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Faculty Senate Minutes

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July 21, 2009 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
July 21, 2009, 3:00 pm, EDU 201
Approved Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The July 21, 2009, meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 PM in Education 201 with FS President Scott Long presiding.
- II. ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The following members were present: Lisa Appeddu, Kathy Brooks (Sayre), Stephen Burgess, Michael Dougherty for Hung-Chieh Chang, Chelsea Church, Jill Jones for Kevin Collins, Tommye Davis (Sayre), David Esjornson, Vicky Gilliland, Terry Goforth, Rita Hays, Todd Helton, Sophia Lee, Cliff MacMahon for Joe London, Jim Long, Scott Long, Warren Moseley, Nancy Williams for Edna Patatanian, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Muatasem Ubeidat, Dennis Widen, and Jonathon Woltz.
- III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:** Michael Dougherty for Hung-Chieh Chang; Jill Jones for Kevin Collins; Cliff MacMahon for Joe London; Nancy Williams for Edna Patatanian.
- IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS:** None.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to **table** the June 2009 minutes until the August 2009 meeting to enable Faculty Senators to review their content. The motion passed by voice vote.
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - A. From FS President Scott Long:**
 - 1. General:**
 - a. Health Insurance Update** – The situation stands as reported in e-mails distributed across campus. As of this time, the only options are HealthChoice and Blue Cross/Blue Shield, that latter being the only company thus far to submit a bid for review. The regional universities are investigating options for additional carriers.
 - b. Budget Update from Randy Beutler** - As we enter the first few days of FY 2010, the financial picture is not yet improving in Oklahoma. Although Higher Education fared better than many state agencies which took cuts, the outlook for the rest of the fiscal year is not apparent. During the first week of FY10, revenues were trailing estimates by about \$400,000. This has prompted State Treasurer Scott Meacham to issue a statement warning that the state could face a revenue shortfall during the fiscal year. Meacham said, “It appears very likely at this point that Fiscal Year 2010 revenues will be less than originally estimated by the tax commission.” That means a revenue shortfall is probable. The Oklahoma Constitution requires the legislature to appropriate no more than 95% of the state’s estimated revenues. If actual revenue collections are less than the amount appropriated, there is a “shortfall” and the Constitution requires that all appropriation allocations be reduced across-the-board by the amount of the shortfall.
 - c. Free Faculty Access to Wellness Center** - Effective July 1, 2009, SWOSU faculty and staff will no longer be charged a fee for access to the Wellness Center. However, a fee will still be assessed for family members not employed by the University. The revised policy is attached at the end of the minutes. It can also be found on the Human Resources website in the Staff Handbook section (Benefit Programs-Wellness Center Policy).

- d. **SWOSU Grant Submissions** - SWOSU is one of a few Oklahoma institutions of higher learning to submit grants for stimulus monies.
 - e. **Faculty Handbook Update** – The Provost will forward the Faculty Handbook to the Senate and the Council of Deans for review in the near future.
 - f. **Alternative Admissions Update** – The Orientation session for faculty teaching in the alternative admissions program will be held on August 18, 2009, the Tuesday before classes begin.
- B. FS Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Appeddu:**
- 1. **Roll Sheet** – please sign.
 - 2. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. BancFirst Checking account:

• June Meeting balance:	\$1954.16
Retirement Reception	- 199.80
Senator Certificates of Appreciation	- 5.00
• July 15, 2009, statement balance:	\$1749.36
 - b. University account balance (No change): \$130.00
- C. FS President-elect Muatasem Ubeidat:** Nothing to report.
- D. FS Past President Les Ramos:** Nothing to report.
- E. FS Student Government Representative Angela Foust:** Not Present.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A. Report from the Ad hoc Committee on the Honors College Proposal** - Chair Stephen Burgess reported that he has received feedback from only a few departments regarding his efforts to gage the overall level of departmental support and an estimated number of faculty interested in participating in the Honors College. The Committee will re-visit the Honors College Proposal once classes resume in Fall 2009.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Faculty Senate Budget Contingency Planning Ad Hoc Committee** - At this time, the following Faculty Senators have volunteered to serve on this committee:

Muatasem Ubeidat, Chair
 Stephen Burgess
 Joe London
 Jim Long
 Ralph May
 Warren Moseley

President Scott Long encouraged interested Senators to contact him as soon as possible if they would like to be serve on the Committee, which will begin work on this issue in Fall 2009.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. In Light of Free Faculty Access to Wellness Center -

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-07-01:

In the interest of reducing university costs and increasing faculty convenience, it is proposed that the Faculty IDs no longer carry an expiration date. Instead, Faculty IDs will be electronically renewed each year when the faculty contract is continued.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Rationale: Currently, Faculty IDs are valid for only one year and expire on January 1 of the year immediately following their remittance. Due to the electronics available across campus, such as at the Wellness Center and Library, it is suggested that a virtual renewal of an ID is more cost-effective than having to print-out a new ID each year. Furthermore, faculty convenience will be much enhanced, because most faculty members are employed for an academic school year (July through June of the following year) and for more than one year.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Long, FS President

Lisa Appeddu, FS Secretary

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:
Friday, August 28, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in EDU 201**

WELLNESS CENTER MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Effective July 1, 2009 the following shall apply:

All students who are currently enrolled by semester or summer term and who hold a valid student ID are permitted access to the Wellness Center during the regular open hours as determined by University policy. Students who have pre-enrolled for a succeeding term and have a valid ID may have access during interim periods when the Center is open. Students have priority in use of the Wellness Center facility and equipment.

Employees of the University may use the Wellness Center during the open hours of operation. All employees must have a valid employee I.D.

1. The employee is permitted access to the Wellness Center during the regular open hours with a valid employee ID to use the facilities as determined by University policy.
2. A retired employee of the University is permitted access to the Wellness Center during the regular open hours with a valid ID to use the facilities as determined by University policy.
3. Membership is limited to individuals. There are no family or business memberships. The spouse or child (children ages 16 to 18 years old only) of an employee or retired employee is permitted membership.
4. The cost for a non-employee spouse or child is \$20.00 per family member per month. However, the maximum fee for an employee's spouse and eligible children shall not exceed \$45 per month. The Wellness Center staff will be provided a list of employees whose spouse or child(ren) are paid members. Each member must show a valid ID to access and use the facilities.
5. Payroll deductions may be made by an employee for a spouse or child.
6. Payroll deductions will discontinue the last pay period after termination of employment or upon the next pay period for those who provide written notice of discontinuance of membership to the Wellness Center Director. A copy of the discontinuance, written notice may be provided to the Payroll Office to assist in expediting the termination of membership.
7. Employees may bring a guest with them at a cash day rate of \$7.00 and use the Wellness Center in accordance with the Center's policy limitations.
8. Employee's children under the age of 16 cannot use the Wellness Center equipment and must be directly supervised by the employee parent/spouse.
9. The Wellness Center will be open to non-use visitors as deemed appropriate by the Center Director in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the University.

Membership criteria and cost are subject to change with or without direct notice to the members.

*SWOSU IDs are available in the Auxiliary Offices located on the second floor of the Student Center.

Adopted August, 2005 Revised July, 2009

APPROVED by President John Hays