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Faculty Senate Minutes

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August 26, 2011 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
August 26, 2011
***UNAPPROVED* Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Kevin Collins called the August 26, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:00 p.m. in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were present: Warren Akers, Amy Barnett, Amber Sturgeon, John Bradshaw, Kathy Brooks, Erin Callen, Dayna Coker, Kevin Collins, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Terry Goforth, Marci Grant, E.K. Jeong, Dick Kurtz, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Ralph May, Evette Meliza, Warren Moseley, Bo Pagliasotti, Edna Patatanian, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Muatasem Ubeidat, Tamra Weimer, Dennis Widen, Jonathan Woltz, David Goree for John Saluke.

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: David Goree for John Saluke (SGA Representative)

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of July 26, 2011 were approved by voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President: Kevin Collins

1. Welcome to new senator, Dr. Amber Sturgeon of Kinesiology, who replaces Stephanie Boss in the Senate and on its Budget and Programs Committee.
2. Provost asks that Senate consider two matters related to academic integrity:
 - a. Should there be a GPA requirement for GE courses? (Currently there is an overall requirement and requirements for individual majors.)
 - b. Should there be a time limit for grade changes or a limit on changes for the same course?
3. Provost points out that Faculty Handbook specifies different requirements for department promotion committees and department tenure committees; in practice, some departments use the same committees for both. We should change either the Handbook or the informal practice. There will be further information on this at the September meeting.
4. Page 103 of the Faculty Handbook is in need of revision, but we cannot change it on time for this year's P & T process. Meanwhile, the provost interprets the current wording (underlined passage on attachment #1) as follows: "This input can apply to both tenure and promotion. In practice, the input generally comes informally; I have not seen any department formally ask for input. The committee can do what it pleases

with the input.” This was in response to my assertion (which the provost called “correct”) that the underlined passage does not imply any obligation on the part of committee that they give any particular weight to this input, just an obligation that they hear input from those specified parties interested in offering it.

5. Ben Meredith, Director of Distance Learning, has requested a DL committee of Faculty, Administrators, Students, and Staff; Senate would appoint faculty members. He requests our approval, but can visit in September if necessary.

6. Wendy Henson, Coordinator of Violence Prevention Project, will address our September meeting.

7. “Mind Games” needs faculty help soon, all kinds of skills; please volunteer. Inform students as well.

8. Please solicit suggestions from department colleagues for standards of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. OCPP report not yet an imminent threat, but it is a very real threat to raise our teaching loads.

9. New Faculty Reception scheduled for September 21, 2:30-3:30 in the Bulldog Beanery.

B. Secretary/Treasurer: Fred Gates

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer’s Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account: July Meeting Balance: \$1945.45
Dues Collected: \$890.00
Expense for longevity plaques: \$709.41

CURRENT BALANCE: \$2126.04

b. University Account: July Meeting balance: \$106.00
CURRENT BALANCE: \$106.00

Thank you to all faculty who paid their dues, some even paid for previous years. Senators are requested to remind their colleagues that they can still pay dues if they wish. There are approximately 50 faculty members who have not paid their dues.

C. President-Elect: David Esjornson: Nothing to Report

D. Past President: Muatasem Ubeidat: Requests that everyone who is able to please volunteer to staff the SWOSU booth at the upcoming Oklahoma State Fair.

E. Student Government Representative: David Goree: Nothing to Report.

F. Parliamentarian: John Hayden: The Parliamentarian apologized for his dismissive attitude regarding a Senate matter.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

A. 2010-11 Audit Committee: Dr. Warren Moseley reported that the audit showed no discrepancies in the books from the previous year.

B. Personnel Policies Committee (attachment #2):

Report of the Personnel Policies Committee
On the Subject of Student Mentoring

At the request of the Provost, the Personnel Policies Committee investigated the subject of student mentoring by faculty as it pertained to the tenure and promotion process. The Committee surveyed University department heads and associate deans and with near universal agreement—there was one lone dissenter, department heads and deans agreed that student mentoring fell under the category of teaching for the purpose of tenure and promotion. The survey also revealed one exception: if the faculty member's name appeared on the project as co-author or contributor, then mentoring should count as scholarship as well, but **only** in the case of co-authorship/contributor.

Upon consideration of the matter and based upon the results of the survey, the Personnel Policies Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate endorse the findings of the Committee, that the mentoring of students should be considered as part of the teaching accomplishments of candidates for tenure and/or promotion unless the faculty member's name appears on the project as co-author or contributor in which case mentoring would count as scholarship as well.

The Senate unanimously endorsed the findings outlined in the report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Executive Council has not met since our June meeting; it will discuss our request for defibrillators at its September meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of VI. A. 2. a. above: The Faculty Senate discussed the subject of requiring a minimum GPA in General Education courses as a requirement for graduation. The question was then referred to the General Education Committee.

B. Discussion of VI. A. 2. a. above: The Faculty Senate next discussed the question of initiating time limits for grade changes as well as limits on the number of times a faculty member could change a grade for an individual course. The Senate reaffirmed its desire to

have no time limits placed on grade changes. The matter of limiting the number of changes for a particular course was referred to the University Policies Committee.

C. Discussion of VI. A. 5. Above: At the request of Dr. Ben Meredith the Faculty Senate took up consideration of the creation of a permanent Distance Learning Committee for which the Senate would appoint members. In response, the Senate established an ad hoc committee to explore the creation of this standing committee. Senators Scott Long, Jim Long, and Ralph May comprise the ad hoc committee.

D. Report and recommendation from Academic Advisory and Scholarship Council (attachment #3): The Faculty Senate discussed the various proposals outlined by the AASC report and Faculty Senate President Kevin Collins will report various issues and points of inquiry back to Dr. Helen Maxson, Chair of the AASC.

E. List of faculty members eligible to serve this year on FUPTRC (attachment #4).
Please determine by September meeting which of your department colleagues on the list are willing to serve on the committee.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3:13 p.m.

Next Faculty Senate meeting:

Friday, September 30 at 2:00 pm in EDU 201

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Collins, FS President

Fred Gates, FS Secretary