



Faculty Senate

Minutes of THE FACULTY SENATE OF ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

This meeting of the 2022-2023 Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 on WebEx. The following members were present:

Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Melissa Darnell
Dr. Newt Hilliard	Dr. Bethany Swindell
Dr. Efosa Idemudia	Dr. Arwen Taylor
Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman	Dr. Breanna Claire
Dr. Sean Reed	Dr. Kuldeep Singh
Dr. Azin Sanjari Pirmahaleh	Dr. Carey Ellis Laffoon
Dr. Masanori Kuroki	Dr. Ellen Treadway
Dr. Jamie Stacy	Dr. Erica Wondolowski
Dr. Peter Dykema	Stan Apple
Dr. Tom Nupp	Sherry Tinerella
Dr. Rene Couture	Jasmine Greer
Dr. Michael Davis	

Absent: Dr. Sean Huss, Dr. David Cullen, Michael Bradley

Also present: Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe (VPAA); Abby Davis and Amy Anderson (Athletics); TJ McDonald and Dillon Alexander (Textbook Brokers)

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Sean Reed called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.
 - A. **Approval of the Minutes:** Following a request to emend the spelling of Dr. Nupp's name, Motion to approve the minutes from the August 15 meeting from Dr. Michael Davis, seconded by Dr. David Eshelman. Motion carried.

- II. **Committee Updates**
 - A. Curricular Items (<https://www.atu.edu/standingcommittees/curriculum/2023-24/Summary%20Proposals%20Aug%20CC%20Sept%20FS.pdf>)
Motion to approve the curricular proposals from Sherry Tinarella and seconded.
In discussion, Dr. Dykema mentioned a class mistakenly listed as nine credits, already set to be revised. Motion carried.

 - B. **Standing Committees**

1. Budget Advisory Committee (Nupp): Although contingencies were in place for declining enrollments, this semester's enrollments will reduce the budget more than in 2020; the committee was assured there were no budget cuts forecast at this moment. A 700K loss in productivity funding from the state is the result of the ADHE funding formula; we're about 25-40% below peer institutions in our Core Expense metric, and 10-25% below peer institutions in the ration of administrative to faculty salaries.

Dr. Reed requested that visitors be asked to speak ahead of the remaining committee delegates; there were no objections.

TJ McDonalds, from Textbook Brokers, discussed the store's coming role as the university's bookstore, including the availability of their adoption portal once the contract is signed. Faculty may submit textbook adoptions by email or on paper as well. Buyback and return of rentals from Barnes and Noble will be honored by Textbook Brokers. The store will also offer Tech-branded merchandise.

Abby Davis and Abby Anderson, from the Athletics Department encouraged faculty to contact Ms. Anderson with concerns about student athletes

B. Standing Committees redux

2. General Education Committee (Tinarella): No report.
3. Institutional Aid Committee (Hilliard): No report.
4. Shared Governance Committee (Eshelman): The committee has held a preliminary meeting; contact Dr. Eshelman with concerns you'd like the committee to tackle.
5. Campus Space and Utilization Committee (Singh): No report.
6. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee (Hilliard): Sabbatical requests were due on September 13; the deadline to request or recommend emeritus status is also out.
7. Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee (Swindell): Committee's work has slowed since covid; students sometimes don't know what classes they need in order to keep a scholarship; a reminder to talk to financial aid as a part of advising.
8. Professional Development Committee (Dykema): Applications for grants are open.
9. Technology Prioritization and Impact Committee (Apple): No report.

C. Ad Hoc & Senate Committees

1. Faculty Workload Committee (Eshelman/Darnell): No report
2. Insurance Benefit Committee (Davis): Likely Tech will renew with BCBS; open enrollment starts in a month or two.
3. Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (Wondolowski): No meeting yet; working with the chair of the Equity Action Committee; following an idea proposed by Dr. Eshelman, the Senate is requested to invite speakers from around the university on DEI, in this year's remaining meetings.

4. Exploratory Committee on P&T Salary Increases (Hilliard): The committee has looked at CUPA data and found inconsistencies in how salaries are set, raising questions in how CUPA data is used to determine salaries; a written policy would be useful in assuring consistency, especially in times of high administrative turnover. Recommendation that Wyatt Watson attend a Senate meeting to address this.
5. Strategic Enrollment and Retention Committee (Darnell): Committee has not met; Dr. Darnell has discussed three-year strategic plan with Dr. Gunter; each college and department should be creating their own strategic plan that aligns with the university's.
6. Committee Restructuring (Stacy): Officially stand down committee as process is complete.
7. Strategic Planning (Darnell): New departments and colleges are working on the plan, due mid-September.
8. Transfer Task Force (Stacy): A meeting on transfers is scheduled for 9.26.
9. Prior Learning Committee (Swindell): Committee is working on comparisons with other schools.
10. Hiring Processes Committee (Dykema): Committee has met.
11. Microcredentials Committee (Wondolowski): Focus is on 4-credit credentials and identifying audiences for marketing.

III. **New Business**

A. **VPAA Update (Furst-Bowe):** Dr. Furst-Bowe updated on the following items:

- Ed Armstrong was unable to attend this meeting.
- Sabbatical and emeritus requests due by September 16; promotion and tenure

IV. **Old Business**

Recycling: Dr. Swindell reached out to Keep Arkansas Beautiful for legal clarification; still awaiting on response

V. **Open Forum**

- Emergency Management Safety Committee: Dr. Reed, on behalf of Dr. Huss, has heard from faculty that there's concern there is only one faculty member on that committee (Dr. Swindell); request from a constituent for better representation and training; concerns also about disability representation on the committee and the role of academic expertise in emergency preparedness.
- Dr. Stacy reported the Health and Wellness Center has limited supply of the Moderna bivalent booster.
- Dr. Dykema questioned whether a permanent change could be made to the Senate's use of parliamentary procedure to allow guests to speak before committee updates; Dr. Reed clarified the ordering is in place because guests constitute new business. Dr. Stacy noted in a similar vein that legal counsel should come directly to the Senate, not to the VPAA, if he wants to speak to the Senate.



Faculty Senate

VI. Announcements and Information Items

Brass in the Clouds coming up on September 24.

VII. Adjournment: Dr.Hillard moved to Adjourn. Seconded by Stan Apple. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Reed".

Dr. Sean Reed, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arwen Taylor".

Dr. Arwen Taylor, Secretary