

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2018-19 Faculty Senate was held at 12:40 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 in the West Dining Room. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Joshua Lockyer
Dr. Pam Carr	Dr. Johnette Moody
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Michael Davis	Dr. Monty Smith
Dr. Carey Ellis	Dr. V. Carole Smith
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Sarah Stein
Ms. Holly Ruth Gale	Dr. Brendan Toner
Dr. Shellie Hanna	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Newt Hilliard	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Scott Jordan	

Dr. Bruce Tedford was absent. Dr. Robin Bowen, Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, and Ms. Jennifer McNeely were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER Dr. Clements, 2017-18 Senate President, called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Moody, 2018-19 President.

ADDRESS BY CHAIR President Moody expressed her excitement and appreciation at being Senate chair for this academic year and stated she would be actively listening to what the faculty have to say and to what issues and concerns they have. She then invited Dr. Robin Bowen, University President, to address the Senate.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT Dr. Bowen welcomed everyone back and expressed her appreciation for their willingness to serve on the Faculty Senate. She noted the coming year would include several big initiatives, including: initiating a branding study; continuing work on the master plan with the city and highway commission which includes moving the main entrance of the campus to just north of Tucker Coliseum and beginning planning for the area in front of the Young Building to become a pedestrian plaza; and continuing work on implementing the strategic plan with student success the number one priority. Dr. Bowen reported enrollment for fall is still anticipated to be up overall due to concurrent enrollment; however, revenue generating enrollment will be down. A one percent decrease in revenue generating enrollment was projected with the 2018-19 budget; the decrease will most likely be four percent which may cause the university to have “to tighten our belts a bit.”

She reported continuing work with the legislature concerning Arkansas Tech’s funding, noting that, although legislators are always appalled with the funding inequity, they are reluctant to try to do something, particularly in re-election years. However, Dr. Bowen stated that if the law changes thereby decreasing legislator’s terms, this will term limit several legislators, leading them to perhaps being more amenable to working on Tech’s funding inequity while still in office. She also noted she will be spending time this year on the capital campaign.

Dr. Bowen observed she is looking forward to a great year and excused herself from the meeting.

REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT President Moody asked Dr. Bridgmon, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, for any comments. Dr. Bridgmon stated his work with the Senate and the faculty during the past year was very enjoyable, noting that “moving a promotion and tenure document across the finish line is like a lifetime achievement award.” He stated he grew up as a faculty member at an institution with solid faculty governance and emphasized he firmly believes the faculty’s voice makes the institution smarter and leads to better decision making.

Dr. Bridgmon reported he is looking forward to working with the Senate this year; he asked that Academic Affairs be considered an ally and to let him know when he and his staff could help. He noted the Senators are “great ambassadors” for their departments and wished them all the best for the upcoming academic year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Moody called for a motion in regard to the minutes of May 2, 2018.

Motion by Dr. V. Carole Smith, seconded by Dr. Schwehm, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Moody asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Vice Chair, who will also be the chair-elect for 2019-20. Dr. Stein nominated Dr. Eshelman for Vice Chair; Dr. Schwehm seconded the nomination. Dr. Eshelman was elected by acclimation.

President Moody reported the Faculty Senate Secretary would now be recording the minutes each month instead of a staff member from Academic Affairs. She stated the individual would receive the equivalent of either a three-credit hour course release per year or a \$2,100 overload if the release could not be granted.

President Moody asked for nominations for the position of Faculty Senate Secretary. Dr. Bishop volunteered to be Secretary. Dr. Clements nominated Dr. Bishop; Dr. V. Carole Smith seconded. Dr. Bishop was elected by acclimation.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Eshelman expressed concern over two items. He stated his understanding that the professional development grant process had changed substantially with several faculty concerned over the changes. He also reported adjunct monies and positions were being capped and summer funds being adjusted, possibly affecting faculty salaries for summer teaching.

Dr. Bridgmon asked to address these concerns. He reported internal grants previously administered through Academic Affairs had been moved to the Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (SPUI). SPUI had proposed some changes which had been shared over the summer with the deans and department heads; however, it had been determined that the proposed changes needed a closer look and faculty input. Therefore, the only change for 2018-19 was the move of the administration to SPUI; all other processes, deadline dates, etc., will remain the same. He stated his belief that SPUI will be engaging the faculty over the course of the year concerning any proposed changes in the internal grant processes.

Dr. V. Carole Smith questioned whether the professional development grant funds could support a faculty member attending a conference along with a group of students.

Dr. Bridgmon stated, in the future, he would like to see this type of activity funded automatically, perhaps from a different fund. However, lacking a budget for funding this year, he advocated making a case for using professional development funds.

Dr. Bridgmon reported each college had been allocated an adjunct budget for the fiscal year which was based on spending over the prior three years. No directive to cap adjunct positions or funds had been issued, but the deans had been asked to stay within the budgets as much as possible. He noted that how each dean was implementing the directive may be

different. Dr. Bridgmon also reported that credit hours went down this past academic year but adjunct spending and usage went up.

A summer budget was also allocated by college and again calculated using a three year spending model. Dr. Bridgmon stated that decisions relating to how summer funds are spent should be made at the college and departmental levels; however, calculations for faculty compensation during the summer remain the same as they have been.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS

President Moody reported she would continue with the Executive Committee model for determining agendas and items for consideration by the Senate. Dr. Ellis and Dr. V. Carole Smith had agreed to be on this committee.

President Moody announced the following standing committee appointments:

- Campus Space and Utilization Committee: Dr. Schwehm
- Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee: Dr. Eshelman
- Equity and Diversity Committee: Dr. Alejandra Carballo, Dr. Erin Clair, and Dr. Troy Norton
- Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee: Dr. Loretta Cochran
- Professional Development Committee: Dr. Monty Smith
- Technology Prioritization Committee: Dr. Moody
- University Promotion and Tenure Committee: Dr. Bishop
- Technology Committee: Dr. Loretta Cochran, Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Dr. Christine Austin, Mr. William Reeder, Dr. Davis
- Insurance Committee: Dr. Davis (replacing Dr. Jason Patton)
- Compensation Study Committee being convened by Dr. Bowen: Dr. Jordan and Dr. Clements

Meeting times and dates for fall were set as follows (second Tuesday): September 11, October 9, November 13, at 3:00 p.m. and December 5 (Reading Day) at 1:00 p.m.

President Moody, noting she “has big shoes to fill,” presented Dr. Clements with a plaque of appreciation for his service as Senate chair for 2017-18. She also stated she will hold the meetings to no more than two hours as Dr. Clements had done.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Johnette Moody, D.B.A., President



Glen R. Bishop, Ph.D., Secretary