

**Minutes of  
THE FACULTY SENATE OF  
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

**This meeting of the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, in Rothwell 456 and on Webex. The following members were present:**

Mr. Stan Apple  
Dr. Michael Bradley  
Dr. John Clements  
Dr. Rene Couture  
Dr. Melissa Darnell  
Dr. Peter Dykema  
Ms. Jasmine Greer Dr.  
Jacob Grosskopf Dr.  
Newt Hilliard Dr.  
Virginia Jones Dr.  
Carey Ellis Laffoon  
Dr. Asim Shrestha

Ms. Tara Malone  
Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman  
Dr. Tom Nupp  
Dr. Azin Sanjari Pirmahaleh  
Dr. Michael Rogers  
Dr. Kuldeep Singh  
Dr. Bethany Swindell  
Dr. Arwen Taylor  
Ms. Sherry Tinerella  
Dr. Ellen Treadway  
Dr. Erica Wondolowski  
Ms. Susan West

Also present: Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe (VPAA); Ms. Tammy Weaver (Registrar); Mr. Jason Geiken (Foundation)

**I. Call to Order:** Dr. Hilliard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**A. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the August 22 meeting from Dr. Michael Bradley, seconded by Dr. Bethany Swindell. Motion carried.

**II. Motion to suspend normal schedule to hear from our guest speaker from Dr. Hillard, seconded by Dr. Laffoon. Motion carried.**

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Jason Geiken, VP for Advancement, invited faculty and staff to participate in the Arkansas Tech Family Campaign:  
<https://www.atualumni.com/s/978/bp18/interior-left.aspx?sid=978&gid=1&pgid=1788>.

### III. Committee Updates

#### A. Standing Committees

1. Budget Advisory Committee (Nupp): No report.
2. General Education Committee (Tinerella): Christine Austin would like to speak to Faculty Senate about artifact collection for General Education assessments.
3. Institutional Aid Committee (Taylor): No report.
4. Shared Governance Committee (Hilliard): A discussion is ongoing with Dr. Furst-Bowe to reform this committee.
5. Campus Space and Utilization Committee (Singh): There is concern over accessibility parking due to construction. On east side of cafeteria, six spots are designated for accessible parking.
6. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee (Hilliard): No report.
7. Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee (Swindell): No report.
8. Professional Development Committee (Dykema): The committee has been asked to release application information for 2023-2024.
9. Technology Prioritization and Impact Committee (Apple): No report.
10. Emergency Management and Safety Committee (Laffoon): The committee is meeting on the eclipse event. Emergency active shooter training will take place this fall.

#### B. Ad Hoc & Senate Committees

1. Faculty Workload Committee (Darnell): No report.
2. Insurance Benefit Committee: Dr. Clements was elected chair.
3. Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (Wondolowski): No report.
4. Exploratory Committee on Promotion and Tenure Salary Increases (Hilliard): Work was conducted in 2022-2023 and will continue in 2023-2024 with the goal finishing the second half of this year.
5. Prior Learning Assessment (Mikles-Schluterman): No report.
6. Micro-Credentials (Bradley): The committee is meeting this fall.
7. Rules Committee (Clements): A new committee formed this year with Dr. John Clements Serving as chair.
8. Recruitment and Retention (Laffoon): No report.

#### C. New Business

##### A. Curriculum Updates with Ms. Tammy Weaver: Motion to consider curricular changes in groups by college from Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Aziz. Motion carried.

1. College of Education and Health: Motion to approve curricular changes from Dr. Dykema, seconded by Dr. Bradley. Motion carried.
2. College of Arts and Humanities: Motion to approve curricular changes from Dr. Mikles-Schluterman, seconded by Ms. Tinerella. Motion carried.

Discussion: Dr. Dykema expressed concern over the accurate count of double majors as programs are eliminated in the future. Dr. Clements echoed this concern, as it exists in music. Dr. Rogers offered an example from sociology and criminal justice. Ms. Weaver recommended asking Wyatt Watson to run a priority report for up to six priorities to explore the issue in more depth.

