

Minutes of  
THE FACULTY SENATE  
OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The September meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 in 456 Rothwell. 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. V. Carole Smith
Dr. Carey Ellis	Dr. Sarah Stein
Dr. David Eshelman	Dr. Bruce Tedford
Ms. Holly Ruth Gale	Dr. Brendan Toner
Dr. Shellie Hanna	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Newt Hilliard	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Scott Jordan	

Dr. Monty Smith was absent. Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, Ms. Jennifer McNeely, Ms. Tammy Gaurino, Ms. Holli Weiss, Dr. Jeff Robertson, Dr. Jeffrey Woods, Dr. Robin Lasey, Dr. Carl Brucker, Ms. Pat Chronister, Mr. Robert Freeman, Ms. Kylie Duncan, Ms. Rebecca Lacava, Ms. Tammy Weaver, and Mr. Thomas Pennington, Dr. Tara Hart 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 August 21, 2018, organizational meeting. Dr. Joshua Lockyer seconded. Minutes were approved.

REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT      Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, VPAA, reported that ATU had an excellence change of hosting the Governor's School for the next three years. The decision on whether ATU would host the program for 400 gifted high school seniors will be announced this week by the Arkansas Board of Education. The school is funded by a state grant of \$650,000. In addition Dr. Bridgmon announced that input regarding the new ATU web site should be sent to him. Dr. Bridgmon also stated that the search for a new VPAA should be getting underway in the coming months. The search will be headed up by a search firm. He expressed his desire that faculty cooperate with the search firm in the process. Also, the search for a new Dean of the Graduate College will also be conducted by a search firm, but not the same one as for the VPAA. Dr. Bridgmon stated that several complaints had been received about pets on campus and suggested that there is no specific policy on pets and that is an area in which the Faculty Senate may want to develop and recommend a policy. Tammy Gaurino, Staff Senate Chair, agreed that pet policy had become a concern of that body a number of times recently in residence halls and on campus in general.

NEW BUSINESS      Dr. Jeremy Schwehm moved to consider curricular items on the agenda as a group. Dr. David Eshelman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dr. Carl Brucker spoke in favor of the items. Dr. Sara Stein spoke in favor of the items. Dr. Eshelman moved to approve the curricular items. Dr. Jack Tucci seconded the motion. The motion carried.

a. Curricular items

b. Arkansas Governor's School      Dr. Robin Lasey discussed the proposal to bring the Arkansas Governor's School to the ATU campus next summer. Many faculty were involved in the proposal and putting together the curriculum for the school. 400 Rising students will come to Tech for the school

should Tech be chosen to be the host. Significant opposition from Conway and Hendrix College was raised. The decision should be announced Thursday or Friday. Funding would come from Arkansas Department of Education. Faculty can submit proposals to teach at the Governor's School. The theme for the coming year will be technology, past, present, and future. There will be a committee created by the ADE and that committee will be responsible for reviewing applications for teaching at the Governor's School. Being a Tech faculty member does not guarantee that you will be selected to participate and teach.

- c. Committee on Adjunct Support Jennifer McNeely reported from the Committee on Adjunct Support. Committee would like to see more inclusion of adjuncts by being allowed to serve on more committees, access to health insurance, or at least access to the wellness center, and payment for classes taught processed more quickly. Dr. Eshelman moved to support the document from the Adjunct Committee that was circulated as part of the agenda. Dr. Tucci seconded the motion. The motion carried. A committee was then formed to examine the inclusion of more adjuncts on committees. Dr. Eshelman, Dr. Schwehm, and Dr. Stein agreed to be on the committee.
- d. Insurance update Mr. Freeman, Human Resources, provided an overview of insurance matters. An increase of 24.2% is expected for medical insurance. The university would absorb as much of the increase as possible. Open enrollment will be November 5 through November 16. The insurer reported a loss of over two million dollars on the ATU contract last year. Insurance will be on the October 18 Board meeting. The insurance recommendation will go to the executive committee on September 26.
- e. Date Change for December Meeting The December meeting of the Faculty Senate will be Wednesday, December 5, at 1:00 pm.
- OLD BUSINESS
- a. FE for Excessive absences policy – Tammy Weavey Ms. Tammy Weaver, Registrar, explained the change from FE to WN. This policy had been developed by the Admissions, Academic Standards, and Student Honors Committee. The purpose of the WN is to eliminate the FE. The FE counted as an F and could be awarded by faculty to a student for nonattendance. The WN would be counted as a W or withdraw. While having less of an impact on grade average, a WN could also mean that the student could fall below the minimum required hours for financial aid and scholarships. Faculty who foresee the possibility of using the WN should include notice in syllabi. Dr. Eshelman moved to support the new policy. Dr. Schwehm seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Email confirmation of grade submission Ms. Weaver commented that email grade confirmation will be part of Banner 9 which will be gradually rolled out beginning in January.
- c. Faculty sick leave submission Postponed until next meeting.
- d. Honor Code/Student Handbook updates Postponed until next meeting.
- e. Faculty Excellence Awards Dr. Schwehm reported that other universities have award for junior faculty with a monetary benefit attached to the award. He could find no examples of awards for non-tenure track faculty. A member of the Senate commented that awards for non-tenure track faculty could be pursued. Dr. Tucci commented that the first concern should be the establishment of awards for tenure-track junior faculty. Dr. Lockyer will work with Dr. Schwehm, and Dr. Tucci.
- f. 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

- g. Meal reimbursement policy  
 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.  
 Senate voted to remove from agenda. Dr. Clements moved Dr. Eshelman seconded.
- h. Timely feedback to students  
 Senate voted to remove from agenda. Dr. Eshelman moved. Dr. Schwehm seconded.
- i. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee Charge  
 Dr. Bowen has formed a committee to look at salary compression. The committee will be looking at sabbatical policy.
- j. CETL Advisory Board Standing Committee – Dr. Robin Lasey  
 Senate removed from the agenda Dr. Eshelman moved and Dr. Underwood seconded.
- k. College Curriculum Committees  
 Dr. Clements moved that this be tabled until the new VPAA takes office. Dr. Tedford seconded. Motion passed.
- l. Budget Office/SPUI and Grant Facilitation  
 Postponed until next meeting.
- m. Indirect Costs  
 ATU charges 43% for indirect costs on grants. Some faculty report that this makes many ATU proposals for small grants or to be subcontractors to larger grants at other universities noncompetitive. ATU needs to have some flexibility in the indirect cost policy. Need to include the Finance Committee in this discussion. The VPAA can waive the indirect costs on a case by case basis.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Bishop suggested that Senate meetings be recorded. Senators did not have objections as long as recordings were not broadcast. Dr. Eshelman mentioned he had inquired about the equality of department travel funds and discovered that his department was funded equitably. He suggested that Senators before bringing matters before the Senate investigate on their own and that mentioning they are a member of the Faculty Senate can open doors more easily. Dr. Davis mentioned a rumor that a student transferred 120 credit hours to ATU and graduated without having taken a single ATU course. Other Senators mentioned the 30 hour rule which is usually enforced that students must complete their last 30 hours at ATU in order to graduate.

Thomas Pennington, campus lawyer, arrived to comment on and answer questions about the new external employment policy adopted by the board. Almost any source of income that is not coming from ATU must be reported to the appropriate VP or Athletic Director. Pat Chronister noted that his policy will be contained in a new faculty handbook update that should be going out the next day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 AND  
 INFORMATION  
 ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:45. Dr. Schwehm made the motion. Dr. Lockyer seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnette Moody".

Johnette Moody, D.B.A., President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen R. Bishop".

Glen R. Bishop, Ph.D., Secretary