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September 26, 2014 Approved Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

Abstract

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Approved Minutes
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
FACULTY SENATE September 26, 2014—2:00 pm EDU 201

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Evette Meliza called the September meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:05 p.m. in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were in attendance: Jimena Aracena, David Bessinger, Kathy Wolff (for Tammy Blatnik), John Bradshaw, Stacey DiPaolo, Jerry Dunn, Jared Edwards, Fred Gates, Ryan Haggard, Tiffany Kessler, Doug Linder, Jim Long, Scott Long, Kris Mahlock, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Kristin Montarella (from OKC), Cynthia Pena, Linda Pye, Les Ramos, Lisa Schroeder, Jeff Walker (for Karen Sweeney), Wayne Trail, and Holly McKee (for Trisha Wald).

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Holly McKee attended in place of Trisha Wald, Kathy Wolff attended instead of Tammy Blatnick, and Jeff Walker took the place of Karen Sweeney.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: No visitors attended.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the August meeting were approved by a voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President Evette Meliza

1. From the Executive Council meeting of September 8, 2014:
 - a. SWOSU is interested in two interim studies in the Legislature. One concerns guns on campus. The other study deals with Level E homes funding, which would affect our Adventure Program.
 - b. The Legislature is “looking for money.” They took enough out of Oklahoma’s Promise that the fund will go broke early in the spring. It will probably get supplemental funding, however, so the Regents aren’t overly worried.
 - c. The big issue is the No Child Left Behind waiver. There were no standards in place to replace Common Core, so we lost the waiver. It affects \$50-60 million. Money for Common Education will be taken from others.
 - d. Preliminary information from last year indicates that “revenue is on top of budget.” SWOSU charged 49% of tuition; 51% of tuition is scholarships. One challenge is that, although revenue estimates look good, charging tuition and getting the revenue are not the same thing.
 - e. The Governor’s Energy Savings Plan began the year before last. SWOSU has to save 20% by 2020. Our goal: Figure out what we can do to comply that doesn’t cost us a lot of money.
 - f. SWOSU is applying for the Chronicle for Higher Education’s Great Colleges To Work For list. Faculty and staff will be asked to complete a 10-20 minute survey. Of 500 institutions that were asked to apply, 33% of the 56% that did apply made the list. UCO is the only Oklahoma school on it.
 - g. The SWOSU tobacco policy was turned down by the State Health Department because we don’t ban tobacco at all off campus events. We don’t have the jurisdiction, however, to enforce a ban at all events off campus.
 - h. Concerning the Qualified Tuition Policy – An increase from 12 to 15 credit hours is not a significant increase in the financial burden of the University. The administration would like to see a GPA standard and appeals process added. The policy review is continuing.
 - i. Concerning the Southwestern Staff Council Cost of Living Adjustment Proposal – The administration cannot recommend a 3% guarantee. They are using CUPA data to adjust salaries. CUPA raises are for staff, too. Raises this year were for faculty and professional support staff.

- j. Athletic Director Thurman proposed a program to honor veterans at games. There would be a “Vet of the Week”.
- 2. From the Administrative Council meeting of September 8, 2014:
 - a. SWOSU Saturday is November 15th.
 - b. There was a .4% increase in the student count and an .8% increase in credit hours.
 - c. There was a 15% increase in online classes. There are 165 sections.
 - d. Faculty are reminded to do the training for online classes.
 - e. We have 163 international students, up 40%. About half of the students are from Saudi Arabia.
 - f. The Dean of Students requires students who cheat to write apologies. She places a Dean’s hold on their accounts until they do so.
 - g. November 3rd is Career Day at Sayre.
 - h. There are 28 open Physical Plant projects.
- 3. From the Provost:
 - a. The finals schedule for Fall 2014 will be the same as in previous years. Dead Days will be Monday-Wednesday and finals will begin on Thursday.
 - b. For Spring 2015, the new finals schedule will be in place. The three days class days before the beginning of Finals on May 4, 2015 are Dead Days. Dead Day guidelines apply to that Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Grades will be due the Monday after graduation.
 - c. IT server maintenance down time at the end of the spring semester will divided between two days. It will not occur during office hours.
 - d. The Add/Drop period will continue to be the first five days of the semester.
 - e. As mentioned at the University Faculty Meeting, the FUPTRC will have five weeks to meet and review the portfolios for tenure and promotion. The extra time for review will be taken from the Provost’s review time.
 - f. General Education requirements are almost completed and will be submitted to the Regents by October 1.
 - g. The Provost would like the Faculty Senate to make a recommendation on whether to combine the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty with the Faculty Grievance Committee. He said the make-up of both committees is extremely similar and both have little activity but are important. He would like to propose that the committees be combined. He would like input on how to reconcile the slightly differing descriptions of requirements for committee members, if the Faculty Senate agrees that they could be combined.
- 4. New Senator: Stacey DiPaolo has joined the Faculty Senate representing Music. She replaces Dennis Widen, who resigned the position. Dr. DiPaolo will take Dr. Widen’s position on the Curriculum committee.
- 5. For a list of faculty who are eligible to serve on the FUPTRC, see the attachment.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Tom McNamara

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer’s Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account:	August Meeting Balance:	\$1933.59
	Dues Collected	\$10.00
	New Faculty Reception	(\$ 77.65)
		CURRENT BALANCE: \$1865.94
b. University Account:	August Meeting balance:	\$105.01
		CURRENT BALANCE: \$105.01

C. President-Elect Jared Edwards: Nothing to report at this time.

D. Past President Fred Gates: The Faculty Advisory Council to the State Regents met recently and one of the things discussed were the education standards that the state will adopt now that Common Core has been jettisoned. According to the legislative directive, any new standards must meet the approval of Higher Ed. and insure that students are “college ready.” As such, Higher Ed. will have a more active role in the preparation of the new standards. Any SWOSU faculty interested in participating in this endeavor should let me know so that I can let Debra Stuart, the Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, know of said interest. I have no idea of a timetable for any of this.

E. Student Government Representative: No student representative was at the meeting.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the FUPTRC: The online voting will be concerning the modifications to FUPTRC will be available until September 30. As of this meeting, 93 faculty members had voted. This is fewer than the amount who filled out the survey. Senate representatives are encouraged to remind their departments to vote.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Faculty Senate Motion 2014-09-01: The Faculty Senate recommends that the Drop/Add period be amended as follows: students may drop courses without restrictions during the first five (5) days of the semester. Students may add courses without restrictions during the first three (3) days of the semester but must obtain an instructor’s signature to add a course on the fourth and fifth day of the semester until the Drop/Add period concludes at the end of the fifth day of the semester.

Rationale: With the recent changes to the academic calendar, SWOSU will begin classes on a Monday, which makes the first week of the semester the entire length of the Drop/Add period without interruption. As a result, all students and instructors should be on campus during the entire Drop/Add period. Under the current policy, students can conceivably miss an entire week of class and still add courses or wait until after the weekend to show up and enroll. As such, students are often starting the semester at a disadvantage. By requiring an instructor’s signature, individual instructors can determine if a student is already too far behind in the course to succeed.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Faculty Senate Motion 2014-09-02: It is proposed that Faculty Senate explore the option of two different tracks for Promotion and Tenure, a Research option and an Applied/Professional Practice option.

Rationale: SWOSU has numerous applied/professional practice programs within the College of Professional and Graduate Studies, and an applied doctorate program in the College of Pharmacy. Many faculty members within these programs are expected to work in their areas of expertise in order to obtain and/or maintain certification or licensure. Many also work in professional practice because they recognize the value in actively maintaining current knowledge and competencies that facilitate professional development. In addition, this on-going acquisition of knowledge and expertise provides enriched learning experiences for students in the classroom and practice settings. Ultimately, the university and community benefit as well. However, active practice and/or supervision of students in the practice setting are very time intensive. For example, an eight hour day of student supervision in the practice setting becomes a 14 hour day (twice per week), excluding the time involved in grading practice-related assignments. In addition, faculty is obligated to SWOSU during the Monday-Friday work week and cannot seek outside paid employment during these hours. Therefore, professional practice is limited to weekends and scheduled university breaks.

Although research is just one of many different types of scholarly activities, it seems to be the most heavily weighted activity for Promotion and Tenure. Professional practice and research should bear equal importance. However, due to time constraints involved in professional practice and/or supervision of

student practice, the practicing faculty members are at a disadvantage when it comes to the research expectation. Faculty spends countless hours supervising, training, and evaluating students in labs, practice areas, internships, etc., which considerably cuts into the time needed for conducting research. Therefore, offering two different tracks, Research and Applied/Professional Practice, would provide equal opportunity in the pursuit of Promotion and Tenure. This procedure has been adopted at a number of universities across the country. A few examples of universities who provide more than one pathway include the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Auburn University, Kansas University, and University of North Texas.

The motion failed by show of hands with 8 in favor and 10 against.

Faculty Senate Motion 2014-09-03: It is proposed that the changes to the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty and the Faculty Grievance Committee in item 3g of President Meliza's announcements be reviewed by the Personnel Policies Committee.

The motion passed via voice vote.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evette Meliza, Faculty Senate President
Tom McNamara, Faculty Senate Secretary

**Next meeting 2:00 pm
Friday, October 24, 2014**