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Faculty Senate Minutes

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May 3, 2011 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 3, 2011
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

- I. Call to Order:** The May 3, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:04 p.m. in Education 210 with FS President Muatasem Ubeidat presiding.
- II. Establish Quorum:** The following members were present: Warren Akers, Amy Barnett, John Bradshaw, Erin Callen, Kevin Collins, David Esjornson, Terry Goforth, Rita Hays, Todd Helton, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Ralph May, Evette Meliza, Warren Moseley, Edna Patatanian, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Muatasem Ubeidat, Dennis Widen, and Jonathan Woltz. Also present were incoming senators Marci Grant and Stephanie Boss.
- III. Certification of Substitutes:** None
- IV. Presentation of Visitors:** None
- V. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 22, 2011 meeting were approved by voice vote.
- VI. Announcements:**
 - A. FS President Muatasem Ubeidat:**
 - 1. April 27 Executive Council Meeting
 - a. The State Legislature is considering a 5.8% cut for higher education, which would cut \$1.3 million from SWOSU. The numbers are not yet verified. SWOSU is unlikely to use the reserve fund in FY 11. Similar cuts projected for FY 12.
 - b. The importance of communicating some positive information to faculty and students was stressed. Consider that SWOSU currently charges about 80% of what peer campuses charge in tuition and fees, SWOSU administrative costs are only 68% of the average of peer campuses, and the graduate and retention rates are still comparable to those of the peers. The current budget draft for SWOSU lowers tech investment by about 25%, and assumes utility rates won't rise.
 - c. Report from state representative Miller: legislation likely to forbid COLAs without funding and to increase the early retirement age to 60.
 - d. Email Retention (Mr. Fagan): Using SWOSU email system for official business is comparable to using letterhead stationery. Sender is responsible for saving emails. University archives inboxes and sent mail folders; this action is taken at night, so received or sent items deleted the same day are not archived. Training on this issue will begin at August faculty workshop.
 - e. Safety Issues (Mr. Fagan): i. Due to a shortage of storage space, there are reports of faculty and staff using stairwells and wiring closets as storage spaces; this is a major fire code violation and must be discontinued immediately. The administration will begin routine safety inspections. ii. The new Davis Street crossing signs are still being evaluated, but seem to have improved the traffic safety in the area.
 - f. The Delegation of Presidential Authority (President Beutler and Mr. Fagan) Report is coming out soon. It will specify what powers can and can't be delegated, especially powers to sign contracts that obligate the university.

- g. The Sayre Strategic Planning Update (President Beutler and Mr. James) Focuses will include comparing Sayre with peer campuses and analyzing the degree of community involvement with campus activities.
- h. SWOSU needs to centralize information on fundraisers in the Foundation Office. Businesses being solicited 3-4 times in the same week; clubs selling food at sporting events are competing with contracted vendors. Student clubs work through the Dean of Students office, so perhaps there is a need for better communication between the various fund raising entities.
- i. Mr. Fagan projects 2011-12 enrollment at 98% of current enrollment; Dr. Faust anticipates slight increase, but all agree on the wisdom of budgeting with the less optimistic number.

B. Secretary/Treasurer David Esjornson:

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account

April Meeting Balance:	\$2126.55
Retirement Cards	(13.10)
CURRENT BALANCE:	\$2113.45

b. University account:

April Meeting balance:	\$106.00
CURRENT BALANCE:	\$106.00

Bills for the retirement reception are still outstanding

C. FS President-elect Kevin Collins: Nothing to report.

D. FS Past President Scott Long: Nothing to report

E. Student Government Representative: John Saluke reported on updating the SGA web page, and adding a new Facebook page for SGA alumni.

VII. Reports from standing or ad hoc committees:

A. Report from the Judiciary Committee:

For the 2011-2012 school year, the President, the past-President, and the President-elect are all serving outside their terms as elected representatives of their departments. A question arose concerning departmental representation in these situations.

The Faculty Senate President is a voting member of the Senate (only voting in case of a tie). As such, he/she is considered as a representative for his/her constituency, and his/her position cannot be duplicated by the election of a "replacement Senator" during his/her tenure. The term of the Senator is extended through the years of President, President-elect, and past-President, as necessary.

The pertinent section of the Faculty Senate Constitution is as follows (the critical passage has

been underlined):

ARTICLE II

Section 4. Senators shall hold their offices for a term of three years, except when changed for the purpose of creating staggered terms under provisions of Section 8. The term of newly elected Senators shall begin with new business at the May meeting. Senators shall be subject to recall by two-thirds majority vote of the members of their constituencies. If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled within a period of one month by electing a Senator for the remainder of the term of office. If an individual serves as President during the final year of his/her Senate term, the term will be extended by an additional year during which he/she will serve a 4th year as past-President. If a Senator is elected President-elect in the final year of term, he/she will serve three additional years.

Respectfully submitted, Faculty Senate Judiciary Committee

VIII. Unfinished business. None

IX. New business:

A. Recognition of out-going senators, introduction of new senators, and transition to the new Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

1. The Faculty Senate expressed its appreciation for the service of these out-going Senators:

Rita Hays, Accounting, Computer Science, and Entrepreneurship
Chad Ramirez, Park and Recreation Management
Todd Helton, Department of Kinesiology

2. The Faculty Senate also recognized the following Senators, who will extend their terms of service:

Kathy Brooks, Associate and Applied Programs-Sayre
E.K. Jeong, Art Department
Ann Russell, Department of Education
Kevin Collins, Department of Language and Literature
David Esjornson, Department of Chemistry and Physics
Muatasem Ubeidat, Department of Biological Sciences

3. The Faculty Senate welcomed these new Senators, who are starting their terms of service:

Marci Grant, Accounting, Computer Science, and Entrepreneurship
Bo Pagliasotti, Park and Recreation Management
Stephanie Boss, Department of Kinesiology

4. Outgoing President Muatasem Ubeidat introduced in-coming President Kevin Collins, who assumed governance of the remainder of the meeting.

5. Incoming President Kevin Collins recognized Muatasem Ubeidat for his outstanding service as President of the Faculty Senate for the past twelve months. David Esjornson was recognized for his service as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Faculty Senate for the past year.

B. Faculty Senate Standing Committee Selection: President Kevin Collins requested Faculty Senate members indicate the committee on which they would like to serve and potentially chair for the 2011-2012 school year. A member of each committee was invited to describe the committee's duties in the previous twelve months. A sheet has been provided on which Senate members can indicate their preferences.

Senate committees are also listed on the Faculty Senate website:

<http://www.swosu.edu/facstaff/orgs/fs/committees.asp>

C. Summer meeting times: President Kevin Collins announced the summer Faculty Senate meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 28, at 3 pm, and on Tuesday, July 26, at 3 pm in EDU 201.

X. Adjournment: 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Collins, FS President

Fred Gates, FS Secretary

Muatasem Ubeidat, FS Past President

David Esjornson, FS Past Secretary

Next Faculty Senate Meeting:

Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in EDU 201