

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE
OF ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name - The name of this organization shall be the Faculty Senate of Arkansas Tech University.

Section 2: **Purpose - The Faculty Senate shall act for the faculty in all curricular matters other than those involving changes in general academic policies and for the faculty or the administration on matters referred to it for action; it shall serve as an advisory body to the faculty on matters involving academic policies; it shall serve as an advisory body to the faculty and administration on proposed changes to the *Faculty Handbook*, and to the administration or the faculty, as appropriate, on any other matters of general concern to the University.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1: *Elective Membership - One Senator shall be elected by each of the Colleges of the University upon obtaining a minimum of fifteen full-time faculty members. A College shall be eligible for one additional Senator for each twenty full-time faculty members or additional portion thereof. A College entitled to multiple Senators may elect no more than two from any one department. Any College or independent Academic Unit that has less than fifteen full-time faculty members will be combined into a Supernumerary voting block operating under the above delineated rules.

Section 2: Appointive Membership - The President of the University shall appoint one Senator; the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall appoint one Senator.

Section 3: Restrictions upon Membership

Paragraph A: No staff member shall be eligible for elective or appointive membership in the Senate who does not hold the faculty rank of Assistant Professor or above.

Paragraph B: No Dean of a College shall be eligible for membership in the Senate.

Paragraph C: In the event that no member of a College is eligible for elective membership to the Senate under the restrictions imposed by Paragraphs A and B, then the College may elect a faculty member with the rank of Instructor to serve an "emergency" term of one year.

Section 4: Terms of Office

Paragraph A: All elective and appointive members of the Senate, except those initial members who draw one- and two-year terms, shall serve for three years.

Paragraph B: The terms of membership of all initial elective and appointive members of the Senate shall be considered as having begun on July 1, 1953.

*Approved by Board of Trustees 7/8/10
**Approved by Board of Trustees 12/19/13

Section 5: Vacancies in the Senate

Any elective or appointive membership in the Senate shall be considered vacant when its incumbent ceases to be eligible for membership according to Article II, Section 4, of this Constitution or when its incumbent is granted a leave of absence from the University. Such vacancies shall be filled temporarily for the period of the leave of absence by College election or Presidential or Academic Vice Presidential appointment, respective to the vacancy, within thirty days from the time of the beginning of their existence.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS -- THEIR DUTIES AND MANNER OF ELECTION

Section 1: Officers of the Faculty Senate

Paragraph A: The Senate shall have a chairperson, who shall preside at Senate meetings. He/she may vote upon motions under consideration by the Senate.

Paragraph B: The Senate shall have a vice chairperson who shall preside at any meeting of the Senate which the chairperson may be unable to attend. The vice chairperson may vote upon any matter under consideration by the Senate.

Paragraph C: The Senate shall elect one of its members as secretary except that no member, having so served for a year, shall be eligible again during the same term of office.

Section 2: Manner of Election of Officers

At the first fall meeting in 1991, the chairperson, chairperson elect, and secretary will be elected. At the first fall meeting in subsequent years only a chairperson elect and a secretary will be elected, the chairperson position being automatically filled by the chairperson elect. The chairperson elect will additionally serve as vice chairperson.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: Called Meetings - The Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University shall call a meeting of the Senate within three weeks after the beginning of each fall semester to chair the election of officers and to establish a time for the Senate's regular meetings during the academic year. A called meeting of the Senate may be convened at any other time at the request of the chairperson of the Senate or of at least three other Senators.

Section 2: Regular Meetings - The Faculty Senate shall meet in regular session each month of the academic year at the time and place designated by the Senate in its first called meeting of each fall semester, except such times as the regularly established meeting date may coincide with a school holiday or with a vacation period.

ARTICLE V: RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: Ratification - This Constitution and attached By-Laws shall be considered as ratified and in force upon their being approved by two-thirds of the elective and appointive members of the Senate, by a majority of those voting in a regular convened meeting of the faculty of the University, and by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2: Amendment - The Constitution or the By-Laws of the Senate may be amended in the following manner:

- a. The proposed amendment shall be drafted and presented in duplicated form to each member of the Senate at least ten days before the meeting in which it is to be considered.
- b. The proposed amendment shall be approved by two-thirds of the elective and appointive members of the Senate in a regular meeting of the Senate.
- c. *The proposed amendment shall be approved by a majority of those voting in the next regular or special election of the faculty of the University.
- d. The proposed amendment shall be approved by the Board of Trustees of the University.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Section 1: Committee Voting Procedures

- A. Proxy voting is not allowed for the Faculty Senate or other faculty committees.

*Approved by Board of Trustees 7/8/10