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Faculty Senate Minutes

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2-28-2020

## February 28th, 2020 Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

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# SWOSU Faculty Senate

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** Faculty Senate President Stephen Burgess called the December meeting of the Faculty Senate to Order at 2:35 p.m. in HEC 213.
- II. Establishment of a Quorum:** Wayne Anderson, Jimena Aracena, Lisa Boyles, Landry Brewer, Sherri Brogdon, Nathan Brooks, Stephen Burgess, Melanie Claborn, Jerry Dunn, Amanda Evert, Daniel Farris, Phillip Fitzsimmons, Swarup Ghosh, Meri Hix, Paul Hummel, Sharon Lawrence, Alex Lee, Scott Long, David Martyn, Evette Meliza, Kathy O’Neal, Jess Parker, Hank Ramsey, Hardeep Saluja, Tugba Sevin, Amanda Smith-Chesley, Tony Stein, Carie Strauch, Karen Sweeney, Muatasem Ubeidat
- III. Certification of Substitutes:** Daniel Kavish for Sunu Kodumthara
- IV. Presentation of Visitors:** None
- V. