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March 29, 2013 Approved Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

Abstract

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 29, 2013
***APPROVED* Faculty Senate Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President David Esjornson called the March meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2.02p.m. in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were present:
Amy Barnett, John Bradshaw, Kathy Brooks, Krista Brooks (for Erin Callen), Dayna Coker, Kevin Collins, Jerry Dunn, Jason Dupree, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Marci Grant, Andrea Holgado, E.K. Jeong, Ed Klein, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Kristin Montarella, Tami Moser (for Warren Moseley), Eric Paul, Hardeep Saluja (for Les Ramos), Ann Russell, Lisa Schroeder, Tamra Weimer, Dennis Widen, Curt Woolever, Chris Rakunas (for Jessica Young), and Alejandra DeSantiago (SGA)

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Krista Brooks for Erin Callen, Tami Moser for Warren Moseley, Hardeep Saluja for Les Ramos, and Chris Rakunas for Jessica Young

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved as amended (Month changed for Jan to Feb).

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President David Esjornson

1. Executive Council meeting of March 11, 2013:
 - a. The Administration is budgeting assumptions include a 2% decline in student enrollment.
 - b. The Event Center is still likely to open in the Spring of 2014.
 - c. The Grade Change Policy for reviewing changes to W grades after the end of the semester was adopted. The Academic Appeals Committee will now deal with these changes every semester.
 - d. The Director of Distance Education is pushing the Administration to switch from D2L to Blackboard. Because of contractual obligations, the earliest a switch could be made is the Fall of 2014.

2. Administrative Council meeting of March 11, 2013:
 - a. The Federal Budget Impasse (Sequestration) will hit the students first. Lost 8% of our Supplemental Education Assistance, likely to see cuts in Military tuition assistance, and a 5% increase in the Student Loan certification fee. SWOSU Work study should not be significantly affected.
 - b. The relationship with American Fidelity is being examined, which might be sent to the Faculty Benefits Committee.

3. Statements made at the Legal issues seminar of March 15, 2013
 - a. Oklahoma Opens Records Act
 - i. Public business only can be released, personal information may be redacted.
 - ii. Exams and Lesson Plans are not Public Records.
 - iii. Personal communications with students are not Public Records.
 - b. Digitized copy is as good as an original. (as legal as an original).
 - c. Students may see letters of recommendation unless you can produce a written waiver.
 - d. According to Charles Babb, the courts recognize Academic Freedom as belonging to the University. The University decides what is taught, when it's taught, who teaches the course, and who takes the course.

4. Meeting with D2L representatives on March 27, 2013
 - a. Version 10.2 to be released in May. Includes an improved Faculty interface and incorporates AJAX programming.
 - b. There are some unresolved technical issues for some of SWOSU's "power" users.
 - c. Since Blackboard is the largest player in the market, third party applications are always available for Blackboard first.
 - d. The Distance Education and eLearning Council is looking into D2L usage.

5. Interim Provost meeting of March 29, 2013
 - a. Faculty report getting email drop notifications. Include the names of person who proceeded the drop.
 - b. SWOSU's D2L consortium is upgrading to version 10.1 in Jan of 2014. SWOSU is essentially two upgrades behind the current best version.
 - c. Dr Foust has asked to modify the Distance Education and eLearning Council description. As originally composed, Ben Meredith was the Chair, which Dr Foust feels is highly unusual for a Faculty committee. See appendix B page 11.

In the discussion that followed the Chair and members of the current Distance Education and eLearning Council presented the positives of switching back to BackBoard because of the advance features that it offers, the lag in D2L updated (because we are a part of the consortium), and also the 50% discount that is currently being offered for the next 5 years on BB products. The senate discussed the problems dealing with the constant change from one platform to another and the timeline involved if the change takes place. The discussion also considered the percentage of faculty that use D2L and power users. A survey was being sent out to determine the depth of use for D2L among faculty right now.

6. Open Forum for external Provost Candidates,:

Dr. Lisa Seale	Monday, April 1	1-3 p.m East Ballroom.
Dr. Robert A. Dible	Tuesday, April 9	1-3 p.m. Stafford 104

B. Secretary/Treasurer Eric Paul

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer’s Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account:

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

b. University Account:

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

C. President-Elect Fred Gates: SWOSU Mind Games next Sunday, 14th April, 2013. Encourage people to watch because the future of the show depends on ratings.

D. Past President Kevin Collins: Nothing to report.

E. Student Government Representative Alejandra De Santiago, VP of SGA: The SWOSU Student Government Association will hold elections on the Weatherford campus April 22.

