

## 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, November 14, 2023, in Rothwell 456 and via Webex. The following members were present:

Mr. Stan Apple	Ms. Tara Malone
Dr. Michael Bradley	Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman
Dr. John Clements	Dr. Tom Nupp
Dr. Rene Couture	Dr. Michael Rogers
Dr. Melissa Darnell	Dr. Kuldeep Singh
Dr. Peter Dykema	Dr. Bethany Swindell
Ms. Jasmine Greer	Ms. Sherry Tinerella
Dr. Jacob Grosskopf	Dr. Ellen Treadway
Dr. Newt Hilliard	Dr. Erica Wondolowski
Dr. Virginia Jones	Ms. Susan West
Dr. Carey Ellis Laffoon	Dr. Azin Sanjari Pirmahaleh

Also present: Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe (VPAA); Dr. Jeanine Myers (Associate VPAA); Ms. Tammy Weaver (Registrar); Dr. Gregory Michna (General Education Committee); Ms. Brittny Daubenheyer (VP for Enrollment Management); Dr. Valerie Breashers (Director of Admissions)

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Newt Hilliard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Sept Minutes:** Motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Nupp. Motion carried.
3. **Change in order of business to discuss the draft reduction in force policy:** Motion by Dr. Clements, seconded by Dr. Mikles-Schluterman. Motion carried. Dr. Hilliard facilitated a discussion of the Faculty Elimination Policy and Procedures Policy draft document and invited senators to vote on the policy using a paper ballot. Faculty Senate voted to disapprove the draft policy. Two thirds of the vote were needed to send the policy to the ATU Board of Trustees. A new writing group will meet to revise and to resubmit the policy for consideration in early 2024. Dr. Hilliard asked senators to request that their constituents email comments to [faculty senate@atu.edu](mailto:faculty senate@atu.edu). Questions, comments, and concerns will be forwarded to the writing team.
4. **Committee Updates**
  - a. **Standing Committees**
    - i. Budget Advisory Committee: Dr. Tom Nupp: This current year's enrollment met projection but is lower than last year. Ms. Fiorello will discuss differential tuition at the next meeting.
    - ii. General Education Committee: Ms. Sherry Tinerella: The attached General Education curriculum course proposal form was presented by Dr. Gregory Michna and approved by Faculty Senate. Motion to approve course proposal form by Ms. Tinerella, seconded by Dr. Laffoon. Motion carried.
    - iii. Institutional Aid Committee: Dr. Arwen Taylor: No update
    - iv. Shared Governance Committee: Dr. Newt Hilliard: No update
    - v. Campus Space and Utilization Committee: Dr. Kuldeep Singh: No update
    - vi. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee: Dr. Newt Hilliard: No update
    - vii. Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee: Dr. Bethany Swindell: No update

- viii. Professional Development Committee: Dr. Peter Dykema: Fall grants totaling \$30,000 were awarded to all 27 applications submitted. Three proposals were submitted from the College of Education and Health, four from the College of STEM, eight from the College of Business and Economic Development, and 12 from the College of Arts and Humanities.
- ix. Technology Prioritization and Impact Committee: Dr. Stan Apple: No update
- x. Emergency Management and Safety Committee: Dr. Carey Ellis Laffoon and Ms. Susan West: Information has been published online with university-approved plans for the 2024 solar eclipse: <https://www.atu.edu/emergencymanagement/eclipse.php>. Faculty are encouraged to read this information and plan accordingly, as the campus plans to close on Friday at noon and to move classes online on Monday and Tuesday of the week of the eclipse.

**b. Ad Hoc and Senate Committees**

- i. AI Policy Committee: Dr. Arwen Taylor and Dr. Jeanine Myers: An Artificial Intelligence policy statement will be proposed and added to A. Types of Academic Integrity Violations of the ATU Student Handbook.
- ii. Faculty Workload Committee: Dr. Melissa Darnell and Dr. Jeanine Myers: The committee will work with the VPAA office during the spring semester to create a policy addressing faculty overloads.
- iii. Insurance Benefits Committee: Dr. Jon Clements: Faculty and staff are enrolled for the new calendar year.
- iv. Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee: Dr. Erica Wondolowski: No report
- v. Exploratory Committee on P&T Salary Increases: Dr. Newt Hilliard: No update
- vi. Prior Learning Assessment Committee: Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman: Applications to create PLAs have been awarded, and the PLA Committee will meet again in November.
- vii. Micro-Credentials Committee: Dr. Michael Bradley: This committee meets regularly.
- viii. Rules Committee: Dr. Peter Dykema: No update
- ix. Recruitment and Retention Committee: Dr. Carey Ellis Laffoon and Dr. Jeanine Myers: The committee, consisting of representatives from administration, each college, and student government, meets monthly.

