**AGENDA**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**May 1, 2019**

**Rothwell 456**

1. Call to Order
   1. Approval of the minutes from April 9, 2019
2. New Business
   1. Curricular Process
   2. Promotion Increments
   3. Class length
   4. Degree Audits
   5. Policy Website
   6. Medical marijuana
   7. Hang tags
   8. Ensuring Course Quality
   9. Student Scholarships
   10. VPAA Classification
   11. Survey
   12. Promotion / Tenure Committee
3. Old Business
   1. Free Speech Policy
4. TIAA/CREFF (early access to retirement funds)
5. e-portfolio guidance update
6. HLC update
7. Open Forum
8. Announcement and Information Items
9. Adjournment

Senate Recommendation to President Bowen

Recommendation: Change title, role, and scope of the current VPAA Position.

Faculty Senate Discussion:

President Bowen, the following was excerpted from the faculty senate meeting minutes.

“There was much discussion about how that administrative departments on campus were making academic decisions about programs and implementation. Curriculum issues and other Academic programs such as course quality and program development were being impeded by non-academic departments making policy or blocking decisions on issues other than academic needs. The consensus of the discussion is that “it is felt by many on the senate that academics has taken a secondary role at this institution. In addition, it is felt that the role of VPAA is currently seen as an equal with the other VP’s in the common day-to-day functions of Arkansas Tech.” The Faculty senate agreed this one topic may be what is hindering the advancement of the progressive educational agenda of the faculty to move this University forward. The senate was unanimous in having the role of the VPAA elevated to a role of Senior Vice president Academic Affairs and Provost of the University.

It was noted that the title “Provost” was written in the early drafts of the strategic plan but was unaware if it had been deleted. Other senators also noted that it was in the budget as VPAA and Provost. A senator pointed out “that three presidents past”, that the VPAA was Senior VPAA and Provost. It was the consensus of the faculty that a statement should be drafted and brought to the senate stating such and be voted on and presented to the president and asked to be sent to the board for their approval. The statement should include such language that the VPAA has final and authority about academic direction and issues for the university and that all other VP’s serving the institution should be aware they are there to serve and to help accomplish successfully the academic mission of this institution. A senator was asked to draft a statement with input from fellow senators and the statement to be brought for a vote during the May 1st meeting. The statement was that it should be “as it once was” should be included in this recommendation. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by all senators.”

Hereby the Faculty Senate of Arkansas Tech University makes the following formal recommendation to president Bowen and for the approval by the Board of Trustees governing this great university.

We the representatives of the ATU Faculty, the Faculty Senate recommend to President Bowen that the title, role and scope of the Vice president Academic Affairs be changed to Senior Vice President Academic Affairs and Provost (hereafter signed, Sr. VPAA – Provost) as it once was.

Whereas all employees, except the President, the Title 9 coordinator, VP of Finance, VP of Advancement, and Facilities Management at Arkansas Tech University should observe and report to the Senior Vice President Academic Affairs and Provost on all matters pertaining to all academic functions of the University as it once was.

Whereas all employees engaged in the operations, scheduling, finance, maintenance, information technology, or other functions directly or indirectly impacting the academic function of the Sr. VPAA – Provost shall not interfere with or delay the strategic academic mission of the university as it once was.

Whereas all employees will recognize that the academic mission is primary to the success and health of our students, university, staff, community, and faculty as it once was.

Whereas all stakeholders will realize that all academic decisions about programs, their design, quality, and scope will reside in the office of Sr. VPAA and Provost as it once was.