

Minutes of
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The organizational meeting of the 2016-17 Faculty Senate was held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 in the Williamson Dining Room. The following members were present:

Dr. Molly Brant	Dr. Michael Rogers
Dr. Jon Clements	Dr. Jeremy Schwehm
Dr. Melissa Darnell	Dr. Monty Smith
Dr. Marcel Finan	Dr. V. Carole Smith
Mr. Ken Futterer	Dr. James Stobaugh
Dr. Debra Hunter	Dr. Bruce Tedford
Dr. Sean Huss	Dr. Jack Tucci
Dr. Shelia Jackson	Dr. Susan Underwood
Dr. Chris Kellner	Dr. James Walton
Dr. Johnette Moody	Dr. Dana Ward
Dr. Jason Patton	

Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Mr. Wesley Duke and Ms. Pat Chronister were visitors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Huss called the meeting to order. He stated Dr. Bowen was unable to attend, but welcomed Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and invited him to address the Senate.

REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Abdelrahman expressed his excitement to be at Arkansas Tech University and invited the faculty to share ideas with him. He reminded the senators that the strategic plan was only a plan until action was applied to it, and emphasized that student success largely lies with the faculty. Dr. Abdelrahman reported he had asked a group of faculty to attend an AAUP conference on shared governance, and indicated his commitment to shared governance and academic freedom. He also noted the importance of adjunct faculty and the need to provide support and professional development for them. He thanked the Senate for their invitation.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ADDRESS BY CHAIR

President Huss reported he, Dr. Jason Patton, Dr. Jeff Woods, and Dr. Jason Warnick would be attending the AAUP conference on shared governance, and intended to return with ideas and tools which could be used to change the culture at Tech. He stated shared governance includes faculty participation in administrative decisions, and noted the promotion and tenure policy revision would necessitate extensive discussion among the senators.

President Huss stated he would like to establish an executive committee within the Senate, to prevent the Faculty Senate President from being the primary administrator. He also mentioned the Senate would discuss service excellence in the coming year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Huss called for a motion in regard to the minutes of April 12, 2016.

Motion by Dr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Futterer, to approve the minutes as distributed.
Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President Huss asked for nominations or volunteers for the position of Faculty Senate Secretary. Dr. Walton volunteered to serve as Secretary.

Motion by Dr. Moody, seconded by Dr. Jackson, that nominations cease and Dr. Walton be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Huss asked for nominations or volunteers for the position of Faculty Senate Vice Chair, who will be the chair-elect and receive compensation or course release for one semester for 2016-17. Mr. Futterer and Dr. Moody nominated Dr. Clements.

Motion by Dr. Kellner, seconded by Dr. Stobaugh, that nominations cease and Dr. Clements be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Finan stated if a faculty member wants to enroll in a course at Tech, he or she has to provide high school grades. Dr. Clements reported that was not his experience, and he had not provided high school grades prior to taking a course.

Dr. Rogers shared a list of topics brought to him by colleagues for discussion in the Senate:

1. Provide opportunity for faculty to evaluate the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President, similar to the evaluation of the Deans and Department Heads.
2. Reassess minimum enrollment requirement for undergraduate courses (ten students).
 - a. Discussion included questions as to how the minimum was established and whether the minimum should apply to online sections. It was noted cost effectiveness played a significant role in enrollment minimums, regardless of course delivery. Dr. Abdelrahman added he considers requests for low enrollment courses individually, and wants to ensure students are adequately served, especially upperclassmen nearing graduation and students in new programs which are building enrollment and viability. He expressed the need to avoid running sections with low enrollment while simultaneously requesting paid overloads.
3. Reconsider the date faculty return in the fall and the provided professional development activities.
 - a. Discussion included the rationale for faculty to return to campus one week prior to classes and the content of the professional development session, with a preference indicated for more discipline specific topics.Dr. Abdelrahman noted the faculty are asked to return to campus early in part to assist with student registration and advising within the departments.

Dr. Finan questioned the need for non-tenure track instructors to complete a portfolio. President Huss indicated that would be addressed in the promotion and tenure revisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

President Huss announced the following standing committee appointments:

1. Budget Advisory Committee: Dr. Sean Huss as Senate Chair (Outgoing Chair, Mr. Ken Futterer, may also attend)
2. Campus Space and Utilization Committee: Dr. Michael Rogers
3. Equity and Diversity Committee: Dr. Sarah Stein, Dr. Alaric Williams, and Dr. Alejandra Carballo
4. Faculty Salary, Benefits, and Awards: Dr. Jason Patton
5. General Education Committee: Dr. David Ward
6. Institutional Aid Committee: Dr. Jon Clements
7. Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee: Dr. Brendan Toner
8. Professional Development Committee: Ms. Susan Self
9. Technology Prioritization Committee: Dr. Debra Hunter
10. Promotion and Tenure Committee: Dr. Jon Clements

Dr. Stobaugh reported Because We Can would be arranging for food trucks to be parked at the old Taco Villa location during each home football game. Dr. Huss added the fee paid by each food truck would go into the food recovery program, which recovered 4.6 tons of food last semester.

Dr. Rogers stated Constitution Day would be on Saturday, September 17 and there would be campus activities on Friday, September 16 including a public reading of the constitution.

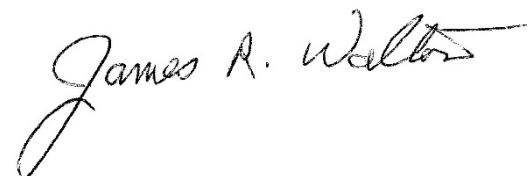
Dr. Huss asked everyone to complete the survey that would be sent by the Office of Information Systems.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Huss, Ph.D., President



James Walton, Ph.D., Secretary