

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The October meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 in 456 Rothwell. The following members were present:

Dr. Glen Bishop	Dr. Johnette Moody
Dr. Pam Carr	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Monty Smith
Dr. Michael Davis	Dr. Sarah Stein
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Bruce Tedford
Ms. Holly Ruth Gale	Dr. Brendan Toner
Dr. Shellie Hanna	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Newt Hilliard	
Dr. Joshua Lockyer	

Dr. Carey Ellis, Dr. Scott Jordan, Dr. V. Carole Smith, Dr. Jack Tucci were absent. Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, Ms. Jennifer McNeely, Ms. Pat Chronister, Ms. Tammy Weaver, Dr. John Jackson, Dr. Mack Rainey were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER Dr. Moody, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Dr. Susan Underwood moved to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2018, meeting. Dr. Joshua Lockyer seconded. Minutes were approved.

REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, VPAA, reported that the position announcement for a new graduate college dean had been posted. Dr. Bean is heading up the search. An open forum concerning the search for a new VPAA will be held, Monday, October 15. It is important for faculty to participate in the search process.

ATU is anticipating an HLC reaffirmation visit in fall of 2020 or spring of 2021 with reaccreditation in 2021. A steering committee is working on the self-study document. The self-study advocates that Arkansas Tech University meets each of the five HLC standards. All members of the steering committee are peer corps members.

Arkansas Tech University is working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with North Arkansas College in Harrison. The (MOU) will include 2+2 agreements for 27 academic programs as well as some ATU programs being offered in Harrison.

A CCAMPIS grant has been received from the US Department of Education. The grant will support child care for up to 50 Arkansas Tech University students at a time.

The ATU Academic Counsel will become an independent voice. It will be composed of department heads without the participation of the VPAA.

In calculating eligibility for financial aid, GPA will now be calculated over an academic year instead of semester by semester. Students may make up deficiencies during the summer.

Human Resources is working with the Executive Committee on the recruitment of internal applicants for open positions to include an internal hiring policy and rubrics for use in evaluating candidates. Dr. Bridgmon concluded by stating that the work ATU faculty perform is heroic.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Curricular items

Ms. Tammy Weaver spoke to curricular items. Dr. Jon Clemens moved to consider all curricular items as a bloc. Dr. Jeremy Schwehm seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Glen Bishop made a motion to approve the curricular items. Dr. Shellie Hanna seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ms. Tammy Weaver noted that there would likely be no curricular items for the November Faculty Senate meeting. The next curricular items for consideration would be in the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Indirect Costs
- b. Faculty sick leave submission
- c. Honor Code/Student Handbook updates
- d. Faculty Excellence Awards

This item was removed from the agenda. Motion by Dr. Newt Hilliard and David Eshelman. Second by Dr. Jon Clemens.

Postponed until next meeting.

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Dr. Jeremy Schwehm and Dr. Joshua Lockyer asked that senators discuss distributed proposed language with their departments and to communicate any concerns to Dr. Schwehm by November 5. He stated that Dr. Bridgmon was supportive of the effort to expand the availability of faculty excellence awards. Awards for non-tenured faculty would carry the same remuneration as awards for tenured faculty. The award for outstanding adjunct faculty would be \$1,000. In addition to awards being carried in the commencement programs, awards would be announced during the May professional development day. Finalized language of the proposal would be up for discussion during the November Faculty Senate meeting. The award for full time faculty is the equivalent of a three-hour overload plus \$1,000.

- e. Promotion and Tenure Procedural

Workshop on new procedures will be held tomorrow. Department Heads were offered training during the summer. Dr. Woods is willing to meet with Department Committees to discuss the new procedures. Some variation in Department procedures and standards is expected by the University. The new procedures in the Faculty Handbook should be viewed as guidelines, not an evaluation rubric. The DPTC, Department Head, and the appropriate Dean should work out T & P policy at the department level. Establish criteria now so people can decide on 9.17 whether to go with the new policy or remain under the old system for T & P. It is not absolutely necessary to have the new department procedures in place by 9.17 as the policy will not go into effect until the next calendar year as we are half-way through the current year and cannot change midway through the current year.

- f. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee Charge

Dr. David Eshelman reported that the salary compression committee is working on this issue. Dr. Eshelman suggested using a six year time frame as that is the usual time to be eligible for promotion from one faculty level to the next.

- g. College Curriculum Committees

Item was tabled during the October meeting until a new VPAA takes office.

- h. Budget Office/SPUI and Grant Facilitation

Dr. Newt Hilliard stated that there was interest in helping faculty obtain resources needed for classes as well as research.

- i. Adjunct Support

Dr. David Eshelman passed out a proposal to include adjunct representation on the following committees: Equity and Diversity, General Education, Library, Instructional Materials and Equipment, Student Affairs. Dr. Eshelman asked to send feedback to him. Ms. Jennifer McNeely stated that adjuncts would like the opportunity to be trained as student advocates.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Jennifer McNeely stated that data from the adjunct faculty survey should be available by the November meeting. A draft should be ready the week of October 15. The survey consists of six questions.

Dr. Susan Underwood stated the HLC Reaffirmation Committee looks at five criteria. The committee provides assurance, arguments, that the criteria are met. Each criterion has a chair and a committee that have been working on the criteria for a year. When gaps are identified they are presented to the executive council for deliberation as to how to close the gap. There will be plenty of work to engage the Faculty Senate. There will be opportunities for faculty input. Dr. Johnette Moody requested that Dr. Underwood provide the Faculty Senate with monthly updates.

Dr. Bruce Tedford discussed changes in the process of students dropping a course. The advisor of the student receives an email asking for approval for the course drop as well as asking the advisor to contact the student before approving. Dr. Tedford suggested it would be helpful if the student were also required to contact the instructor for the course being dropped. It was also recommended that the same procedure be used when students withdraw from the university.

Dr. Tedford questioned the procurement process stating that recently a secretary had to order an expensive chair from a company out-of-town even though a suitable, less expensive, chair could have been purchased from a Russellville store with a quicker delivery date. The staff involved stated they had been told they could not use Staples or Burris. It was suggested that a state contract was somehow involved. Dr. Johnette Moody stated that she would talk to procurement.

Dr. Monty Smith observed that people from outside the area of expertise of a faculty member review faculty development proposals suggesting that perhaps they would not fully understand the proposal. Dr. Clemens responded that the University Promotion and Tenure Committee also face this dilemma and do the best they can.

Dr. Shellie Hanna suggested that Ms. Tammy Weaver be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the online drop form. It was noted that she had attended to previous two meetings.

Dr. Jon Clemens asked about the time frame for the VPAA search. Dr. Moody stated that it is expected that the new VPAA would be on campus for fall semester 2019. It was also suggested that the Faculty Senate put together a statement on criteria for selection of the new VPAA.

Dr. Bruce Tedford asked about whether or not the campus had a landscape plan and how to access it. Several faculty noted that mature trees continue to be removed from campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Dr. Lockyer announced that the Ecology Club would sponsor a program, “The Last Lecture”, inspired by the talk given by a professor who had terminal cancer and later published as a book. Dr. Peter Dykema will give the lecture. The topic is being determined. Student attendance will be monitored if professors would like to assign attendance to the talk for student credit.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:59. Dr. Shellie Hanna made the motion. Dr. Lockyer seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnette Moody". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Johnette Moody, D.B.A., President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen R. Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "B".

Glen R. Bishop, Ph.D., Secretary