The SWOSU Student Government Association will hold a forum dealing with university provided childcare April 4, at 6 p.m. in Room 104 of the Gen. Thomas P. Stafford.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Report from the Judiciary Committee:

(FS Motion 2013-03-01: It is proposed that faculty senate will vote in favor of changing two senators term expiration dates, in order to allow for approximately one-third of the Senate to be elected each year.)

The FS moved to accept the FS Motion 2013-03-01 and accept the recommendation of the Judiciary committee.

Report from the Faculty Senate Nominations Committee

University Committee Openings

Academic Advisory and Scholarship Council -- Develops policies governing the student advisory and scholarship program within the framework of Regents' retention regulations. Serves as an appellate committee on student academic status. Meets the day before classes start each semester and summer sessions regularly and other meetings are scheduled as needed.

Three (3) positions open

Academic Appeals Committee -- Reviews the procedural fairness of an instructor's grading policy upon the filing of a written student academic appeal.

FS nominates ten (10) faculty, with five (5) of those being chosen by the President or his designee for committee membership.

Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members -- Hears appeals of dismissed tenured faculty members when hearings are requested.

FS nominates eight (8) **tenured** faculty, with four (4) of those being chosen by the tenured faculty of the University for committee membership.

Benefits Committee -- Promotes programs that will contribute to the health and wellness of all University employees and their families; studies and reviews all employee benefit programs at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and makes this information available to SWOSU community; gathers faculty and staff input on all University benefit programs; and reviews annually University-sponsored benefits, and the RUSO benefit programs, and make recommendations through proper channels regarding such benefits.

One (1) position open – College Specific – Associate and Applied Programs (Sayre)

Bernhardt Award Selection Committee -- Selects an outstanding faculty member to recognize.

Three (3) positions open – College Specific – Arts & Sciences – Brian Campbell Need – PGS, COP, and AAP

Campus Environmental Committee -- Promotes environmental awareness, resource conservation, and recycling of certain materials.

One (1) position open

Distance and eLearning Council – No description in the Faculty Handbook. It appears that membership could be college specific.

Four (4) positions open – (currently held by PGS [education], AAP, A&S [music], Library)

Faculty Development Committee -- Encourages excellence in teaching and scholarly activities. This committee will offer programs to enable the faculty to improve personal and professional qualities as educators. Program content will encompass: teaching, research, and new faculty orientation.

Three (3) positions open, College specific – Need A&S, PGS, COP

Financial Assistance Advisory and Appeals Committee -- Acts as an advisory committee to

the student financial assistance officer, hears appeals, and recommends disposition of student grievances related to financial assistance awards.

One (1) position open

Intellectual Property Committee -- Disseminates information to the faculty regarding laws and policies regarding copyrights and the use of intellectual property. The Committee monitors general University compliance.

Two (2) positions open

Student Center Policy Forming Board -- Recommends operating policies for the Student Center to the Director of Student Center and Auxiliary Services.

Three (3) positions open (note, two committee members term expires this year, however faculty representation is one short, therefore there are 3 openings).

University Computer/Telecommunication Advisory Committee -- Solicits information from SWOSU community concerning present and future technology-related needs and recommends formulation of the technological strategic plan including short and long range acquisition, implementation and coordination of all technology-related activities on a university-wide basis. The committee recommends standards for software, hardware and other related items that will be available university-wide to insure uniformity, accessibility, and economy.

Three (3) positions open – College specific – Need COP, Library, & PGS.

Faculty Senate Openings

President-Elect
Secretary Treasurer

The following Senate terms end this academic year

Arts & Sciences

Kevin Collins
John Bradshaw
Sophia Lee
Fred Gates
Eric Paul

Pharmacy

Erin Callan
Les Ramos

Professional & Graduate Studies

Ann Russell

Amy Barnett
Warren Moseley
Dick Kurtz
Tamra Weimer

Associate & Applied Programs
Dayna Coker

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

FS Motion 2013-03-01

FS recommends that SWOSU human resources look into the possibility of adding health insurance options and/or exchange programs from the Affordable Health Care Act, in addition to the currently offered BlueCross /BlueShield coverage. These plans would be available for employees and their dependents.

Rationale:

The current dependent care coverage for spouse and children costs \$1000 per month. These costs are beyond the means of most young employees and their families. If there are any options in the Affordable Health Care Act that can address this problem, then those options should be aggressively pursued.

The above motion was passed as amended.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3.04pm

Next meeting 2:00 pm
Friday, April 19, 2013