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Faculty Senate Minutes

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October 30, 2009 Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 30, 2009, 2:00 pm, EDU 201
Approved Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The October 30, 2009, meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:00 PM in Education 201 with FS President Scott Long presiding.
- II. ESTABLISH QUORUM:** The following members were present: Warren Akers, Lisa Appeddu, John Bradshaw, Stephen Burgess, Chelsea Church, Kevin Collins, Tommye Davis (Sayre), David Esjornson, Evette Meliza for Vicky Gilliland, Terry Goforth, John Hayden, Trisha Wald for Rita Hays, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Harry Nowka for Ralph May, Tami Moser for Warren Moseley, Edna Patatanian, Chad Ramirez, Faruk Khan for Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Muatasem Ubeidat, Dennis Widen, Jonathon Woltz, and Tyler Rogers (SGA Rep).
- III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:** Evette Meliza for Vicky Gilliland, Trisha Wald for Rita Hays, Harry Nowka for Ralph May, Tami Moser for Warren Moseley, Faruk Khan for Les Ramos.
- IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS:** None.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the September 25 meeting were approved by voice vote.
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- A. From FS President Scott Long:**
1. **Budgetary Items** – State revenues continue to fall short of predictions. Therefore, allocations were cut 5% across the board for the 3rd month in a row. It still appears that no special session will be called, and any actions will wait until the State Legislature reconvenes in February. The use of the states “Rainy Day” reserve funds is still being debated.
 2. **From the September Administrative Council Meeting minutes:**
 - a. SWOSU received \$596,324.00 in **grant monies** (time period was not provided)
 - b. The Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) approved a grant for **campus renovations in Sayre**.
 - c. The **alternative admission program** is going well with a student attendance rate of approximately 85 percent.
 3. **From the October Administrative Executive Committee Meeting:**
 - a. There was a fair amount of discussion on **proposed projects** of Weatherford and joint ventures with the University. These include projects and requests for monies for the hospital, the golf club, and the events center (the last being a jointly funded project with the University).
 - b. The remainder of the meeting centered on **financial concerns** and the continued shortfall of income for the state and its impact on the current fiscal year. The gist of the outlook was that, barring a reversal of the current trend, reserves at the University level and the

"Rainy Day Fund" at the State level will need to be used (and to a greater extent than originally thought), leaving less to cope with for the next fiscal year. Therefore, the 2011 fiscal year is of greater concern than was previously thought (although some stimulus monies will be available), with fiscal year 2012 still be the most disconcerting because stimulus monies will be unavailable by that time. See also **item 4f** below for more detail.

4. From the October Executive Committee meeting with the Provost:

- a.** All considerations concerning the inclusion of a standardized **"Workday Policy"** statement in the faculty handbook have been dropped. At this point, no form of such a policy will be included in the faculty handbook.
- b. Update on the status of selecting a new University President:** The Executive Director of RUSO, Sheridan McCaffree, met with various representatives across the University to gain input on SWOSU needs. RUSO began the screening of applicants on October 15, 2009, and will continue until an appointment is made.
- c.** The **SWOSU Foundation** is going to actively pursue more involvement from faculty and staff in terms of foundation donations and participation. This stems from many funding sources seeking information on and showing preference to full employee participation in committing monies to a foundation.
- d.** Plans are being made to place **artificial turf on the football field**. The Provost wanted to assure the faculty that this is funded by external sources, and no university monies will be applied towards the cost of installing the artificial turf. This action is related to the construction of an Events Center on campus, which is proposed to take the place of the SWOSU practice field. The grass field could not sustain the extra "wear and tear."
- e.** In a related matter, the proposed plans for an **Events Center** are such that none of the construction cost will use monies from the University budget. Instead, construction will be financed through student fees and from the city of Weatherford taxes. Once built, it is proposed that the operating costs will be sustained via funds garnered from events.
- f. More Budget information** – In addition to the current 5% cut in allocations that has occurred over the past three months, it is projected that further and greater cuts will continue for the remainder of the academic year. It is expected that as early as December, allocations may be cut by 10-15% across the board. Up to this point, the 5% cuts at SWOSU have been offset by student enrollment which was 5% above what was predicted. Any additional cuts (i.e., an extra 5-10%) would not be offset by this amount and, therefore, could amount to as much as \$1.4 million in losses for the remainder of the academic year. Consequently, the University's reserves will have to be used to make up the deficit - it is thought that approximately \$500,000-600,000 from reserves along with stimulus monies will help to cover this year's (FY 2010) expenses. HOWEVER, (i) the use of universities reserves now will decrease the amount of reserves available in the future, potentially creating a shortfall for next year; (ii) stimulus monies will help (but not totally replace) additional cuts for the next fiscal year, and, therefore, FY 2011 is predicted to be worse than previously expected; and (iii) there are currently no stimulus monies available in subsequent years and, therefore, FY 2012 predictions are very serious, too.

