

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in Rothwell 456.
The following members were present:

Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Jason Patton
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Michael Rogers
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. Monty Smith
Ms. Holly Ruth Gale	Dr. V. Carole Smith
Dr. Debra Hunter	Dr. James Stobaugh
Dr. Shelia Jackson	Dr. Bruce Tedford
Dr. Joshua Lockyer	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Chris Kellner	

Dr. Melissa Darnell, Dr. Johnette Moody, and Dr. Susan Underwood were absent.
Ms. Ashley Golleher, Dr. Rick Massengale, and Dr. Shelly Daily were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Clements requested a motion to amend the agenda, adding to Old Business item D. Course Evaluation Committee and item E. Honor Code Taskforce.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Rogers, to amend the agenda as requested. Motion carried.

President Clements called for a motion in regard to the minutes of March 13, 2018.

Motion by Dr. Stobaugh, seconded by Dr. Jackson, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
LEGISLATIVE
LIAISON

President Clements introduced Ms. Ashley Golleher, Director of Governmental Relations, and invited her to address the Senate. Ms. Golleher explained her role as being the voice of Arkansas Tech at the state capitol, working to secure more resources for the university and to help the state benefit from the university. She stated the university was training the next generation of nurses, politicians and farmers, and a high percentage of Arkansas Tech graduates remain in Arkansas. She indicated she would be preparing for the upcoming legislative session in February 2019, and to best serve the university, she wanted to hear stories and updates from the campus community and keep an open line of communication.

Dr. Kellner asked if the legislature was considering increased funding for higher education to support the push to increase resources for students. Ms. Golleher responded her primary focus was to increase funding for Arkansas Tech.

Ms. Golleher invited the senators or any other faculty members with concerns or ideas to email her at agolleher1@atu.edu.

GRANT
FACILITATION

President Clements introduced Dr. Rick Massengale, Associate Vice President for Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (SPUI), and asked Dr. Kellner to explain the recent concerns with grants. Dr. Kellner shared some faculty were experiencing a lag between the time grant funds were awarded and when the grant budget was set up to expend funds. He stated this impacts the faculty member's ability to meet the objectives of the grant in the time allowed. He asked if there would be a way to set up a budget in advance of the award, in anticipation of the funds being received.

Dr. Massengale responded he was open to a solution, but noted his office facilitated grants pre-award and the budget piece was with Administration and Finance. He offered to check with that division on options to address this. President Clements suggested a liaison between SPUI and the Budget Office. Dr. Massengale reported, currently, when a grant award is received, his office notifies the faculty member and the Budget Office, and explains the transition of oversight. He stated he would check with Administration and Finance on possible options.

FACULTY SICK
LEAVE
SUBMISSION

President Clements reported this discussion is currently on hold; Mr. Bob Freeman, Director of Human Resources, and Ms. Brooke Southard, Director of Payroll, were unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:
EXTERNAL WORK
POLICY

President Clements reported Legal Counsel was unable to attend, so the discussion and vote would be pushed to May.

CETL ADVISORY
BOARD PROPOSAL

President Clements asked for feedback on the proposal last month to establish a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) Advisory Board. He expressed the idea was good, but his opinion was an 18 member committee could be unwieldy. Dr. Rogers shared he was on the original advisory board established by the previous Director of Assessment, and the intention was to have a diverse body, fully representative of the colleges. He agreed it should still be diverse, but not as large. President Clements suggested having a chair, a representative from each college, and appointees from the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Kellner questioned the need for administrative appointees, and Dr. Rogers stated, in the past, the appointments were used to balance the committee and address any gaps in representation. Dr. Eshelman suggested instead to have two at-large positions. President Clements agreed, stating the membership could then be a chair, a representative from each college of any tenure status, and two at-large positions – one tenured, and one untenured (either untenured on track or non-tenure track).

President Clements stated he would speak with Dr. Robin Lasey about these suggestions and report back in May.

COLLEGE
CURRICULUM
COMMITTEES

President Clements stated this discussion was still on hold, and he would get further input from Dr. Bridgmon.

COURSE
EVALUATION
COMMITTEE

Dr. Patton distributed a proposed question to add to the student evaluations (Attachment A). He reported the course evaluation committee had met after the last Senate meeting, and discussed a variety of ways to address the need for an overall performance indicator. He stated this question was the committee's solution.

Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Hunter, to approve adding the evaluation question as presented. Motion carried.

