

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2025

**Senators in attendance:** (no particular order) M. Rogers (chair-elect), M. Hankins (Secretary), J. Grosskopf, J. Greer, A. Gilbert, C. Brucker, P. Dykema, C. Capen-Housley, J. Clements, T Limperis, D. Murphy, S. Escobar, S. Huss, V. Jones, S. Tinerella, T. Pennington, E. Wondolowski, S. West, S. Apple, C. Austin

**Guests:** A. Santos (P/VPAA), T. Carter (Dean – Education & Health), T. Cole (Dean – Business & Economic Development), S. Daniel, E. White

1. Call to Order (Dr. Rogers)
2. Approval of December 5, 2024 Minutes
  - Motion to approve minutes passes
3. Update on retrenchment of programs: Dr. Adolfo Santos, P/VPAA ATU
  - Three programs are under consideration for removal. Information was presented on each, and is summarized below:
    - Health Information Management (HIM) undergraduate program
      - Points were raised about the high student semester credit hours (SSCH) cost for HIM, which is largely tied to costs associated with accreditation of the program
      - Dean Cole discussed efforts to grow the HIM program, but issues with pipeline with other 2-year schools that hurt it from being a true '2+2' program. Nevertheless, significant work has been undertaken to make HIM a hyflex course major, which could increase enrollment, but it is very hard to project
    - HIM graduate program
      - Presently there are no faculty to teach the graduate courses for this program (previous faculty departed over winter break). Presents issues with 'teach out' plans for students in the program (6)
    - K-12 Literacy Graduate program
      - Program is small, but synergistic with other efforts in education program
      - LEARNS act has hurt this program – hard to recruit people if there is no payoff for getting a masters degree
      - The certificate program in k-12 dyslexia will be kept (was a stackable part of the grad. program)
      - Minimal impact on faculty as the program director supported by this will be departing after this year. All other faculty who support this do this as overload or as adjunct faculty.
  - Several points of discussion were raised:

- How does losing these grad students/programs affect our classification (Tier II vs III) and what is the financial hit if we move from II to III? – Answers to these questions were unclear.
- Questions about procedures including which committees would need to review this before a senate vote, when to start the ADHE paperwork for program termination, how these actions will affect faculty and items related to the retrenchment plan approved by senate last year.
  - T. Weaver provided some guidance on these processes and what's needed with AHDE
  - J. Grosskopf presented a flowchart for how the process should be carried out based on faculty handbook policy changes related to program deletion that were introduced last year.
- Senate will initiate the process to contact relevant committees/other stakeholders (General Education committee, curriculum committee & Grad council) to receive feedback on the proposed program deletions. A senate vote will be held pending receipt of these reports.

Additional Items from VPAA Update:

- Billboard space has been purchased near NWA community college and efforts are underway to focused recruitment efforts there based on analysis of growth statistics in the state.
- There is work on a memorandum of understanding with UACCM to help increase the pipeline of their students transferring here
- There is a concern that some of our online courses are not as ADA compliant as they should be. This is an area that we collectively need to work on.
- Dr Santos plans to send an email to faculty encouraging them to reach out to students who are struggling similar to last semester.
- A student engagement survey is under development. Seeking increased participation in this, more information to come in the future.

4. Discussion of new policies and policy updates

A. Campus Council (Huss)

- Discussed edits to policy in terms of committee size and composition. Meeting frequency and timing was also discussed (5 times per year, at least one week before board meetings)
- Formal vote on this policy will be conducted during March Meeting (would be implemented starting Fall 25)

B. Distinguished Professor (Huss)

- Close to being ready. Has received substantial feedback from full professors group
- Discussed handful of edits related to department heads and process for retired faculty and emeritus status
- A point was raised about abbreviated portfolios (option for faculty who are not seeking promotion). For full professors, who could not previously increase in rank, there might be several who have used the abbreviated form. Then this results in a discrepancy between required teaching component for full professors who use abbreviated portfolios, and then the distinguished policy being 80% based on teaching. Thus full professors should be submitting full portfolios if they want to go for distinguished professor.

- Formal vote on this policy (senate) will be conducted in March meeting.
  - o Will also require full faculty vote
- C. Office hours (Hankins)
  - Have received substantial feedback on this policy
  - Discussed name change to 'Student Support Hours' (suggested by SGA)
  - Discussed adding language for 24-hour contact rule regarding email and other electronic communication
  - Further points were discussed about student surveys and trying to determine preferred modes of contact (in person vs. virtual) and student views on faculty availability
- D. Active committees (Jones)
  - Data on committees has been gathered, but want to see this information integrated into the website so that faculty members will know how often committees meet and what their function is.
  - There is a diversity among committees with some already having this information readily available, while others do not.
  - There is also issue with the web pages for some committees which do not appear to be linked correctly or re-direct to a different page.
  - There was also a discussion of how to improve coordination with SGA for committees which also have student membership.
- E. Other active committee reports
  - i. General Education Committee (Tinerella) – Did not meet in Jan., but on track for assessment goals (#6 & #1) for this semester
  - ii. Institutional Aid Committee (Rogers) – no report (no meeting)
  - iii. Shared Governance Committee (Huss) – already discussed, see item 4A.
  - iv. Campus Space and Utilization Committee: (Jones) – no report (no meeting)
  - v. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee: (Nupp) – no report
  - vi. Institutional Scholarship Appeals Committee (Murphy) – no report
  - vii. Professional Development Committee (Dykema) – email has been sent for spring round of PD grants. Due date is Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - viii. Technology Prioritization and Impact Committee (Apple) – no report
  - ix. Emergency Management and Safety Committee (Escobar) – no report
- F. Ad Hoc & Senate Committees
  - i. Faculty Workload Committee (Huss) – Already discussed, see items under 4.
  - ii. Insurance Benefit Committee (Clements) – Met on Jan. 17. Discussed financial status – university has paid out more than brought in. This usually levels out, but so far happy we opted for upgrade plan which could be more expensive next year. There is also a new campus wellness plan (more relevant to staff), but emails with information for this program have been sent out.
  - iii. Recruitment and Retention (West) – Had Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> workshop. Participants read the 'Agile College' courtesy of Dr. Santos. Many factors faced are out of our control (like birth rates,

etc.), but still more information to be gleaned from reading further.

- iv. Assessment (Murphy and Jones) – no report
- v. Common Hour Committee (Clements) – no report
- vi. Merit Pay Committee (Rogers) – Has met. Working on rewrites at present. Stay tuned for update next meeting.

5. New Business

- i. Strategic planning committee (Aulgur) – Group had a first meeting recently. Dr. Jones led the discussion. Meetings will be every other week through June, and the process will move quickly. Working on logistics for getting information out to faculty, staff, etc. that will be affected. Looking at changes and how they would align with goals and also potential roadblocks.
  - Need for expedited communication across campus. Plan to send surveys out on items under discussion, but will need responses within 7 days to keep pace with the 2week meeting schedule. Dr. Huss volunteered to assist with this.
- ii. Faculty volunteer to serve on Faculty Staff Tuition Benefit Policy Committee
  - a. Seeking volunteers to serve – S. West has volunteered for this role

6. Old Business – None

7. Open Forum

- Treegate – Several on senate would like to know more about tree removal plans. No new information.
- Website issues – on page with mission statement, LHS banner has a link called ‘Ghosts’ which is a page that talks about haunted places at ATU. Maybe not the best marketing...
- Graduation – request was made to have chairs seated further apart so faculty are not sitting so close together.

8. Announcements and Information Items

- Choir concert tonight
- Upcoming international film festival hosted by Library (see flyers)

9. Adjournment