Minutes of

THE FACULTY SENATE

OF

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The March meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00PM on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in 456 Rothwell. The following members were present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dr. Glen Bishop | Dr. Johnette Moody |
| Dr. Pam Carr | Dr. Asim Shrestha |
| Dr. Jon Clements | Dr. Jeremy Schwehm |
| Dr. Michael Davis | Dr. V. Carole Smith |
| Dr. Carey Ellis | Dr. Sarah Stein |
| Dr. David Eshelman | Dr. Bruce Tedford |
| Ms. Holly Ruth Gale | Dr. Brendan Toner |
| Dr. Shellie Hanna | Dr. Jack Tucci |
| Dr. Newt Hilliard | Dr. Susan Underwood |
| Dr. Scott Jordan |  |
|  |  |

Dr. Joshua Lockyer was absent. Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, Dr. Judy Cezeaux, Ms. Pat Chronister, Dr. Jan Jenkins, Mr. Thomas Pennington, Ms. Lou Ann Reeves were visitors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CALL TO ORDER | Dr. Johnette Moody, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | Dr. Susan Underwood moved, Dr. Newt Hilliard seconded approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved. |
| NEW BUSINESS1. Student Academic Grievance Procedure
 | Dr. Judy Cezeaux presented a proposed Student Academic Grievance Procedure to the Faculty Senate and requested that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposed procedure. After discussion during which several members of the faculty asked questions, Dr. Glen Bishop moved and Dr. David Eshelman seconded approval of the policy. Motion passed. |
| 1. Senate Bill 232
 | Mr. Thomas Pennington provided information about Arkansas Senate Bill 232. The Bill died in committee. The Bill would have affected tenure of new faculty.  |
| 1. Book of Policies
 | Mr. Pennington commented on the idea that came up in the February meeting of the Faculty Senate that a book or listing of all university policies be put together. He characterized the idea of Dr. Michael Davis as outstanding. He suggested that this is something that could be housed on the University Council web site and would be useful for HLC reaccreditation. Dr. Bishop moved, and Dr. Davis seconded that a policy list be developed on the University Council web site. Motion passed. |
| 1. Ethics Policy
 | Mr. Pennington stated that an Ethics web site had been created and will go live once fully approved. Mr. Pennington provided a print of what the web site will look like. The web site would help track occurrences of ethics lapses by the same student in multiple courses. |
| 1. Establishment of Free Speech Policy Committee
 | Mr. Pennington informed the Senate that as a result of Act 184 of the Arkansas Legislature, designated free speech areas were no longer permitted on campus. Mr. Pennington requested volunteers to serve on a committee to bring campus free speech policy in line with newly established state law. The new policy must be in place 90 days after the legislative session ends, around mid-August. As the policy must have board approval, time is of the essence in establishing the policy. The new free speech policy should be ready for board action by May 15. This means that work on the policy should be completed by April 9. The committee will be composed of 2 people from the Russellville faculty senate, 2 from the staff senate, 2 from the Ozark faculty senate, and 2 from the Ozark staff senate. Dr. Bruce Tedford and Dr. Asim Shrestha volunteered to work on the committee. |
| 1. E-portfolio guidance
 | Dr. Phillip Bridgmon stated that Adobe Pro is available for faculty and that future e-portfolios should use that software. It is easy to use. Documents can be developed in Word and then dragged into Adobe Pro. Dr. Bridgmon in response to questions from Dr. Susan Underwood and others stated that portfolios should be kept relatively short in relationship to what is often currently being submitted. Portfolios should have a vita and a narrative with a maximum length of 8 to 10 pages. Letters of review could lengthen the portfolio to approximately 15 pages. Dr. Jon Clements suggested that directions be put in writing and circulated to deans, department heads, and faculty. A committee was established to aide Dr. Bridgmon with the development of written guidance. Dr.V. Carole Smith, Dr. Underwood, Dr. Jack Tucci, and Dr. Bishop volunteered to serve on the committee. |
| 1. Class Length
 | Dr. Jack Tucci described a problem that for some courses, notably business information courses, 50 minute periods are not long enough for effective instruction. Sections that are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday are 50 minutes in length as that was understood to be university policy for classes on those days. Dr. Bridgmon commented that not following the expected time frame would interfere with other departments that adhere to the 50 minute meeting length. Some members of the Senate suggested that all classes be set at 80 minutes and that the 50 minute class length be abolished. This could also create a day in the week that could be reserved for meetings and other types of faculty work. Dr. Bridgmon stated that he would look to see if changing class lengths would work. Dr. Tedford, Dr. Tucci and Dr. Bishop agreed to serve on a committee to aide Dr. Bridgmon in this examination. It was also noted that the involvement of Ms. Pat Chronister, a dean, and the Registrar would be needed. |
| 1. Leadership Program and those teaching
