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Faculty Senate Minutes

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December 7, 2013 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 7, 2013
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President David Esjornson called the December 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: Jared Edwards (for Amy Barnett), John Bradshaw, Krista Brooks (for Erin Callen), Dayna Coker, Kevin Collins, Jerry Dunn, Jason Dupree, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Jeff Walker (for Marci Grant), Andrea Holgado, E.K. Jeong, Ed Klein, Dick Kurtz, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Kristin Montarella, Warren Moseley, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Amber Sturgeon, Tamra Weimer, Dennis Widen, Curt Woolever, Jessica Young, and Alejandra DeSantiago (SGA)

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:
Jared Edwards for Amy Barnett, Krista Brooks for Erin Callen, Jeff Walker for Marci Grant

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See attached draft in Appendix A, (page 4)

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President David Esjornson

1. Executive Council meeting of December 3, 2012:
 - a. One of the provisions of the Affordable Healthcare Act requires that medical benefits must be provided for three-quarter time employees (and up). There is the possibility that that starting in January 2014, adjuncts teaching more than 11 hours will be eligible for benefits.
 - b. Longer term budgeting of Safety and Risk management projects is underway. If you identify any projects pass them on to Tom Fagan. For example, projects can vary from exterior door replacement on the Campbell Building (~\$50K) to Loading dock safety signs (~\$200).
 - c. Possible fallout from Western Oklahoma State College online course offerings. Accelerated courses are going to face greater scrutiny from HLC. An accelerated course is any course taught in less than 4 weeks.
 - d. Faculty Funeral leave: The Department heads have been asked to think about any issues associated with giving the faculty two additional leave days specifically for funeral leave. David Misak and the University Benefits committee will also discuss this issue in January.
2. Administrative Council meeting of December 5, 2012:
 - a. Enrollment for the Spring semester is down 0.1 % (7 less students) at the

Weatherford campus and down 1.3% combined Sayre/Weatherford.

- b. IT: Karen Wilson will assume Anjana Patel's duties next semester.
- c. University surplus auction scheduled for December 8. (Includes some household items from an estate that was donated to SWOSU)
- d. Starting in the Fall of 2013, subsidized student loan eligibility will be limited to 1.5 times the program length. (6 years). This limit matches the Pell grant eligibility.
- e. According to Denisa Engleman there are a record number of near completers. Near completers are students that have accumulated enough credits that they may be able to graduate in one semester. May impact enrollment next year.
- f. Farewell reception for Blake Sonobe from 3:00-5:00 on December 17, in the Student Union Ballroom.

3. Provost meeting of November 13, 2012

- a. A large hood fan was installed just out side of the ground floor of the CPP building. The provost will look into what the noise abatement plans are for the 300 + students that take classes on the other side of the window where the fan has been installed. CPP is a negative pressure building, so any air infiltration on the east side of the building will likely draw the hood exhaust into the building in the event of any leaks.
- b. Faculty are reminded that for in-class exams, common sense rules apply. You should not start early, and you should not "spill over" into the next class period.
- c. The Provost will pass on our agreements on the following issues for completion by the Interim Provost: Electronic grade checks for athletes, Electronic notification of drops, Modifications to the Advisement handbook. Modifications to the faculty handbook on the tenure review path for Library faculty.

4. Interim Provost Meeting of November 13, 2012

Dr. Foust is interested in a Faculty Senate review of the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Foust wants to ensure that the handbook is correct and up to date. Example: The University General Education Committee has had three members from the College of Arts and Sciences. The Faculty Handbook calls for only two members from CAS.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Eric Paul

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account:

November Meeting Balance:	\$2058.65
CURRENT BALANCE:	\$2058.65

b. University Account:

November Meeting balance:	\$105.01
CURRENT BALANCE:	\$105.01

C. President-Elect Fred Gates: Mind games will air in two weeks. Next semester we will have only one team. The Mind games team is still looking for Fine Art expert.

D. Past President Kevin Collins: Nothing to report

E. Student Government Representative Alejandra De Santiago, VP of SGA: Had the SGA meeting yesterday. Next meeting on Jan 17, 2013 at 6pm.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Report

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee met on Monday, November 19, 2012, to consider the motion presented at the last Faculty Senate meeting to require Interdisciplinary Studies majors to take a capstone course in at least one of the three (3) areas they select for their degree studies. The committee addressed the issue from two perspectives: *feasibility* and *appropriateness*, given the nature and scope of the degree itself.

Feasibility

Interdisciplinary Studies majors are required to take a minimum of twenty-one (21) credit hours in each of three areas of study they select for their degree plan. With so few credit hours in each of the areas, students would likely not be prepared or qualified to take a capstone course in most of the areas of study available to them. It was noted by the committee current capstone courses in the areas of study available to Interdisciplinary majors generally require (1) senior standing in that area, (2) permission of the chair and instructor, and/or (3) a series of prerequisite courses not always available to Interdisciplinary Studies majors as course options. Additionally, in many areas of study choices, the capstone course is not listed as a course option.

Appropriateness

The Interdisciplinary Studies degree provides an alternative degree option for non-traditional students who do not wish to major in any particular field of study. Rather, these students seek to gain a general understanding and familiarity in three (3) areas of their choice. There is no intention or expectation in the degree rationale for these students to develop the expertise and depth of knowledge that would be expected of a major in any particular area of study.

In addition, the twenty-one (21) credits required in each of the three (3) areas from which they may choose, is generally equivalent to a minor degree in that area. Although the minor degrees are more heavily structured, there are no capstone requirements in any of them.

Curriculum Committee Recommendation

For the reasons stated above, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that requiring Interdisciplinary Studies majors to take a capstone course in any of the areas they choose for their degree plan is neither feasible nor appropriate.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The above Committee was discussed. The consensus of the FS was that Capstone may not be feasible for every graduating student and hence the **FS Motion 2012-11-01** is not passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS: None.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 2.41 pm

Next meeting 2:00 pm
Friday, January 25, 2013