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February 27, 2015 Approved Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

Abstract

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Faculty Senate Meeting February 27, 2015

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Evette Meliza called the February meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:02 pm in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following senators were in attendance: Jimena Aracena, Kristin Griffeath (for David Bessinger), Tammy Blatnik, Hector Garza (for John Bradshaw), Brad Bryant, Stacey DiPaolo, Jared Edwards, Fred Gates, Ryan Haggard, Tiffany Kessler, Doug Linder, Jim Long, Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Bo Pagliasotti, Cynthia Pena, Linda Pye, Les Ramos, Lisa Schroeder, Karen Sweeney, Wayne Trail, and Trisha Wald.

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Kristin Griffeath took the place of David Bessinger and Hector Garza attended instead of John Bradshaw.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: No visitors were at the meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 30, 2015 meeting were approved through a voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President Evette Meliza

1. From the Executive Council meeting of February 9, 2015:
 - a. SWOSU is 6,000 hours under our five-year enrollment average. If we were to reclaim those hours, we would gain \$1.2 million. In a mini-recession, we typically get more students.
 - b. Although many universities are in an enrollment decline, SWOSU is not. Our traditional student population, however, is not growing.
 - c. Via conference call, Luke Martin gave us a Legislative Update. There are 2200 bills in the Oklahoma Legislature this session. Four deal with Oklahoma's Promise, 48 are gun and knife bills, and 6 bills concern guns on campus. Bills to be considered this session can be found on the House and Senate websites.
 - d. Concerning foreign travel, SWOSU needs to develop a policy that provides for a contingency plan in the event of an emergency when students are outside the United States. We want to make sure our students are safe as they travel abroad. There also needs to be a policy for the cancellation of trips, should that become necessary. President Beutler and David Misak attended a legal conference on this topic.
 - e. One goal of the Strategic Plan is to improve university housing. SWOSU has 1,132 beds now. Parents of students, who attended SWOSU themselves, recognize the dorms from their tenure here. There are 260,000 square feet in SWOSU housing, which would cost \$20-30 million to remodel and take 5-7 years to complete. Currently, SWOSU does not require freshmen to live on campus, although most of our peer institutions have that requirement. One necessary upgrade to the buildings is the replacement of single-pane windows, which are not energy efficient. Upgraded circuits in the rooms to accommodate the increase in technology is also necessary.

Black Kettle Hall has 3 circuits in each room. Discussion on the topic continues.

2. From the Administrative Council meeting of February 9, 2015:
 - a. Allowing guns on campus is overwhelmingly opposed by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the general public.
 - b. SWOSU is formulating a program of “strategic engagement with appropriate elected and appointed officials at the federal level.” To this end, a document is being compiled that covers the areas of federal jurisdiction that have an impact on our campus and system. If you would like participate in the process, please let me know.
 - c. Spam emails continue to be heavy. Please delete junk mail. The firewall will be replaced during spring break, so there will be limited access that Monday and Tuesday.
 - d. The Library has new batteries for computers used in the library. The abundance of computer cords is a fire hazard.
 - e. The review by department chairs and Distance and eLearning of online classes to meet SARA requirements continues.
 - f. There is a 400 mile radius limit on the use of SWOSU vehicles.
 - g. In the draft 2016 Budget, the Strategic Plan is half funded, based on current enrollment and tuition. We have sufficient reserves, if needed.
 - h. Anita Fischer is the new Degree Audit Coordinator in the Registrar’s Office.
 - i. Retention has improved and is up 1.5%.
 - j. The revised General Education program has been approved by RUSO.
3. From the Provost:
 - a. The Provost asks for guidance defining “extra-curricular” in the Dead Days Policy.
 - b. The Provost asked Brad Bryant (Academic Technology Advisory Committee Chair) and Karen Klein (Director of ITS) to craft a response to Senate Motion 2015-01-0, which states “Individual Departments should be allowed to coordinate the purchase of installation of computer software.” See Appendix A for the full report. In summary, individual are allowed to purchase and install software. There are four exceptions given in the report. Also, any software costing more than \$500 should be reported to ITS for inventory/audit purposes.
4. Correspondence from the President:
 - a. At the time of the Executive Council meeting, it was believed that there would be a \$300 million deficit in the state budget this year and that the higher education budget would be held even. In a subsequent email to Executive Council members, President Beutler provided the following information: After the meeting of the State Equalization Board on February 17th, it is now known that the shortfall will be over \$611 million. This is a little less than 10% of the total state budget. It is now without question that higher education will sustain some type of fiscal decrease for FY-16. SWOSU is currently being asked to consider the impact on our institution of a budget cut of anywhere from 2.5% to nearly 8%.
 - b. Mark Stansberry has been appointed to fill out the remaining time of Regent Richard Ogden’s term on the RUSO Board of Regents (ending June 10, 2019). His term begins immediately on an interim basis and then for the full remaining term once he receives Senate confirmation.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Tom McNamara

1. Roll Sheet: Please make sure all in attendance have signed the roll sheet..

2. Treasurer's Report:

a. BancFirst Checking Account:	January Meeting Balance: \$1865.94
	CURRENT BALANCE: \$1865.94
b. University Account:	January 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 history education community is concerned about the well-publicized bill in the State Legislature regarding AP History. This will be watched closely.