3. College of Business and Economic Development: Motion to approve curricular changes by Dr. Laffoon, seconded by Dr. Couture. Motion carried.
4. College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: Motion to approve curricular changes by Dr. Dykema, seconded by Dr. Taylor. Motion carried.
5. College of Education and Health: Motion to approve Certificates of Proficiency from Dr. Swindell, seconded by Dr. Clements. Motion carried.

#### **B. VPAA Update (Dr. Furst-Bowe)**

1. Dr. Bowen's contract was terminated during a special meeting of the ATU Board of Trustees on September 9. She will complete a 60-day transition to assist Acting Interim President Dr. Russell Jones. A search will be conducted in the future at a date to be determined.
2. Enrollment figures were reported and are attached to these minutes. Dr. Furst-Bowe thanked the university community for their efforts to enroll students. Laury Fiorello, vice president of administration and Finance Administration, is figuring cost deficit based on enrollment figures as of this date. Brittany Daubenheyer is the new assistant vice president for enrollment management.
3. Friday, September 15 is the deadline for special projects proposals with Dr. Myers.
4. Dr. Rob Stevens gave a Spectrum Save Zone training that Dr. Furst-Bowe recommended to all faculty. The next date for the training is October 23 in Doc Bryan.

#### **C. Program Elimination/Reduction in Force Policy**

Dr. Hilliard reported that an extension has been granted by Dr. Furst-Bowe to be able to discuss the policy with stakeholder groups. A dedicated email address will be created to enable emails to be sent directly to the writing committee. The open forum on September 6 went well, and the writing group will work to incorporate feedback into the next draft so it can be vetted by groups before going to the ATU Board of Trustees in December 2023. Dr. Hilliard acknowledged that many people are worried, but without a policy in place, he cautioned that faculty are in jeopardy, especially in the case of a change in leadership. He stressed that we need guidelines in place and asked Faculty Senate and faculty to please give feedback to the writing committee of Drs. Bright, Hilliard, Gordon, and Helms.

### **IV. Old Business**

- A. Faculty Satisfaction Survey:** Dr. Hilliard recommend that Faculty Senate revisit the survey considering new leadership to give constructive feedback moving forward.

### **V. Open Forum**

- A. Dr. Wondolowski asked about the University Professional Development Grant program. Dr. Dykema, member of the committee, gave an update on the proposal process. Dr. Furst-Bowe reported that the fund is doubled from last year.
- B. Dr. Jones inquired about the early warning system. Dr. Laffoon reported that the early warning system is on the agenda for the next meeting of the Recruiting Committee. Dr. Furst-Bowe reported that the early warning system has moved to Student Affairs.
- C. Dr. Darnell discussed challenges experienced by nursing students because of OIS's limited technical assistance hours starting in June 2023. She asked if OIS could explain the rationale for this change at a future meeting.

## **VI. Announcements and Information Items**

- A. Dr. Wondolowski invited faculty to attend the October 20 Adjunct Conference at ATU.
- B. Dr. Laffoon invited faculty to attend professional development on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee process on September 14 in Witherspoon and via Webex.
- C. Dr. Rogers invited faculty, staff, and students to the annual Constitution Day celebration and reading of the Constitution before the football game on September 16.

**VII. Adjournment:** Dr. Clements moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Laffoon. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Newt Hilliard

Dr. Newt Hilliard, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Treadway".

Dr. Ellen Treadway, Secretary

Prepared on Sep 8, 2023

Campus	Student Type	Final Enrollment in Fall 2022	Current Enrollment in Fall 2023	Current Enrollment as a Percent of Fall 2022 Final Enrollment
Rsvl.	Entering Freshman	1,117	1,123	100.5%
	Transfer-UG	241	253	105.0%
	Concurrent	1,935	1,853	95.8%
Ozark	Entering Freshman	325	342	105.2%
	Transfer-UG	57	84	147.4%
	Concurrent	658	860	130.7%

