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Faculty Senate Minutes

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February 24, 2012 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 24, 2012
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Kevin Collins called the February meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:02 p.m. in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were present: Warren Akers, Jared Edwards (for 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, Jerry Dunn (for Ralph May), Evette Meliza, Warren Moseley, Ed Klein, Edna Patatanian, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Muatasem Ubeidat, Dennis Widen, Jonathan Woltz, John Saluke (SGA).

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Jerry Dunn for Ralph May, Jared Edwards for Amy Barnett.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of January 27, 2012 were approved by voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President: Kevin Collins

1. The Strategic Planning process is underway, and the administration is actively seeking faculty input; please contact Vice President Foust if you are interested, and please spread the word in your departments.
2. The H.R. committee studying changes in the benefits option period process meets again on February 29th; we expect a report at the March Faculty Senate meeting.
3. Vice President Foust reports that six defibrillators will be installed by the end of the current semester, one each in CPP, Old Science, Stafford, Campbell, the Student Center, and the first floor of the Administration Building; she anticipates the installation of six more during the 2012-13 academic year.
4. Associate Vice President Adler requests feedback on the relative merits of limiting campus-wide emails and making them less limited; strictly personal matters such as birthday greetings will not be sent, but he is considering adding matters like department fundraisers. Please seek input from your departments.
5. Registrar Daniel Archer announces that 1326 emails were sent to faculty members from January 11 to 23 announcing administrative drops of students; ITS Director Mark Engelman is opposed to sending an email every time a student drops a course, and Registrar Archer is

anxious to find a compromise acceptable to the faculty: perhaps 1-2 emails per semester. If this is acceptable, which dates would be best?

6. President Beutler will address the March Senate meeting on legislative matters, including possible changes in tuition-authority rules. .

7. The Provost has pointed out that there are rising numbers of students who are parents. Should we consider adding statements to our course policies to address issues particular to them? This would not be mandatory, but it's something we might consider. The Provost suggested wording such as the following: "Balancing school, childcare and jobs is challenging. I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise" or "While I maintain the same high expectations for all students in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance.

8. Jan Noble is preparing evaluation forms for chairs, associate deans, and deans. Because of the recent shifting of deans, should we do something to ensure that faculty members understand who they are evaluating?

B. Secretary/Treasurer: Fred Gates

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report:

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

b. University Account: January 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: Orgsync, an electronic product dealing with internal scheduling and social media for universities made a presentation on campus. The software links clubs, puts events on the university calendar, etc. John did not see a need for it and it cost from \$2,000 to \$6,000 for one to five years depending on the level of integration. Most Senators who inquired agreed that there is little need for such a product at this time.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

A. Personnel Policies Committee:

Faculty Senate Personnel Policies Committee

Report on the Proposal for An External Peer Review for Purposes of Tenure and Promotion

The Personnel Policies Committee has considered the proposal to include an external peer review in the university tenure and promotion review process. The committee has concluded that there is neither precedent among regional Oklahoma universities nor justifiable cause to alter the current peer review procedure. In the opinion of the committee, the candidate already has the opportunity to solicit letters of support from external peers, particularly in regard to the candidate's scholarship, as part of the tenure and promotion document and for consideration at all levels of review. Therefore, the committee recommends that the proposal not be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Personnel Policies Committee

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Provost, Athletic Director, and Director of ITS have been informed of the Senate's approval of an electronic grade check system for student-athletes with the ability of individual instructors to opt out of the system and continue face-to-face paper grade checks. We had discussed the possibility of asking for this system on a one-year trial basis, but this stipulation was not in the motion that passed. Is it worth the trouble to add this? The Faculty Senate decided if the policy proved unworkable or cumbersome the Senate would address it at that time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Senate Motion 2-23-12-1: It is moved to form an ad hoc committee to investigate smaller departments bringing in an outside reviewer at the departmental level of the tenure and promotion process.

Rationale: Put the decision of outside reviewers in the hands of the smaller departments.

During discussion on the motion there was an irregularity in parliamentary procedure. The question was called and the discussion was cut off. However, according to Robert's Rules of Order there should have been a vote to end discussion which was mistakenly not taken. When voted upon after discussion ended, the motion failed and with the meeting adjourned, the issue was closed.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Friday, March 30 at 2:00 pm in EDU 201

Respectfully Submitted

Kevin Collins, FS President

Fred Gates, FS Secretary