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Faculty Senate Minutes

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3-31-2017

March 31, 2017 Approved Minutes

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Abstract

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SWOSU Faculty Senate

March 31, 2017 Approved Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** Faculty Senate President Tom McNamara called the March meeting of the SWOSU Faculty Senate to Order at 2:03 p.m. in HEC 201.
- II. **Establishment of a Quorum:** Brad Fitzgerald for Ric Baugher, Guy Biyogmam, Tammy Blatnick, Krista Brooks, Dayna Coker via ITV, Tommye Davis via ITV, Stacey DiPaolo, Jerry Dunn, Jared Edwards, Robin Griffeath, Ryan Haggard, Rita Hays, LeaAnne Hume, Sunu Kodumthara, Doug Linder, Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Bo Pagliasotti, Eric Paul, Cynthia Pena, Linda Pye, Carlos Baldo for Hank Ramsey, Ann Russell, Hardeep Saluja, Lisa Schroeder, Amanda Smith, Karen Sweeney, Wayne Trail, Muatasem Ubeidat, Edna Patatanian for Cheri Walker via ITV, and Anne Pate for Jessica Young.
- III. **Certification of Substitutes:** Edna Patatanian will serve in place of Cheri Walker. Carlos Baldo will attend instead of Hank Ramsey. Anne Pate will take the seat of Jessica Young.
- IV. **Presentation of Visitors: None**
- V. **Approval of Minutes:** February 24th minutes were approved by voice vote.
- VI. **Announcements:**
 - A. President Tom McNamara
 1. SWOSU has approximately \$350K to absorb any further revenue failures during the current fiscal year.
 2. Next fiscal year's budget could include 14.5% cuts to state agencies if revenue measures are not passed. The budget process will likely continue until the end of this legislative session.
 3. There is a House bill that would allow faculty hired after 2018 to opt out of OTRS in favor of a 401K.
 4. Faculty are reminded to be conscientious about roster verification. These have an impact on students' financial aid.
 5. Faculty are encouraged to take attendance in their courses. This allows for accuracy concerning the last date attended in the cases where students fail or withdraw from a course. These dates can also affect financial aid.
 6. Student Affairs is implementing a "Campus Engagement Plan." This will track which student attend various mandated events like alcohol training and create a co-curricular transcript.
 7. Classes have started in the new English Language Center. As of now, it is mostly spouses of SWOSU students who are enrolled.
 8. NSO Sessions have begun. In this first round, remedial students will have their schedules front-loaded with the appropriate remedial course.
 9. Remedial students who want to participate in My Foundations Lab will to need bear the cost. Last year over 200 students signed up for this, with SWOSU funding them. Only 42 participated. Those who were involved had significantly higher success rates.

10. Refer struggling students to Wendy Yoder for Academic Coaching/College Success.
 11. SWOSU has more faculty retiring than last year. The Faculty Retirement Reception will be held Tuesday, April 18th, from 2-4 pm in the Bulldog Beanery.
 12. Commencement will be held Saturday, May 6th. The goal is to hold the ceremony to two hours.
- B. Secretary/Treasurer Karen Sweeney
1. Roll Sheet—please sign
 2. Treasurer’s Report
 - a) Banc First Account
 - (1) February Balance: \$1,621.18
 - (2) Current Balance: \$1,621.18
 - b) University Account
 - (1) February Balance: \$105.01
 - (2) Current Balance: \$105.01
- C. President-Elect Jerry Dunn: None
- D. Past President Jared Edwards: None
- E. Student Government Representative: None

VII. Reports from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees:

See Appendix A for a report from the nominating committee.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

IX. New Business:

Commencement: Please see Appendix B for points from Dr. James South concerning the question of hosting the ceremony in the PCEC.

Faculty Senate Motion 2017-03-01: Be it resolved that the SWOSU Faculty Senate endorses moving the commencement ceremony into the Pioneer Cellular Event Center.

Motion passed by voice vote with opposition.

Standing Committee Openings: Please see the attached report concerning openings on the University standing committees. Encourage faculty in you departments to apply for membership. In the past, the nominating committee has made a serious effort to ensure that new faculty get the opportunity to serve.

New Senators: According to the my records, the following senators have terms that are expiring: Dr. Lisa Schroeder, Dr. Douglas Linder, Dr. Wayne Trail, Dr. Cynthia Pena, Dr. Scott Long, Dr. Ann Russell, Mr. Bo Pagliasotti, Mr. Ryan Haggard, Dr. Karen Sweeney, and Ms. Tommye Davis.