Rsvl.	UG Total (less concurrent)	5,053	4,872	96.4%
	GR Total	723	683	94.5%
	Total (less concurrent)	5,776	5,555	96.2%
	Total (with concurrent)	7,711	7,408	96.1%
Ozark	Total (less concurrent)	1,076	1,154	107.2%
	Total (with concurrent)	1,734	2,014	116.1%

University	UG Total	6,129	6,026	98.3%
	GR Total	723	683	94.5%
	Concurrent Total	2,593	2,713	104.6%
	Overall Total	9,445	9,422	99.8%

Early Registration	Mar 1-Apr 26	Mar 1-Apr 25
Classes Begin	Aug 17	Aug 23
Last Day to Register	Aug 23	Aug 29
Census Date	Aug 31	Sep 7

Prepared on Sep 8, 2023

		Applicants								Admits								Enrolled							
		Fall of:								Fall of:								Fall of:							
		2020		2021		2022		2023		2020		2021		2022		2023		2020		2021		2022		2023	
Campus	Student Type	N	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change	
Rsvl.	Entering Freshman	8,803	8,755	-0.5%	7,345	-16.1%	6,929	-5.7%	6,121	5,392	-11.9%	4,663	-13.5%	3,973	-14.8%	1,419	1,098	-22.6%	1,123	2.3%	1,123	0.0%			
	Transfer-UG	720	702	-2.5%	756	7.7%	669	-11.5%	370	406	9.7%	467	15.0%	379	-18.8%	256	278	8.6%	281	1.1%	253	-10.0%			
	Concurrent	2,068	1,865	-9.8%	1,915	2.7%	1,962	2.5%	1,794	1,568	-12.6%	1,680	7.1%	1,609	-4.2%	1,933	1,766	-8.6%	1,927	9.1%	1,853	-3.8%			
Ozark	Entering Freshman	1,012	768	-24.1%	909	18.4%	1,022	12.4%	876	567	-35.3%	691	21.9%	827	19.7%	341	293	-14.1%	326	11.3%	342	4.9%			
	Transfer-UG	195	201	3.1%	202	0.5%	159	-21.3%	182	106	-41.8%	117	10.4%	107	-8.5%	91	86	-5.5%	74	-14.0%	84	13.5%			
	Concurrent	744	774	4.0%	627	-19.0%	706	12.6%	648	748	15.4%	600	-19.8%	665	10.8%	820	670	-18.3%	660	-1.5%	860	30.3%			
Rsvl.	UG Total (less concurrent)	10,140	10,091	-0.5%	8,723	-13.6%	8,253	-5.4%	6,914	6,205	-10.3%	5,533	-10.8%	4,744	-14.3%	6,247	5,421	-13.2%	5,060	-6.7%	4,872	-3.7%			
	GR Total	406	351	-13.5%	342	-2.6%	325	-5.0%	268	284	6.0%	324	14.1%	320	-1.2%	729	739	1.4%	724	-2.0%	683	-5.7%			
	Total (less concurrent)	10,546	10,442	-1.0%	9,065	-13.2%	8,578	-5.4%	7,182	6,489	-9.6%	5,857	-9.7%	5,064	-13.5%	6,976	6,160	-11.7%	5,784	-6.1%	5,555	-4.0%			
Ozark	Total (with concurrent)	12,614	12,307	-2.4%	10,980	-10.8%	10,540	-4.0%	8,976	8,057	-10.2%	7,537	-6.5%	6,673	-11.5%	8,909	7,926	-11.0%	7,711	-2.7%	7,408	-3.9%			
	Total (less concurrent)	1,410	1,217	-13.7%	1,346	10.6%	1,406	4.5%	1,232	891	-27.7%	1,032	15.8%	1,135	10.0%	1,181	1,076	-8.9%	1,077	0.1%	1,154	7.1%			
	Total (with concurrent)	2,154	1,991	-7.6%	1,973	-0.9%	2,112	7.0%	1,880	1,639	-12.8%	1,632	-0.4%	1,800	10.3%	2,001	1,746	-12.7%	1,737	-0.5%	2,014	15.9%			
University	UG Total	11,550	11,308	-2.1%	10,069	-11.0%	9,659	-4.1%	8,146	7,096	-12.9%	6,565	-7.5%	5,879	-10.4%	7,428	6,497	-12.5%	6,137	-5.5%	6,026	-1.8%			
	GR Total	406	351	-13.5%	342	-2.6%	325	-5.0%	268	284	6.0%	324	14.1%	320	-1.2%	729	739	1.4%	724	-2.0%	683	-5.7%			
	Concurrent Total	2,812	2,639	-6.2%	2,542	-3.7%	2,668	5.0%	2,442	2,316	-5.2%	2,280	-1.6%	2,274	-0.3%	2,753	2,436	-11.5%	2,587	6.2%	2,713	4.9%			
	Overall Total	14,768	14,298	-3.2%	12,953	-9.4%	12,652	-2.3%	10,856	9,696	-10.7%	9,169	-5.4%	8,473	-7.6%	10,910	9,672	-11.3%	9,448	-2.3%	9,422	-0.3%			

