

Minutes of  
THE FACULTY SENATE  
OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at 4 p.m. in Room 300 south of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The following members were present:

Ms. Peggy Lee	Dr. Richard Knight
Dr. Carey Roberts	Mr. Rick Ihde
Dr. Jeff Robertson	Dr. Shelia Jackson
Dr. Jeff Mitchell	Dr. Trey Philpotts
Dr. Carl Greco	Ms. Marti Wilkerson
Dr. Scott Kirkconnell	Ms. Sarah Robison
Dr. Brenda Montgomery	Dr. Joe Moore
Dr. Robert Fithen	

Dr. Sid Womack was absent.

CALL TO ORDER  
APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

President Wilkerson called the meeting to order and asked for action on the December 8, 2005, minutes. Motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Lee, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. There being no amendments or corrections, motion by Ms. Robison, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:  
CAMPUS FREE  
SPEECH AREA

President Wilkerson reported that Mr. Pennington, University Counsel, had declined to attend today's meeting to discuss the campus free speech area due to other obligations. She indicated that during her brief conversation with him concerning this issue he had indicated that Arkansas Tech is in compliance with the Constitution on this subject. President Wilkerson stated that she would invite Mr. Pennington to attend the March meeting.

REPORT FROM  
ELECTION SUB-  
COMMITTEE

President Wilkerson asked Dr. Greco to give a report from the standing committee election sub-committee. Dr. Greco reported that the sub-committee has a meeting scheduled for next week and will be able to give a full report in February.

NEW BUSINESS:  
SENATE  
WEBMASTER/SUB-  
COMMITTEE

President Wilkerson proposed the creation of a webmaster for the Senate and stated that Dr. Robertson has continued to serve informally as web-master for several years. She noted that the creation of a position or possibly a sub-committee with individuals with certain skills would assist the Senate chair in maintaining the standing committee information currently provided on the Tech website. She distributed a copy of the webpage titled "University Elected Standing Committees" and pointed out that several of the committees had not met as was required by the *Faculty Handbook*. President Wilkerson stated that the webmaster could assist with monitoring the other standing committees' activities and posting their minutes. Motion by Dr. Greco, seconded by Dr. Philpotts, to appoint a webmaster during the first meeting of each spring semester beginning spring, 2006. Motion carried. Dr. Roberts volunteered to serve as the webmaster.

Dr. Philpotts observed that Mr. Parton, whose rank as librarian is considered "quasi-faculty," is consistently the chair of the Library, Instructional Materials, and Equipment Committee. Dr. Mitchell noted that the chair-elect of two committees is a department head. After discussion, Dr. Mitchell requested that the Senate discuss the participation of administrators on elected standing committees at the next meeting.

**ADDITION TO  
FACULTY  
HANDBOOK**

President Wilkerson reported that she had met with Ms. Michelle Ward of the Tech Counseling Center in December, who had requested an addition to the *Faculty Handbook* of information relating to the Center's efforts regarding alcohol and drug abuse on campus. This request has since been withdrawn.

**OPEN FORUM**

President Wilkerson recognized Dr. Kirkconnell to speak at this time. Dr. Kirkconnell stated that recent events in Louisiana and Mississippi had prompted him to question the preparedness of Arkansas Tech University and the State of Arkansas if faced with a natural or man-made disaster. He distributed information listing several websites related specifically to avian flu and the potential for a pandemic. Dr. Kirkconnell referenced a web document on the list by Dr. Grattan Woodson titled "Preparing for the Coming Influenza Pandemic" (copy available at [http://research.atu.edu/Bird\\_Flu\\_Pandemic\\_Woodson.pdf](http://research.atu.edu/Bird_Flu_Pandemic_Woodson.pdf)) and emphasized that an event such as a pandemic would have "huge implications" for the campus and that the faculty should be made aware of this issue.

Dr. Kirkconnell presented an example of an emergency kit to have on hand in the event of a pandemic, which included such items as bottled water, over-the-counter pain relievers, dry goods, a short-wave radio, etc. He noted there were also prescription medications which individuals could have their doctors prescribe for them in advance to be placed in the kit.

Mr. Ihde reported that the faculty in Emergency Administration and Management are nearing the completion of a campus emergency plan which he could report on at an upcoming meeting; additionally, he noted efforts on the State level on which he could invite someone to speak if that were the wishes of the Senate. Dr. Roberts asked Mr. Ihde to present information to the Senate at one of the upcoming meetings.

Dr. Philpotts suggested that the Senate have a regular appointment on the University Assessment Committee to keep the Senators and faculty apprised of ongoing efforts and initiatives. Motion by Dr. Philpotts, seconded by Dr. Greco, to request the addition to the University Assessment Committee of one voting member appointed each year by the Faculty Senate. Motion carried. President Wilkerson stated that she would communicate this request to the Assessment Committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

President Wilkerson reported that Dr. Brown had invited the Senators to a luncheon on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 12 noon in the Private Dining Room. She asked the Senators to indicate whether they would be able to attend and stated that she would send a reminder notice before the luncheon.

President Wilkerson stated that she had met with Dr. Hamm and had requested a written, ongoing task list for the Senate chair (i.e., dates for committee appointments, etc.). She reported that Dr. Hamm will meet with the Senate in February and will discuss a number of topics, including the student evaluation forms and the addition of a "not applicable" response, building projects, new master's degree programs, and the failure of the bond election.

President Wilkerson commented that Dr. Hamm had agreed to fund a reciprocal luncheon with the Student Government Association during the spring semester. Dr. Hamm had also indicated that he would work with Dr. Biller to make the luncheon a planned annual event.

ADJOURNMENT      The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Wilkerson, M.R.C., President



Carey Roberts, Ph.D., Secretary