E. Student Government Representative: There was no Student Government Representative at the meeting. There was confusion regarding the student representative for this academic year. There will be a representative present at the March meeting.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES: No committee reports were presented.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business from the January meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Faculty Senate Resolution 2015-02-01: The Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University hereby present the following resolution relating to firearms on college campuses and other purposes.

WHEREAS: The Oklahoma State Regents, the Chancellor, the presidents of all twenty-five institutions, and members of all institutional governing boards believe that there is no scenario where allowing firearms on campuses will do anything other than create a potentially dangerous environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors; and

WHEREAS: The safety of our campus is of the utmost importance to students, parents, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS: The risks associated with accidental discharge, weapon theft and weapon storage are greater in shared learning, socializing and residential spaces such as those utilized on and around campuses; and

WHEREAS: Guns on campuses could potentially increase student homicides, injury and suicide, and compromise the safety of police officers and security personnel, along with other campus populations;

WHEREAS: The opinions of faculty should be thought of when a question of firearms on campuses is before a legislator or State Regent.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved by the Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University:

THAT: The members of the Faculty Senate on the behalf of the faculty of Southwestern Oklahoma State University oppose any legislation extending the rights to carry open or

concealed weapons on campus.

THAT: A copy of this resolution should be distributed to SWOSU President Randy Beutler, Chancellor Glen Johnson, Representative Harold Wright, Senator Mike Schulz, House Speaker Hickman, and the Senate President Pro Tempore Brian Bingman by the Provost Dr. James South.

The resolution passed via voice vote with no opposition.

Faculty Senate Motion 2015-02-01: It is moved that the Faculty Senate supports:

1. The awarding of honorary doctoral degrees to truly exceptional individuals who are associated with SWOSU and who have demonstrated unique and significant success in their field;
2. The formation of a committee to make recommendations to the President for such awards that will include faculty representation from each of the four colleges, the President, Executive Vice President, Provost, Director of Institutional Advancement, SGA President and Support Council President; and
3. The first SWOSU honorary doctorate will be awarded to Gen. Thomas P. Stafford.

RATIONALE:

The motion is to support SWOSU awarding honorary doctoral degrees and to establish a committee and procedure for the selection of recipients which would involve faculty, administration, staff, and students. Currently, we have some mechanisms to honor graduates or former students, namely the SWOSU Distinguished Alumnus Award. However, this award is limited to graduates of the university. We do not have an adequate way to honor those who are friends of the university and renowned in their field that may be associated with SWOSU and possibly attended for some amount of time, but never graduated from our institution. Many universities offer these honorary degrees as a way of recognizing such people and their accomplishments.

The opportunity to be able to award an honorary doctorate would be another tool for our institution to recognize people who have made great achievements for our country, state, community and institution. The ability to award an honorary doctorate would be something that very few regional institutions are able to do.

Under Oklahoma State Regent's policy, since SWOSU offers an academic doctoral degree, we may offer an honorary degree if we so choose. In our state, besides O.U. and O.S.U., Northeastern State University and Langston University both have awarded honorary doctorates and continue to do so. It is an opportunity that they have recognized and are using.

Under the State Regent's rules, we may offer up to one honorary degree per year. However, we would contend that these awards would be rare and not necessarily annual. This would be the most prestigious honor the institution could offer to anyone.

Finally, due to the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Apollo-Soyuz Project this summer and the importance of setting a high precedent for the first award, we would propose to make a timely honorary degree presentation to Gen. Thomas P. Stafford this year.

The motion passed following a show of hands with 11 in favor, 8 against, and 3 abstentions.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.

**Next meeting 2:00 pm
Friday, March 27, 2015**

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

Appendix A

Response to SWOSU Faculty Senate Motion 2015-01-01 Software Purchase and Installation

Southwestern Oklahoma State University is obligated under state law to manage software and hardware for the University. SWOSU has purchased the following software under Campus Agreement licenses which is only to be installed on University owned computers and is not available for individual downloads from the web.

The Campus Agreement software licenses maintained by the Information Technology Services (ITS) include:

1. Microsoft Office Suite
2. Adobe Products
3. SPSS Statistics
4. SecureCRT

In approximately 2010, the base SPSS software package was purchased at the request of various departments which fell under an overall Campus Agreement. Within the last year a departmental purchase of additional SPSS features resulted in multiple accounts and licenses. The ITS department was consulted to install software which could not occur until the license conflicts were resolved. This led to a merging of the accounts and licenses resulting in a more efficient management of upgrades and costs.

ITS remains committed to serve the technology requirements of SWOSU faculty and administrators. We recognize the individual unique needs and support departments acquiring software. However, departments should consider the following guidelines when purchasing hardware and software:

State law requires software or hardware purchases of \$500 or more to be tracked by Information Technology Services and reported to the State. The ITS department is required to retain a copy of the purchase order (large or small), the purchase invoice, and a copy of the license agreement for auditing purposes.

For every software purchase, the correct number of licenses must be obtained for each computer which the software will be installed on.

Most software for purchase on educational web sites is designated as Teacher/Student versions and is seldom legal for installation on University computers. These types of software are often licensed for at-home use only.

Again, ITS remains committed to supporting the education of our students and the success of the University. Please let us know if we can improve our services and assist with any needs.