 | Dr. Bridgmon stated that HLC has guidelines for faculty. Instructors should have a master’s degree, hours in the field, experience in the field or certifications. Dr. Underwood stated that the minor in leadership is being taught by CSP Grads. She does not consider the CSP program to be a leadership program. Dr. Shellie Hanna stated that the instructors for the minor had all been vetted and that many had been through the Leadership Tech Program. It was stated that although the Leadership Minor is housed in CSP, CSP has no oversight. Dr. Jeremy Schwehm stated that he had significant input in the development of the Leadership Tech curriculum was comfortable with Leadership Tech people teaching in the minor. |
| 1. Bridge to Excellence
 | Dr. Johnette Moody and Dr. Eshelman stated that Dr. Warnick was unavailable for the meeting. However, information on the revised Bridge to Excellence program would be available by the end of the week. More responsibility would be placed at the department level. |
| 1. Advising
 | Dr. Tucci state that other universities rely more heavily on Degree Works and that the Registrar largely determines if a candidate has passed all requirements for a degree. Faculty are not involved in degree audits allowing more time for faculty to provide career and advice on other large issues. Dr. Clements and Dr. Ellis stated that while Degree Works is a useful tool, some programs cannot rely on it in the same way because of complications in degree programs. It was stated that Dr. Sarah Stein and Dean Woods are working to create an advising culture on campus. Dr. Bridgmon offered to talk with the Registrar to explore ways that the course registration and degree audit process could be streamlined. |
| 1. Green and Gold Cupboard
 | The Senate voted to modify the agenda. Dr. Jan Jenkins discussed and provided a handout on the Green & Gold Cupboard. In addition to students, many staff depend on the Green & Gold Cupboard to provide food for self and/or families. Anyone with a valid ATU ID can receive food. The Green & Gold Cupboard accepts monetary as well as food donations. Hygiene items are also available. Green & Gold Cupboard does food recovery as well.  |
| 1. MARCOMM Survey
 | Dr. Moody distributed a written summary of recent workshops and audits conducted by a consultant firm working with MARCOMM. The focus of the effort has been brand clarity and alignment of the institution. Initial findings of the work will be revealed during sessions in early April. Faculty are encouraged to attend a reveal session and a training session. |
| OLD BUSINESS1. HLC Update
 | Dr. Underwood stated that October 12, 2020, is the HLC lock date. The HLC reaccreditation visit is scheduled for November 9 & 10, 2020. The first draft of the self-study is due May 1. Public forums for faculty input will be held in the fall. Spring of 2020 should see the final draft completed in April. HLC will provide feedback. Changes can be made in the argument for reaccreditation up to October 12, 2020. |
| 1. TIAA/CREFF Early Access to Retirement Funds
 | This item will be carried over to the meeting next month as the speaker was not available for the March meeting. |
| OPEN FORUM | It was asked when the new VPAA will be announced. Dr. Tucci commented that the decision should be made by the middle of April.Dr. Jeremy Schwehm commented on faculty governance and that there appears to be some side-stepping of involving faculty on some decisions. Shared governance means responsibilities for faculty and administration. For example, recent changes in health insurance did not go through the Faculty Welfare Committee, the external work policy was changed by the board, the interview process for the VPAA did not allow candidate information to be distributed until 24 hours before the visit by the candidate, a master’s degree program was stalled by the administration and not presented to the board with no notice nor reason to the department. It was noted that several VPAA candidates were surprised when they learned that the VPAA had the same level of authority as other VPs even through the VPAA is responsible for 80% of the budget and academics is why students come to ATU. Some expressed surprise that the title is VPAA and not Provost and the Provost has to justify curricula issues to other VPs. Dr. Hanna noted that other VPs can out vote the AA VP on academic issues such as the new advising system. Dr. Clements stated that the strategic plan recommended providing the VPAA more authority. It was suggested to ask Dr. Bridgmon to comment on the curricula process and feedback when proposals are stopped.Dr. Eshelman commented that their appear to be a large number of ad hoc committees that are set up as issues arise when there is already a standing committee in place whose role should be to handle the issue. This undermines the authority of established faculty committees. The Faculty Senate is the committee on committees and the establishment of committees should come through the faculty senate.Dr. Schwehm asked why the graduate council is chaired by a dean and not a member of the faculty. The graduate council is in the role of the faculty senate for the graduate school. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS | Dr. Moody: Committee elections begin April 1.Dr. Ellis encouraged faculty to read Sam Strasner’s articles on One Tech about Higher Education Bills in the legislature that could affect Arkansas Tech: SB 508 & 509. The bills are sponsored by Breanne Davis of Russellville. |
| ADJOURNMENT | Dr. Eshelman moved and Ms. Holly Ruth Gale seconded adjournment. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm. |

Respectfully submitted,



Johnette Moody, D.B.A., President



Glen R. Bishop, Ph.D., Secretary