Please forward the name of your department’s new senator to Dr. Tom McNamara. Include the method used by the department to determine the new senator.

X. Adjournment: 2:32 p.m.

XI. Next Meeting Friday, April 21st at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McNamara, Faculty Senate President

Karen Sweeney, Faculty Senate Secretary

Appendix A

SWOSU Faculty Senate Nominating Committee Report March, 2017

There are twenty-six (26) committee positions elected from the Faculty Senate that are open for the 2017-2018 academic year, offering 26 opportunities for faculty to serve the University. These openings are as follows:

Academic Appeals Committee -- Reviews the procedural fairness of an instructor's grading policy upon the filing of a written student academic appeal. The committee also reviews student requests to change a grade to a withdrawal (W) or grade change requests in the event that the instructor of record is no longer employed by the university.

Five (5) open

Academic Suspension Appeals Council -- Develops policies governing student advisement within the framework of Regents' retention regulations, and serves as an appellate committee on student academic status. The council meets before classes start each semester (fall, spring, and summer) and other meetings are scheduled as needed.

Three (3) open

Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty and Grievance Committee -- Hears appeals of dismissed tenured faculty members when hearings are requested, and hears grievances when filed.

Three (3) open – Must be tenured

Benefits Committee -- Promotes programs that will contribute to the health and wellness of all University employees and their families; studies and reviews all employee benefit programs at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and makes this information available to SWOSU community; gathers faculty and staff input on all University benefit programs; and reviews annually University-sponsored benefits, and the RUSO benefit programs, and make recommendations through proper channels regarding such benefits.

College Specific One (1) open – College of Associate and Applied Programs

Bernhardt Award Selection Committee -- Selects an outstanding faculty member to recognize.

College Specific Three (3) open

College of Arts and Sciences (one open) College of Pharmacy – (one open) College of Associate and Applied Programs (one open) College of Professional and Graduate Studies – Trish Wald

Campus Environmental Committee -- Promotes environmental awareness, resource conservation, and recycling of certain materials.

One (1) open

Excellence in Teaching and Learning Committee - Supports the CETL mission in their commitment to student learning and quality education by engaging faculty in reflective practices promoting innovations in teaching and learning in traditional and online formats. ETLC collaborates with faculty to foster a dialogue about teaching strategies, methods, and policy recommendations which promote student learning and academic quality. ETLC will meet regularly either in person, virtually, or both.

College Specific Four (4) open

College of Arts and Sciences (one open) College of Professional and Graduate Studies (one open) Library (one open) College of Associate and Applied Programs (one open)

Faculty Development Committee -- Encourages excellence in teaching and scholarly activities. This committee will offer programs to enable the faculty to improve personal and professional qualities as educators. Program content will encompass: teaching, research, and new faculty orientation. College Specific Three (3) open

College of Arts and Sciences (one open) College of Professional and Graduate Studies (one open) Library (one open)

Financial Assistance Advisory and Appeals Committee -- Acts as an advisory committee to the student financial assistance officer, hears appeals, and recommends disposition of student grievances related to financial assistance awards.

One (1) open

Intellectual Property Committee -- Disseminates information to the faculty regarding laws and policies regarding copyrights and the use of intellectual property. The Committee monitors general University compliance.

Two (2) open

Respectfully submitted on this day, 31 March 2017

Scott F. Long, Chair Faculty Senate Nominating Committee

Appendix B

Some of the issues:

- Safety – with the stands absolutely packed on the football field, access in/out in the event of an evacuation (for lightning, for example) or a medical emergency would be very difficult. We have been lucky so far, but cannot always count on that. Indoors at the PCEC, we have four exits on the upper level and four on the lower level.
- Convenience – with bathrooms only at the south end of the stadium in PCEC, it becomes a problem, especially for elderly or mobility-impaired attendees. That is improved significantly indoors.
- Comfort – climate control if it is indoors, better sound and sight lines if it is indoors, and more comfortable seating indoors.
- Pageantry and tradition – without question, it is a more impressive spectacle outdoors in the stadium. We will have to make adjustments to attempt to achieve a similar atmosphere indoors.
- Time commitment – faculty will need to attend at the appropriate ceremony. We would alternate years so that no group always went first or last. We will tweak the start times of each ceremony as we gain experience in order to have the shortest day possible for those who will attend both ceremonies, yet still allow ample time for parking lot and event center to clear and refill.

Finally, I appreciate all comments and suggestions regarding commencement. We strive to make it memorable, meaningful, and efficiently run.