For these reasons, measures are currently being taken to save money. These include: (i) decreased travel allocations; (ii) not immediately filling open positions; (iii) freezing non-necessary equipment purchases; (iv) reducing supplies purchases; and (v) planned increases in tuitions and fees for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, the Administration is asking for suggestions from everyone across campus (Deans, Chairs, Associate Deans, and faculty and staff) to submit ideas on areas where monies may be saved. This includes the Budget Contingency Planning *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Faculty Senate.

B. FS Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Appeddu:

1. **Roll Sheet** – please sign.

2. **Treasurer’s Report:**

a. BancFirst Checking account:

- September Meeting balance: \$2093.86
- Faculty Senate Dues collected + 5.00
- October 18, 2009, statement balance: \$2098.86

b. University account balance (No change): \$130.00

C. FS President-elect Muatasem Ubeidat: Nothing to report.

D. FS Past President Les Ramos: Not present.

E. FS Student Government Representative Tyler Rogers: Nothing to report.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES: Nothing to report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Appointment of Faculty University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee (FUPTRC) and University Promotion/Tenure Appeals Committee from Associate and Applied Programs at Sayre: Members were selected for these positions. The final results are below:

<i>College Represented</i>	<i>FUPTRC</i>	<i>Appeals</i>
Arts and Sciences	Fred Gates Helen Maxson Robbie McCarty	Viki Craig
Graduate and Professional Studies	Lisa Appeddu Nancy Penner Mindy Burgess	Ann Russell
Pharmacy	Randall Sharp	Benny French
Associate and Applied Programs	Holly Hernandez	Debbie Carpenter

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Motion presented by the University Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate concerning the composition of the Faculty Grievance Committee.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-01:

The University Policies Committee move to change the first sentence of the current policy to read:

The Faculty Grievance Committee shall be composed of nine full-time, tenured faculty members whose primary duties are non-administrative and a full-time, non-tenured faculty member whose primary duties are non-administrative and who has served in this capacity for at least 7 years.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Justification: Current policy excludes representation of faculty from departments composed primarily of non-tenure track faculty.

CURRENT POLICY:

The Faculty Grievance Committee shall be composed of nine full-time, tenured faculty members whose primary duties are non-administrative. For the initial appointments to the Committee, five of these members shall be selected by the Faculty Senate and four shall be appointed by the Provost. Of the four members appointed by the Provost, one shall be from the College of Associate and Applied Programs. Of the five selected by the Faculty Senate, two each shall be selected from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Professional and Graduate Studies and one from the College of Pharmacy. They shall be recommended for selection by their respective colleges in a manner determined by the faculty of the colleges. After the initial appointments, members will be selected by the Faculty Senate with concurrence of the Provost using the same criteria as described above. Each subsequently appointed member shall serve a minimum of a three-year term.

The following amendment was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-02:

The following statement is proposed to be added to the preceding motion:

Non-tenured faculty members reserve the right of refusal to serve on this Committee.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-03:

A motion is made to table the amendment proposed in FS Motion 2009-10-02.

The motion passed by voice vote, and the amendment was tabled.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-04:

A motion is made to return the original motion (FS Motion 2009-10-01) to the University Policies Committee for further work.

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. Faculty Senate open discussion on Budgetary Issues:

1. Ideas were generated and relayed to the Faculty Senate Budget Contingency Planning *Ad Hoc* Committee, which will be passed on to the University Administration.
2. Faculty Senate President Scott Long was charged with keeping the members of the Faculty Senate informed of any proposed changes.
3. The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-05:

The faculty senate proposes that all administrators (president, deans and vice presidents) must go back to the classroom to teach.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-10-06:

A motion is made to table the motion proposed in FS Motion 2009-10-04.

The motion passed with opposition, and the original motion was tabled.

Justification: Faculty members in all departments are concerned about the budget. Temporary savings may be obtained by not filling teaching positions. Since this will result in a shortage of instructors in some departments at SWOSU, it is suggested that the Deans, Vice Presidents and President teach classes in their areas of expertise, as needed. This will help to save the university some money throughout this economic crisis, plus help to relieve faculty teaching overload.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Long, FS President

Lisa Appeddu, FS Secretary

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:
Friday, November 20, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in EDU 201**