

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2019-20 Faculty Senate was held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 in the West Dining Room. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Scott Jordan
Dr. Pam Carr	Dr. Carey Ellis Lafoon
Dr. Alejandra Carballo	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Jamie Stacy
Dr. Michael Davis	Dr. Joe Stoeckel
Dr. Pam Dixon	Dr. Brendan Toner
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Jack Tucci
Ms. Holly Ruth Gale	Dr. Alaric Williams
Dr. Shellie Hanna	
Dr. Newt Hilliard	

Dr. Joshua Lockyer and Dr. Asim Shrestha were absent. Dr. Robin Bowen, Dr. Barbara Johnson, Ms. Kayla Chambliss, and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER President Eshelman called the meeting to order and asked for comments from Dr. Bowen, University President.

REPORT BY
PRESIDENT Dr. Bowen welcomed everyone back to campus. She reported recruitment of students had gone well with an expected record number of freshman this fall. Transfer numbers also look good and the Ozark Campus numbers are also up. She stated she believed the anticipated revenue for fall will be very close to what was projected.

Dr. Bowen mentioned two items she had addressed during the Faculty and Staff Update on Monday, communication and shared governance. She reported she will be forming committees to work on both of these topics this year. She noted she had heard the comments made by the faculty and had taken those “to heart.” If any faculty member wishes to serve on one of the committees, she asked they let her or the vice president know.

Dr. Stoeckel asked if she was “serious” about these two issues. Dr. Bowen responded that she was very serious and wanted the conversations so that she could better understand the issues. She stated the shared governance discussion would need to involve both administrators and faculty.

Dr. Stoeckel asked for her view of the role of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Bowen stated she believes the Senate is the voice and advocate of the faculty. She noted the Senate should also be a means of communication between faculty and administration.

Dr. Bowen asked for any other questions; when none were forthcoming, she stated anyone having a question should not hesitate to contact her.

REPORT BY VICE
PRESIDENT President Eshelman asked Dr. Johnson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, for comments. Dr. Johnson stated that several policies, particularly an alternative credentialing policy and procedure, will need to be worked on this year in anticipation of the HLC visit in fall, 2020.

Dr. Johnson reminded the Senators that Academic Affairs has an email box which gives the sender anonymity. Dr. Bowen commented that when anonymous emails are sent, there is no way to respond to the individual with information. Dr. Tucci stated the Senate can help in those instances by serving as a conduit between the VPAA's office and the faculty at large.

Dr. Johnson stated she was looking forward to working with the faculty this year. President Eshelman noted he would be having regular meetings with Dr. Johnson.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Eshelman asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Eshelman called for a motion in regard to the minutes of May 1, 2019.

Motion by Dr. Hanna, seconded by Dr. Schwehm to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Eshelman asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Vice Chair, who will also be the chair-elect for 2020-21. Ms. Gale nominated Dr. Bishop, who declined. Dr. Tucci nominated Dr. Clements.

Motion by Dr. Stacy, seconded by Dr. Schwehm, that nominations close. Motion carried.

Dr. Clements was elected by acclamation.

President Eshelman asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Secretary. Dr. Bishop nominated Dr. Schwehm.

Motion by Dr. Stoeckel, seconded by Dr. Clements, that nominations close. Motion carried.

Dr. Schwehm was elected by acclamation.

OPEN FORUM

President Eshelman stated he wanted to continue the tradition of having a Faculty Senate Advisory Committee which would include himself, Dr. Clements and Dr. Schwehm. He asked for other volunteers; Dr. Hilliard and Dr. Stacy both volunteered.

For the meetings, President Eshelman stated he would like to keep the meetings to two hours. He also noted his desire to have ideas or topics discussed with action delayed until the Senators had time to talk with their constituents and think through each item.

Topics he was considering for future meetings should the senators wish to discuss them: redundant committees, internal hiring policy, salary compression, department heads workload, and VPAA as a provost. He stated any shared governance documents coming out of the ad hoc committee would also be topics for discussion as well as any ideas concerning improving communications.

Dr. Davis stated a faculty member had questioned how their portfolio for annual evaluation purposes was supposed to look with the new guidelines. He stated he had also heard from faculty who wanted faculty webpages again. Dr. Stacy reported that faculty webpages are hosted separately but can be linked to from the ATU website.

Ms. Gale noted issues with participation by students with the student evaluations being only online. Dr. Davis reported some students had stated all of their classes were not being evaluated. Dr. Hanna stated her belief the process had been much more efficient when paper surveys were distributed. President Eshelman stated this would be a future agenda item and he asked the Senators to consider how best to address the issue.

Dr. Ellis Lafoon asked that the organizational activity schedule each fall be distributed earlier to allow for other campus activities to also be scheduled.

President Eshelman noted that some concerns raised by constituents just need to be addressed directly instead of being brought to the Senate. He noted sometimes faculty just want answers and asked the Senators to try to be helpful in those instances.

President Eshelman stated he wants to begin Faculty Senate Snapshots, a list of two or three main points from a Faculty Senate meeting which can be sent out to the Senators and then distributed by the Senators to their constituents. He also emphasized the Senators should take into account any department within their college without a Senate representative and make sure communications get to those faculty also.

Dr. Clements recommended a Faculty Senate letterhead be used in communicating recommendations being made by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Stacy emailed a MARCOMM representative during the meeting and asked for development of a virtual letterhead.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Eshelman announced the following standing committee appointments:

- Budget Advisory Committee: Dr. Eshelman
- Campus Space and Utilization Committee: Dr. Schwehm
- Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee: Dr. Eshelman
- General Education Committee: Dr. Paola Gemme
- Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee: Dr. Virginia Jones
- Professional Development Committee: Dr. Deborah Wilson
- University Promotion and Tenure Committee: Dr. Schwehm
- Technology Committee: Dr. Loretta Cochran, Dr. Stacy, Dr. Christine Austin, Mr. William Reeder, Dr. Davis
- Technology Prioritization and Impact Committee: Dr. Shrestha

Meeting times and dates for fall were set as follows (second Tuesday): September 10, October 8, November 12, at 3:00 p.m. and December 4 (Reading Day - Wednesday) at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Eshelman, Ph.D., President



Jeremy Schwehm, Ph.D., Secretary