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Faculty Senate Minutes

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11-18-2011

November 18, 2011 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 18, 2011
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Kevin Collins called the November meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:01 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, Tony Stein (for Terry Goforth), Marci Grant, E.K. Jeong, Dick Kurtz, 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.

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

Tony Stein for Terry Goforth.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of October 28, 2011 were approved by voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President: Kevin Collins

1. Vice President Foust is exploring purchase of defibrillators. Small adjacent buildings will in all likelihood share a unit.
2. Concern over privacy in benefits option-period interviews raised with Executive Council. H.R. representative acknowledges the problem, agrees that event should not be scheduled in the library. H.R. Director Misak is investigating two other matters: whether a face-to-face meeting is essential every year and the possibility of a “fast lane” process. He meets with RUSO Benefits Coordinator December 7 and will report back.
3. RUSO Board met on campus November 4 and approved President’s proposal for a one-time faculty stipend of 2% of salary, with a floor of \$750 and a ceiling of \$1200. The university will pay the stipend at the end of November.
4. The Registrar believes it is possible to provide an email notification to faculty members when students are administratively dropped from courses. He will confer with the Dean of Students and report back.
5. Report of ad hoc committee studying flaws in the Faculty Handbook has been submitted to the Provost; changes will be made before start of 2012-13 year.

6. Statewide Faculty Advisory Council surveyed FS Presidents for a ranking of most pressing problems facing Oklahoma colleges and universities. Survey was forwarded to SWOSU Faculty Senate officers, past presidents, and committee chairs, about half of whom responded on time. Results of SWOSU and statewide surveys are in attachment #1.

7. The Provost points out that tenure-track faculty with terminal degrees other than earned doctorates are on the same tenure schedule as other tenure-track faculty. The Provost also points out that promotion is strictly limited by RUSO policy to candidates with earned doctorates.

B. Secretary/Treasurer: Fred Gates

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report: There has been no financial activity.

a. BancFirst Checking Account: October Meeting Balance: \$2102.99
CURRENT BALANCE: \$2102.99

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

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

D. Past President: Muatasem Ubeidat: Nothing to Report

E. Student Government Representative: Ariana Eakle: Not present.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Nothing to report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Regarding revisions to the Faculty Handbook, APA Handbook is specific about what a “contributor” to a scholarly work is and provides a detailed description. Are there comparable sources in other fields? Faculty Senate will revisit this issue.

B. Regarding proposal to limit service on FUTPRC to faculty members who are teaching full-time loads during the years they serve on the committee, the Provost points out that this would eliminate faculty whose loads are reduced because of grants. Do we want to exclude them during that year only? Make exceptions for them or perhaps something else? The Faculty Senate will continue thinking on this matter and will address the issue at the next meeting.

C. Personnel Policies Committee revision of page 103 of Faculty Handbook was tabled during the August meeting because of more pressing business in that committee. The Faculty Senate moved to refer this matter to the Personnel Policies Committee which will now

investigate revising page 103 concerning the review process and schedule for promotion and tenure.

D. Should athletes' grade checks be completed electronically? Senators discussed whether to leave the current policy as is or perhaps have athletes have regularly scheduled grade checks. In addition, some Senators suggested that a uniform electronic response would be better. A further suggestion was a "hybrid" electronic response where faculty members could request a face to face meeting with student athletes. The Senate also proposed a one year trial period for whatever option the university may adopt. The Senate will address this matter further in December's meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. A SWOSU faculty member served this year as an External Reviewer in the tenure/promotion process for a candidate at another university, which requires "review by recognized scholars in the candidate's discipline" as part of its P & T process. Is adding an outside reviewer something that SWOSU should consider? There was much discussion on this subject and the Senate will re-visit the matter in the future.

B. Given recent events at Penn State University, it may be important to establish a policy about faculty members' responsibilities regarding when and to whom illegal or otherwise inappropriate behaviors that they witness should be reported. The administration will have to contribute to such a policy, but what is the Senate's view of what the policy ought to be? There was much discussion on this matter and the Senate informally determined to wait and see the administration's response to the matter.

C. Department chairs hired from outside the university are generally un-tenured. As their continuance is reviewed by the department committee, does this hinder the chair's ability to manage faculty, especially during the Continuance process, until they earn tenure? The Senate will take up this matter at a future meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: Friday, December 9 at 2:00 pm in EDU 201

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Collins, FS President

Fred Gates, FS Secretary