Prepared on Sep 8, 2023

Campus      Student Type		Applicants Fall of:				Admits Fall of:				Enrolled Fall of:				Final Admits Fall of:			Final Enrollment Fall of:		
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rsvl.	Entering Freshman	8,803	8,755	7,345	6,929	6,121	5,392	4,663	3,973	1,419	1,098	1,123	1,123	6,122	5,393	4,665	1,412	1,092	1,117
	Transfer-UG	720	702	756	669	370	406	467	379	256	278	281	253	376	407	467	191	205	241
	Concurrent	2,068	1,865	1,915	1,962	1,794	1,568	1,680	1,609	1,933	1,766	1,927	1,853	1,803	1,577	1,703	1,938	1,770	1,935
Ozark	Entering Freshman	1,012	768	909	1,022	876	567	691	827	341	293	326	342	876	569	691	326	287	325
	Transfer-UG	195	201	202	159	182	106	117	107	91	86	74	84	182	106	118	56	48	57
	Concurrent	744	774	627	706	648	748	600	665	820	670	660	860	686	767	609	771	638	658
Rsvl.	UG Total (less concurrent)	10,140	10,091	8,723	8,253	6,914	6,205	5,533	4,744	6,247	5,421	5,060	4,872	6,925	6,208	5,535	6,239	5,422	5,053
	GR Total	406	351	342	325	268	284	324	320	729	739	724	683	267	283	324	719	739	723
	Total (less concurrent)	10,546	10,442	9,065	8,578	7,182	6,489	5,857	5,064	6,976	6,160	5,784	5,555	7,192	6,491	5,859	6,958	6,161	5,776
Ozark	Total (with concurrent)	12,614	12,307	10,980	10,540	8,976	8,057	7,537	6,673	8,909	7,926	7,711	7,408	8,995	8,068	7,562	8,896	7,931	7,711
	Total (less concurrent)	1,410	1,217	1,346	1,406	1,232	891	1,032	1,135	1,181	1,076	1,077	1,154	1,237	893	1,034	1,162	1,071	1,076
	Total (with concurrent)	2,154	1,991	1,973	2,112	1,880	1,639	1,632	1,800	2,001	1,746	1,737	2,014	1,923	1,660	1,643	1,933	1,709	1,734
University	UG Total	11,550	11,308	10,069	9,659	8,146	7,096	6,565	5,879	7,428	6,497	6,137	6,026	8,162	7,101	6,569	7,401	6,493	6,129
	GR Total	406	351	342	325	268	284	324	320	729	739	724	683	267	283	324	719	739	723
	Concurrent Total	2,812	2,639	2,542	2,668	2,442	2,316	2,280	2,274	2,753	2,436	2,587	2,713	2,489	2,344	2,312	2,709	2,408	2,593
	Overall Total	14,768	14,298	12,953	12,652	10,856	9,696	9,169	8,473	10,910	9,672	9,448	9,422	10,918	9,728	9,205	10,829	9,640	9,445

\* The 'Admits' column above includes all admitted students day-over-day at this point in time for each year. For past years, the 'Final Admits' column contains all admitted students for the term regardless of the day.