Dr. Rogers expressed a desire to have graphs comparing individual faculty performance to the rest of the university. Dr. Schwehm asked how much validity testing had been performed on the student evaluation tool. President Clements asked the senators to send him these concerns and questions that he could pass on to Institutional Research.

Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Schwehm, to address the validity of the evaluation tool and the potential for graphing evaluation results in the Faculty Senate during the fall semester.

Following the motion, senators discussed other potential changes to the evaluation, such as modifying the rating scale and developing evaluations specific to the course type (face to face, online, Ozark, etc).

Motion carried.

HONOR CODE
TASKFORCE

Dr. Rogers reported, a few years ago, the Faculty Senate had encouraged the university to explore an Honor Code in the strategic planning process. Dr. Christine Austin, Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, established a taskforce which has identified some long term and short term plans. He stated a subcommittee of the taskforce has worked this semester on revising the student handbook for reporting and processing accusations of academic misconduct. Dr. Rogers hoped to have a draft to bring to the Senate in May for feedback.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Tucci reported he had served on the Faculty Excellence Committee this year, along with a few other senators, and the group had some suggestions for the future. He suggested establishing clearer guidelines for faculty applicants and for the reviewing committee. He also suggested an award for an overall outstanding faculty member that would not have to be awarded each year, but when a faculty excellence applicant stands out in multiple areas. Dr. Lockyer indicated award recipients should not be eligible for the same award the following award cycle, noting the guidelines call for applications to focus on the past three years of work, so a three year ineligibility period for the same award would be logical. Dr. Finan questioned the ability of a faculty committee to determine quality work in an area outside of their expertise. President Clements compared it to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, in which members are expected to give due diligence when they are not versed in the field. Dr. Rogers asked how the Faculty Excellence Committee is determined. The committee is composed of seven faculty members: three appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who traditionally selects the previous year's Excellence Award recipients, with the teaching award recipient serving as chair, the Faculty Senate Chair, and three appointed by the Faculty Senate Chair. In instances that the most recent winners are predominantly from a single college or department, the Vice President may appoint a previous year's winner to balance representation from the colleges. Dr. Lockyer suggested adding an award for junior faculty. Dr. Rogers suggested having award winners present to the faculty each year through professional development or the Interdisciplinary Research Series, based on their award category. Dr. Kellner suggested recognizing second and third place faculty, without a stipend. President Clements stated he would add this to the May agenda, and requested the senators provide him with a few bullet points that he could share with Dr. Bridgmon.

Dr. Finan asked what benefits retirees receive. (Following the meeting, the senators were provided with information from page 97 of the [Faculty Handbook](#).)

Dr. Schwehm reported the General Education Committee would like to establish a standing meeting date, like the Faculty Senate. Dr. Rogers suggested he speak with Ms. Pat Chronister in Academic Affairs.

Dr. Kellner requested, to address the previously discussed ambiguity in the final promotion and tenure document, the senators develop a procedural or flowchart for the process as the Senate had intended it. Dr. Rogers stated Dr. Sean Huss had developed a flowchart as part of an earlier draft, and it could be updated based on changes to the final document.

Dr. Kellner reported he recently took a week long trip and had only received 75% reimbursement for meal cost on the first and last day of travel. He asked the Senate to investigate this policy change.

Dr. Kellner stated, based on conversation with several of his students, the issue of faculty not providing feedback in a timely manner may be more prevalent than the Senate previously assumed. He asked the Senate to investigate this further.

Dr. Kellner asked if there was a plan to advertise for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs. President Clements reported Dr. Abdelrahman had accepted the Provost position at Colorado State University – Pueblo, effective June 1. He stated Dr. Bridgmon would most likely become the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at that time. He indicated the search would ideally not begin until faculty were on campus this fall. Dr. Kellner asked if the Senate would play a similar role as during the previous search (facilitating faculty forums and Q&A sessions), and President Clements believed the Senate would.

Dr. Brant requested an update on email confirmations for submitted grades. President Clements agreed to check with Ms. Tammy Weaver, Registrar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Brant reported the plant sale would be April 13-14.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Clements, D.M., President



Jack Tucci, Ph.D., Secretary

Faculty Senate

4/10/18

Student Evaluation Question To Be Added

In order to meet several requests from across campus for an “overall performance” question on the new student evaluations, the Student Evaluation subcommittee of Faculty Senate developed the following new question to be added. This question will be in addition to the suite of questions already approved by Faculty Senate.

Question: Please rate your instructors overall performance:
Excellent, Very Good, Good, Poor, Very Poor