

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

Rothwell 312

3:00 to 5:00 PM

Officers in attendance: M. Rogers, President; Carl Brucker, President-Elect; Virginia Jones, Secretary:

Senators in attendance: J. Aulgur, A. Black, S. Bhambhwani, C. Capen-Housley, J. Clements, D. Dunnick, P. Dykema, J. Enderlin, S. Esobar, J. Grosskopf, M. Hankins, S. Huss, M. Amjadi Kashani, T. Limeris, T. Malone, S. Meerza, L. Moody, M. Murphy, S. Reed, K. Waid-Jones, E. Treadway, X. Xiao.

Guests: Dr. Santos, VPAA, Ms. Tammy Weaver, Registrar

1. Mike Rogers called the meeting to order and announced a shift in the agenda order.
2. The minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved

VPAA/Provost Santos Update: Dr. Santos shared the following news:

- Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs (AVPAA), search. The call has been issued and the role will (in part) entail a focus on the development and implementation of HLC Quality Initiative, assisting with the implementation of high-impact practices and durable skills as part of the curriculum, and working with other university divisions in the development of career pathways.
- As part of the strategic plan, several faculty members have been tapped to lead the different focus areas. Dr. Tim Carter, Dean of the College of Education will lead strategic plan efforts in the Academic focus area.
- A review of the General Education Goals shows that there is attention needed in the areas of critical thinking and global context. Relatedly, the NSSE results though small show that ATU students need more access to High Impact Practices (which might raise the critical thinking area) and the importance of Study Abroad opportunities to help our students in realizing the global context. Angela Black asked for the NSSSE results to be shared with the senate. Mike Rogers agree that would be upcoming for the October meeting. Sean Huss volunteered to review the NSSE results.
- On the topic of legislative mandate to align general education requirements the ACCESS act, Dr. Santos noted that ATU has forwarded a 31-hour general education curriculum to ADHE.

New Business:

1. Library request to add questions to student evaluations about the library: Approved. The library element will be wrapped into two existing questions.
2. Curriculum Proposals: Approved.

3. Post-Tenure Review (PTR) policy:

Dr. Huss presented the latest iteration noting the importance of clarity in the process (agreement on this while admitting some redundancy of wording requiring editing. The policy has been shared with VPAA Santos, President Jones, and Legal Counsel Walter. Dr. Huss will ask for one more meeting with upper administration before senate votes. As a 2/3 majority of the senate is needed to approve the policy before it goes to the Board of Trustees, a special senate meeting may be needed. The use of the Webex PollBot was forwarded as a viable way to conduct the vote, although that would preclude the opportunity for discussion. Vice-chair, Dr. Brucker noted that there has been ample time for discussion and that we needed to move forward on voting. Dr. Dykema moved that within 10 days or two weeks (after the final meeting with upper administration) a Webex vote be taken. Dr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed by the senate.

ADDENDUM: On October 1, 2025 the Faculty Senate voted via the WebEx Pollbot to approve the PTR policy. The results were: 23 yeas, 1 abstention, and 0 nays. This vote exceeds the 3/4ths senate requirement for making changes to the ATU Faculty Handbook. Additionally, let it be noted that Senate Chair, Dr. Mike Rogers posted the following statement on WebEx:

I am happy to report the ATU Faculty Senate has met the tight deadline for this policy, THANK YOU Sean Huss and others for working over the summer and into the start of the semester to get this done.

Thank you, our administrative leadership, for your work and collaboration on this policy.

4. Summer Camps Committee Proposal (Dr. Grosskopf). Nothing the support needed for our expanding summer camps offerings, Dr. Grosskopf proposed an ad-hoc committee on summer camps. It was decided that Campus Council, with its diverse make-up is the logical group to handle this issue.
5. Merging Course Evaluation Proposal (Dr. Bhambwani). When a course is cross-listed, and one of those courses has smaller enrollments, the course evaluation system prevents the smaller course' evaluations from being counted. This is problematic for everyone but especially tenure-track professors who need evaluations for their tenure portfolios. It was proposed that Wyatt Watson be invited to a senate meeting to provide information regarding the inner-workings of the evaluation program and how the cross-listed course conundrum can be solved.
6. Committee Updates: While most of the 14 committee representatives had no reports, there were three:
 - Jeff Aulgur noted that there will be an October report for both General Education and Graduate Council.
 - Matt Hankins announced that the Professional Development Committee has released its 2025-2026 application.
 - Carl Brucker reported that the Academic Council heard from Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman regarding the big grant. It was suggested that Dr. Schluterman be invited to speak to the senate about the opportunities available. Dr. Rogers will invite her for the November meeting.
7. Faculty of the Month Award:

The summer recipient (and first winner of this new award) is Dr. Jacob Grosskopf, for his role as Director of Arkansas Governor's School. There were 16 nominees.

Dr. Grosskopf garnered two letters of nomination. He was presented with a certificate and a small engraved acrylic star. Dr. Rogers read, into the record, selected sections of both nominating letters. (See additional page for Dr. Roger's commentary).

Additionally, Dr. Rogers thanked the members of this year's selection committee for their help in launching this new, monthly, award:

Angela Black, Chair
Dr. Sidd Bhamnhwani
Dr. Jennifer Enderlin
Kris Waid-Jones, MFA
Dr. Xinli Xiao

Old Business: None this session.

Open Forum:

Distinguished Professor Proposal: Dr. Huss noted that we need to revisit the previously approved policy due to concerns expressed by the Executive Committee. This item (and Dr. Huss) will be added to the Old Business portion of the October 2025 agenda.

Announcements or Informational Items:

- Football kicks off this Thursday, September 11, 2025 (Dr. Santos)
- Constitution Day is September 27. (Dr. Rogers)
- Brass in the Clouds, September 20, Mt. Nebo (Dr. Reed)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Dr. Mike Roger's Recognition of the Faculty of the Month Award:

Dr. Jacob Grosskopf

Dr. Jacob Grosskopf, the inaugural recipient of the Faculty of the Month award garnered two nominations for his work as Director for the 2025 Arkansas Governor's School. Here's how his stellar work was described by those two nominees:

Dr. Patrick Hagge, who has taught at AGS for seven summers, commended Jacob for his "amazing" organization writing that, In, part, that "every meeting, every calendar, seemingly every hour was prepared, so that faculty simply had to show up and do the teaching that we do best."

Jacob was equally attentive to the student side of the equation in terms of organization. According to Dr. Hagge. "This year, I taught a quarter of all AGS students in some capacity, and I heard nothing but praise for the smoothness of the program. When they talked about the exciting afternoon activities or the interesting Saturday off-campus events, I would think to myself "you all have it so easy!"

Dr. Peter Dykema, a former AGS director, noted that the new 2025-2027 AGS cycle moved from two co-directors to a single director. Moreover, as that single new director, Dr. Grosskopf found himself

recruiting a an AGS Res Life coordinator, and then they worked together to train the R.A.'s so that the 365 students had a positive, supportive, and safe experience as they lived and learned on the ATU campus.

Additionally, Dr. Grosskopf did what Arkansas Tech does best with any student: He reached out and engaged with the talented high-schoolers who called ATU their home for 28 days. Here's a sample of what he did: He counseled homesick students, and worked with worried parents. He spent time "reallocating student schedules on a whim," and showing up at every event possible. And he did this, while navigating the new father experience.

Congratulations, Dr. Grosskopf.