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Faculty Senate Minutes

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February 22, 2013 Minutes

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 22, 2013
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Elect David Esjornson called the February meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2.03 p.m. in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were present: Stephen Burgess (for Amy Barnett), John Bradshaw, Kathy Brooks, Erin Callen, Dayna Coker, Kevin Collins, Jerry Dunn, Jason Dupree, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Marci Grant, Andrea Holgado, E.K. Jeong, Bo Pagliasotti (for Ed Klein), Sophia Lee, Mark Lumpkin (for Jim Long), Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Eric Paul, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Amber Sturgeon, Kelly Young (for Tamra Weimer), Dennis Widen, Curt Woolever, Jessica Young, and Alejandra DeSantiago (SGA)

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Stephen Burgess for Amy Barnett, Bo Pagliasotti for Ed Klein, Mark Lumpkin for Jim Long, and Kelly Young for Tamra Weimer.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved with minor amendment to the location of the meeting.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President David Esjornson

1. Executive Council meeting of February 18, 2013:

a. Accreditation Bodies for professional programs are starting to require more detailed Contingency plans. For example, if a fire or tornado were to destroy your building, what plans are in place to get students back on track. For faculty, we will need to consider how are records are backed up.

b. President Beutler's first annual Legal issues Seminar is scheduled for March 14, 2013 in the Ballroom at 1:30 pm. Faculty are encouraged to attend.

c. The Regents Office has formed an Online Education Taskforce. The focus will be on General Education Courses. Expect surveys, course compilation paperwork, etc. if you are involved in these types of courses.

d. In 2005, Oklahoma voters approved a \$450 million Higher-Ed bond issue with a 20 year payoff from Lottery proceeds. In 2010 the state government refinanced the bond issue at a lower interest rate, which allowed for interest only payments until 2013. Now the State has to start paying off the principal again (\$23.5 million this year). If the State shifts the principal burden to the Universities, SWOSU's share will be \$605,000 (amounts to \$4.50 per credit hour).

2. Administrative Council meeting of February 18, 2013:

a. OLAP has adopted the Federal 60 hour and 90 hour progress requirements. We

will start seeing the effect next fall.

b. Todd Boyd reports admissions significantly ahead of last year at this time (1104 vs. 902). Last year's record numbers did not translate into an increase in enrollment in the fall.

c. Departments and organizations can reserve spots for tailgating at the home football games. Due to the growth of the tailgating, preliminary plans call for the closing of 7th street, north of the Methodist Church, during home football games.

3. Interim Provost meeting of February 18, 2013

a. The new University "hotline" number did not perform well during the recent snow event. The University is going to return to the old number. (580-774-3225)

b. The interim Provost was informed of the large number of complaints about the University Bookstore's performance. Students who use the bookstore pay a premium for convenience. Not having books available in G.E. classes, where enrollments are relatively stable, is especially troublesome. The course links to textbooks on the website have also not been maintained. The Bookstore's response is that they are in the process of hiring a new manager.

c. The interim Provost reports that none of the W grade change requests appear to have any financial aid implications. The grade changes will be sent to a committee for approval once the faculty senate settles on the procedure.

4. Registrar reports progress on the email notification of drops. The registrar wishes to remove the W/ option, since it has been the cause of much confusion. Currently, if a student turned in a drop form without a faculty signature (during the signature required drop period), the registrar issued a W/ as a placeholder grade. If the Faculty entered a W/P, the grade was changed to a W. If the Faculty entered a W/F, the grade was changed to an F. If the Faculty did nothing, the grade changed to a W. The registrar proposes not accepting unsigned forms during the signature required period.

5. Open Forum next week for external Provost Candidates, Stafford 104:

Dr. Robert A. Dibley Monday, February 25 1-3 p.m.

Dr. Amin U. Sarkar Thursday, February 28 1-3 p.m.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Eric Paul

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer's Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account:

January Meeting Balance: \$2058.65

CURRENT BALANCE: \$2058.65

b. University Account:

January Meeting balance: \$105.01

CURRENT BALANCE: \$105.01

C. President-Elect Fred Gates: Nothing to report.

D. Past President Kevin Collins: Nothing to report.

E. Student Government Representative Alejandra De Santiago, VP of SGA: The SWOSU Student Government Association is organizing a campus improvements forum next week, February 28, 2013. Physical Plant Rick Skinner, Director of Residence Life Chad Martin and Director of Information Technology Services Mark Engelman are to speak at the forum.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

The University Policies has two reports:

A. Proposed Modification of the “Dropping Student from a Class” form.

Revision of the RECOMMENDATION FOR DROPPING STUDENT FROM CLASS form to include a check box for International Student status. This recommendation is based on the potential compliance ramifications in the event of dropping a student from a class who may have international status. The committee believes these are the same compliance concerns as when changing a grade to a W for veterans, international students, or students with specific financial aid requirements. The form currently has a check box for Veteran status.

See Appendix B for current form

Faculty Senate Motion 2013-02-01

The Faculty Senate proposes the adoption of the FS University Policies Committee recommendations in regard to the modification of the University’s “Recommendation for Dropping a Student from Class” form.

B. Proposed Revisions to the Implementation of the Grade Change Policy (February 2013)

The University Policies Committee proposes the following revisions and recommendations regarding the Grade Change Policy and related policies and procedures.

1. Revision (**bolded passages**) of the Grade Change Policy, originally submitted by the Faculty Senate for consideration in October 2011, in light of recommendations from the Interim Provost Foust, Registrar Archer, and January 2013 Senate discussion. (See Handouts)
2. Revision of the Academic Appeals Procedure (**bolded passages**) for consistency with the Grade Change Policy. (see Handouts)
3. Amendment of the REQUEST TO CHANGE A GRADE TO A WITHDRAWAL (W) GRADE form to include the following statement in the To the Student section: “For more information concerning the academic appeals process, see the Academic Appeals Procedure (link).” (see Appendix C)

Faculty Senate Motion 2013-02-02

The Faculty Senate proposes the adoption of the FS University Policies Committee recommendations in regard to the Proposed Revisions to the Implementation of the Grade Change Policy.

The above motions were approved by a voice vote.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Motion for School closing and opening to coincide with class timing:

The Faculty Senate request that the Administration consider standard class schedule while determining the opening and closing of SWOSU during inclement weather.

FS Motion 2013-02-03

The Assessment Center will add new data to its report of student evaluation of courses: a report of grade distributions for each course, the number of A, B, C, D, F, U, and W grades earned by the student in the course.

Rationale

Evaluations of faculty are relatively simple in terms of scholarship and service. Evaluators have little objective evidence apart from peer observation reports and student evaluations, though, when making decisions related to teaching performance for the purposes of continuance, tenure, and promotion. Because of this, some vulnerable faculty members may feel pressure to inflate grades in their courses in order achieve more positive student evaluations, removing the important distinction between students who make genuine efforts in the coursework and those who do not. Adding grade distributions to student evaluation reports can relieve some of this pressure to inflate grade by demonstrating correlations between grades and levels of student satisfaction with a course. The addition of grade distributions could also serve as an important signal to instructors who could alter the natures of courses that produce either alarmingly high or alarmingly low course grades.

Since student evaluation reports currently arrive in department offices months after the semester in which the course is evaluated, the registrar's office will have ample time to report grade distributions to the Assessment Center, which can add them to student evaluation report.

The above motion was tabled for further discussion later.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3. 10 pm

Next meeting 2:00 pm
Friday March 29, 2013