past, faculty years of service were recognized at a private reception for honorees, but this year an open ceremony will be held. Ms. Chronister noted faculty retirements, emeritus and other types of service will be recognized at this reception, which will be held annually.

Motion carried.

UPCOMING SENATE MEETING

President Lovely stated the current Senate agenda was brief and, without any motions from the subcommittees or new business to discuss, there may not be a need for the final spring Faculty Senate meeting. He announced he would be drafting a letter to the incoming university president, summarizing the issues and initiatives broached by the Faculty Senate over the past few years, and encouraged suggestions and feedback from the senators for additional items to include.

Motion by Mr. Futterer, seconded by Dr. Mason, to provisionally suspend the April 29, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Senate, barring the development of new business or a dining opportunity.

Dr. Rogers inquired how the results of the faculty elections would be disseminated. Dr. Moody responded she would send an email of the results to the senators.

Motion carried.

President Lovely stated he would contact the senators if a need to hold the meeting arises, but otherwise it will remain suspended.

OLD BUSINESS: FACULTY WEBPAGES

President Lovely invited Mr. Stoker to update the Senate on the faculty webpage guidelines. Mr. Stoker distributed a draft of the university website policies from the ad hoc committee, and asked for feedback from the senators. Mr. Stoker stated the departmental website would provide static, uniform faculty information from Banner, but each faculty member would have access to a separate website located at <http://faculty.atu.edu> which could be personalized and edited to a greater extent. He mentioned browsing from a departmental faculty site to the separate, personalized faculty member's site would display a disclaimer, informing the visitor he or she was no longer on the official Arkansas Tech website.

Dr. Rogers asked if this model was in line with the practice of other institutions. Mr. Stoker responded he had visited with individuals at other universities who maintained university webpages, and this was in line with common practice. Dr. Bosold questioned the requirement of the faculty member's photo being displayed on the departmental faculty site, stating there could be issues with privacy. Mr. Stoker replied there may be an option for faculty to opt out of the displayed photo. Dr. Rogers suggested the Senate formally recommend the photo be optional rather than required.

Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Enchelmayer, to recommend faculty photos on departmental websites be optional rather than required. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

The Senate subcommittees did not have any reports or updates at the time.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Moody asked the senators to remind faculty to vote in the online elections prior to the deadline on Friday, April 11, 2014 at 5:00pm. Mr. Futterer thanked Dr. Moody for facilitating the faculty elections, and thanked President Lovely for his service to the Senate and on the presidential advisory committee.

Dr. Rogers asked if President Lovely was aware of the timeline after the conclusion of the campus visits by candidates. President Lovely stated he was aware the Board of Trustees intended to move quickly, as these candidates may be finalists for other positions. He encouraged the senators to attend the open forum meetings and complete an evaluation form, stating the Board was reading the feedback from the faculty.

Dr. Rogers encouraged the Senate to initiate positive resolutions for recognition more frequently, including a formal “welcome” to students at the beginning of the fall semester. He also suggested the Senate invite the new president to the initial Senate meeting in August to begin building a collaborative working relationship.

President Lovely thanked Ms. Jana Crouch for her service throughout this year. He also thanked Ms. Tammy Weaver and Dr. Monica Varner for the recent assessment training sessions. President Lovely noted the changes to the curricular forms involving assessment were an improvement to the process. He mentioned the Registrar does not determine what information should be included in a curriculum proposal, citing the confusion over the omission of departmental support forms for the Honors proposal earlier in the year.

Dr. Mason recognized Ms. Pat Chronister, thanking her for her many years of service to the Faculty Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Huss stated the Red Flag Campaign and Earth Day events would be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Dr. Brant announced the Agriculture Plant Sale would be held on Friday, April 11 through Saturday, April 12, 2014. She also announced the Agriculture Department would be hosting a golf tournament on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric C. Lovely, Ph.D., President



Marcel B. Finan, Ph.D., Secretary