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Faculty Senate Minutes

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January 27, 2012 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
January 27, 2012
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Kevin Collins called the January meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:04 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, Krista Brooks (for Erin Callen), Dayna Coker, Kevin Collins, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Terry Goforth, Jeff Walker (for Marci Grant), E.K. Jeong, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Ralph May, Evette Meliza, Warren Moseley, Edna Patatanian, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Muatasem Ubeidat, Tamra Weimer, Dennis Widen, Jonathan Woltz, John Saluke (SGA Representative).

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Jeff Walker for Marci Grant, Krista Brooks for Erin Callen. Senator Bo Pagliasotti has moved from Parks and Recreation Management to Kinesiology. His seat in the Senate will be taken by Ed Klein.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: Mary Aspedon. Dr. Aspedon addressed the Senate on her experience serving as an outside reviewer for a tenure/promotion candidate at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of December 9, 2011 were approved by voice vote after Treasurer Fred Gates noted an error in the reporting of the BancFirst balance. In the minutes the balance read \$2102.99 when in fact the actual balance is \$2101.99 as verified by bank statements.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President: Kevin Collins

1. SWOSU has contracted with Penson and Associates to assist with next strategic planning self-study. They will be on campus February 12-16. There are seven phases of the self-study, and the university wants to complete five of them by May. Many faculty members will be asked to take part (including FS leadership), but Vice President Foust is also seeking interested volunteers. Interested faculty members should contact her now, so please spread the word in your departments. Penson will also want to visit with all departments and offices and with selected student groups.
2. President Beutler will address the Faculty Senate either in February or in March regarding possible changes in tuition authority rules in Oklahoma.
3. Many in the state legislature are still under the impression that university faculty members do very little work.

4. The Vice-President for Administration and Finance Tom Fagan announced that the employee tuition discount policy is being reviewed.
5. Provost Sonobe announces that state regents and legislators seem to be seeking conflicting goals: raising accessibility to higher education and raising graduation rates. Some seem unaware that by raising one, we're necessarily lowering the other.
6. No final reports yet from H. R. Director David Misak on changes in benefits option-period meetings or Registrar Daniel Archer on notification to faculty members of any student who drops a course. There is already a system for notification of administrative drops in effect.
7. The search for automatic external defibrillators is on hold at least temporarily. The issue will be raised at the February Executive Council meeting.

B. Secretary/Treasurer: Fred Gates

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report: The BancFirst account was misstated in both the October and November minutes as \$2102.99 rather than the actual balance of \$2101.99. The minutes will be updated.

a. BancFirst Checking Account: December Meeting Balance: \$2101.99
CURRENT BALANCE: \$2101.99

b. University Account: December 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: John Saluke:

1. Mr. Saluke asked who on campus was responsible for the collection of recycling materials from the various collection points on campus. He was informed that the Physical Plant was responsible.

2. Mr. Saluke also inquired about the level of emphasis was given by the administration regarding student opinions of faculty expressed through student evaluations. He was informed that the administration takes the opinions of students expressed on faculty evaluations seriously.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

A. The University Policies Committee reported the following on Senate Motion 12-9-11-2, limiting service on FUPTRC to full-time faculty members.

**Faculty Senate University Policies Committee
Report on the Proposal for Amending Requirements for Membership on the
Faculty University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee (FUPTRC)**

The University Policies Committee has considered the proposal to designate faculty members whose full-time loads are reduced by administrative duties as ineligible for membership on the FUPTRC. The committee has concluded that there is neither precedent nor justifiable cause to exclude these faculty members from membership on the FUPTRC. In the opinion of the committee, there is a clear distinction between administrators, who have contractual appointments that are primarily executive and administrative in nature and are ineligible for service on the FUPTRC, versus faculty members who are assigned to or volunteer for an administrative duty for the service of the department, college, or university in addition to instructional responsibilities. Therefore, the committee recommends that the proposal not be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
Members of the University Policies Committee

Senate Motion 1-27-12-1: The Senate moves to accept the report. The motion passed.

B. The Report from the Personnel Policies Committee on the options related to adding an outside reviewer to FUPTRC from a peer institution, in the scholarly field of the individual candidate was postponed until the February meeting.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Should athletes' grade checks be completed electronically? Ideas raised at the November Faculty Senate meeting included leaving the current policy as is or perhaps scheduling more regular grade checks. Some Senators suggested that a uniform electronic response would be better. A further suggestion was a hybrid electronic response, one in which individual 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.

Senate Motion 1-27-12-2: The Senate will refer the issue of athletes' grade checks to the Student Affairs Committee. The motion failed.

Senate Motion 1-27-12-3: The university should adopt an electronic grade check policy for student athletes with an option for faculty to request a mandatory face to face meeting with the athlete for a grade check. The motion passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

President Kevin Collins relinquished the gavel to President-Elect David Esjornson in order to address the Senate on matters concerning the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs. Collins expressed concern that this group wants university faculty in Oklahoma need to teach

loads equivalent to secondary educators in the state and that university faculty do not seem to work “full time.” Although the Chancellor effectively countered all of OCPA’s arguments at a 2011 legislative hearing on the subject, about 35% of the Oklahoma legislature still supported the idea according to the RUSO lobbyist. Collins urged faculty to be aware of this situation and mentioned that including an outside reviewer as described by Dr. Aspedon might counter criticism by OCPA. Another senator countered the suggestion stating that including an outside reviewer would not change the opinion of OCPA’s members and faculty need to be aware of this developing situation.

President-Elect Esjornson then returned the gavel to President Collins.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: Friday, February 24 at 2:00 pm in EDU 201

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Collins, FS President

Fred Gates, FS Secretary