**5. New Business**

- a. VPAA Update: Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe: Forty-five candidates applied for VPAA and Provost position, and 12 were interviewed via Webex. Finalists for the position will be invited to campus in December. In addition, Dr. Cole has accepted the dean position in the College Business and Economic Development, and Dr. Carter has accepted the dean position in the College Education and Health. The two other dean searches-College of STEM and Graduate Dean-will wrap up on November 17. Also of interest are campus activities scheduled daily to celebrate International Education Week.
- b. Curriculum Committee: Ms. Tammy Weaver: The following curriculum changes were presented and approved by the senate. **Motion to approve by Dr. Clements, seconded by Dr. Swindell. Motion carried.**
  - College of Arts and Humanities – Department of English & World Languages
    - 1. Delete the Curriculum in World Languages – Spanish;
  - College of Arts and Humanities – Department of History & Political Science
    - 1. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Political Science to Master of Science in Emergency Management & Homeland Security;
  - College of Education and Health – Department of Emergency Management, Professional Studies, & Student Affairs Administration
    - 1. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Science to Master of Arts in Organizational Development and Learning; and

2. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Professional Studies Interdisciplinary Studies Option to Master of Arts in Organizational Development and Learning.

c. Scholarship Changes: Ms. Brittany Daubenheyer: The Executive Committee is considering several scenarios for changing the way in which Freshman Academic Scholarships are awarded. Research on different models shows that ATU's no-strings attached academic scholarships provide students and families with a clearer, simpler route to academic scholarships that are more beneficial to students than the last dollar scholarship model. ATU will not implement the last dollar scholarship model but will work to communicate to students and families the benefits of no-strings attached academic scholarships.

**6. Old Business:** None

**7. Open Forum**

a. The redesigned ATU website has been launched.

b. Senators were reminded that ATU Board of Trustees meetings are open to all members of the university community.

c. Ms. Tammy Weaver announced that a new Banner update will be released later this semester, which should make registration and advising easier for advisors and students. Professional development to learn how to use the new Tech on Track program in Banner 9 in OneTech will be offered online and on demand through the Center for Faculty Life.

d. Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of continuing to work on the proposed Faculty Elimination Policy and Procedures. A request for writing group volunteers from Faculty Senate, along with representatives from each college, will be sent following the meeting. **Motion to form a writing group by Dr. Dykema, seconded by Dr. Nupp. Motion carried.**

**8. Announcements and Information Items:** None

**9. Adjournment:** **Motion to adjourn by Dr. Clements at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Dr. Couture. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Newt Hilliard*

Dr. Newt Hilliard, Chair

*Ellen Treadway*

Dr. Ellen Treadway, Secretary

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023/  
FACULTY SENATE OCTOBER 10, 2023-APPROVED**

**College of Arts & Humanities – Department of Behavioral Sciences**

1. Add SOC 3123: Sociology of Culture, to the course descriptions;
2. Add SOC 3141: Careers in Sociology, to the course descriptions;
3. Add SOC 3143: Qualitative Research Methods, to the course descriptions;
4. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice to Master of Science in Student Affairs Administration;
5. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Psychology to Master of Science in Student Affairs Administration; and
6. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Sociology to Master of Science in Student Affairs Administration.

**College of Arts & Humanities – Department of English and World Languages**

1. Modify the Bachelor of Arts in World Languages – Spanish

**College of Business & Economics – School of Business**

1. Modify the Curriculum in Health and Information Management.

**College of Education & Health – Department of Emergency Management, Professional Studies, & Student Affairs Administration**

1. Add OL 3233: Volunteer Leadership and Development;
2. Modify the Curriculum in Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership (all concentrations); and
3. Add the Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Organization Leadership to Master of Arts in Organizational Development Learning.

**College of Education & Health – Department of Kinesiology & Rehabilitation Science**

1. Add RS 3063: Resiliency, Vulnerability, and Crisis, to the course descriptions;
2. Add RS 4243/CNSL 5243: Psychopathology, to the course descriptions;
3. Modify RS 3003 Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability, as follows: change the course number to RS 4003; add the cross listing CNSL 5003; require a grade of C or better; and modify the course description;
4. Modify RS 3123: Ethics and Professional Development, as follows: change the course number to RS 4223; and add the cross listing CNSL 5223;
5. Modify RS 3133: Diversity and Inclusion in Human Service Settings, as follows: change the course number to RS 4233; add the cross listing CNSL 5233; require a grade of C or better; add a prerequisite; and modify the course description;
6. Modify the Curriculum in Rehabilitation Science;
7. Modify the Minor in Additions;
8. Modify the Minor in Child Welfare and Social Services;
9. Modify the Minor in Disability;
10. Modify the Minor in Recreation Services;
11. Modify the Minor in Rehabilitation Science; and
12. Delete the Minor in Aging.

**College of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics – Department of Engineering & Computing Sciences**

1. Add CMPE 4191: Computer Engineering Design Project I, to the course descriptions;
2. Add CMPE 4192: Computer Engineering Design Project II, to the course descriptions;
3. Modify the Curriculum in Computer Engineering;
4. Modify the Curriculum in Information Technology Track 1: Programming, Database, and Web; and
5. Modify the Curriculum in Information Technology Track 2: Network and Security.