

Photography Advisory Committee Meeting
Logan's Restaurant
Minutes from April 9, 2008

Present: Herb Crowell, John Ebling, Art Gray, Mason Gray, Mike Mahon, Tracy Pitt, Michael Schumacher, Vondel Stevens

Absent: Mike Calcote, Cindy Eastland, Davy Knapp, Robert Suddarth, Ric Wester

Others Present: Kenneth Pirtle, Brent Cavanaugh, Donna Alexander

Mr. Pirtle called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m and welcomed everyone with thanks for attending the meeting.

Introductions were made and Mr. Pirtle announced his decision to retire after 33 years of service at Amarillo College. Mrs. Alexander was introduced to the group as the Outstanding Photography Major for the year.

Mr. Pirtle briefly discussed requirements of his soon to be vacant positions of Visual Arts department chair and photography professor. He noted that four candidates that have applied for department chair of Visual Arts.

Discussion regarding the passing of the bond election and the impact it will have on Amarillo College and the photography department followed. Mr. Pirtle briefly discussed the proposed new facilities and the timeline for construction. It was noted that the move to more digital instruction was reflected in the curriculum with flexibility in studio classes.

A brief discussion followed regarding the ongoing transition to digital photography with everyone agreeing that photography majors must have knowledge of the darkroom and principles of traditional photography. All committee members agreed that the experience of a traditional wet lab is important to the students.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked the committee for any suggestions regarding photography classes and content. He noted that the hardest class was the color photo because of the time restraints due to the complexity of color management and other issues for digital prints.

Committee noted that classes seemed to be meeting the needs while emphasizing the need to continue teaching principles of traditional photography so that students will have an appreciation for the process which will ultimately make them better photographers.

Mr. Pirtle announced the upcoming Landscape Trip funded by the Art Force and invited members of the committee to participate. He also announced that a former photography student, Brad Loper, had been named the 2008 NPPA Newspaper Editor of the Year.

Mr. Pirtle reminded the group that he and the department are always open to suggestions for the curriculum.

A motion to accept minutes from April 18, 2007 was made by Mrs. Stevens. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher. Minutes unanimously approved as written.

Mr. Pirtle commended the group for their participation and support and encouraged their continued input.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05.