

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

This meeting of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 on WebEx. The following members were present:

Dr. Alejandra Carballo	Dr. Sean Reed
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Scott Jordan
Dr. Michael Davis	Dr. Randy Kelley
Dr. Pam Dixon	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Asim Shrestha
Dr. V. Carole Smith	Mr. Steven Junker
Dr. Newt Hilliard	Dr. Brendan Toner
Dr. Efosa Idemudia	Dr. Masanori Kuroki
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs	Dr. Carey Ellis Laffoon
Dr. Sean Huss	
Dr. Shellie Hanna	

Absent: Dr. Jamie Stacy

Guests: Dr. Barbara Johnson, Mrs. Pat Chronister, Douglas Barron

I. Call to Order

- A. Approval of the minutes** - from the February 9 meeting. Motion to approve from Dr. Shellie Hanna Seconded by Dr. Sean Reed Motion Carried.

II. New Business

A. Curricular Items

<https://www.atu.edu/registrar/2021CatalogCurriculumProposals.php> - No new items.

- B. Faculty Satisfaction Survey** – Dr. Jeremy Schwehm reminded that this is the third year this has been sent to the faculty. He recommends that we send this out in March and get it back in April. Motion to send out the survey on a yearly basis during the last two weeks of March and the first week of April. Motion by Dr. Jeremy Schwehm, seconded by Dr. Sean Huss. Motion Carried.

C. **Time period between Sabbatical assignments** – Dr. Douglas Barron indicated that the handbook does not include language regarding this. After researching language used by peer institutions, the committee is recommending that language be included that indicates the minimum period between sabbatical assignments should be seven years. **Motion to approve** by Dr. Michael Davis, **seconded** by Dr. Newton Hilliard. **Discussion** yielded a desire to table until April, and the **motion was rescinded** by Dr. Michael Davis. Dr. David Eschelman made **a motion to table**, **seconded** by Dr. Jeremy Schwehm. **Motion carried.**

II. Old Business

A. VPAA update

- a. Commencement will be outside at the stadium – May 6 (Ozark), 7 (2020 grads who wanted to return) and 8. Faculty will be asked to volunteer. Details will be sent soon.
- b. We have received permission to make emergency hires, and that has moved forward.
- c. Please try to change your password. There have been a lot of phishing incidents.
- d. Thank you to faculty who have been working with students who are participating in unique experiences – i.e. Fullbright, etc.
- e. Restructuring:
 - i. There will be a board meeting March 18 board meeting. Restructuring efforts will be discussed.
 - ii. On Friday, March 19 the President will give a Campus Address to talk about the restructuring process.
 - iii. For those who are close to retirement, or might want to consider retirement, another plan is forthcoming.
 - iv. Departments and programs that are to be impacted by the restructuring plan will meet next week before the Friday announcement.
- f. Dr. Meyers has worked with a team on campus, establishing an application for a commuter-type summer bridge program.

B. Faculty Handbook edits

- a. Dr. Jeremy Schwehm has created a link to a survey. He has asked Dr. Jon Clements to include that in the snapshot, and asks that Senators encourage faculty to complete that survey.

C. Dr. Johnson's shared governance committee description

- a. **Motion to approve** by Dr. Jeremy Schwehm, **seconded** by Dr. Sean Huss. **Motion Carried.**

D. Registration Waiting List (Davis)

- a. The banner system does have the ability for a wait list to be created, but there is still a need to contact students via e-mail in order to ascertain whether they still need to be registered. Dr. Michael Davis indicated that an automated process would be more efficient. Dr. Clements will invite Tammy Weaver to come and speak with the senate regarding this.

E. Shared Governance Standing Committee Update – This has been discussed already today.

- F. Concerns related to the primacy of academics / Provost – Dr. Eshelman has placed an order for the Faculty Choice Awards. Dr. Clements indicated that we should make that part of graduation or another suitable occasion.

III. Open Forum

- a. Dr. David Eshelman indicated that Dr. Newton Hilliard, Dr. Sandy Smith and Dr. Eshelman had an event for full professors. Future events are planned.

IV. Announcements and Information Items

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Newton Hilliard, seconded by Dr. Jeremy Schwehm Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon Clements, D.M. President



Sean Reed, D.M.A. Secretary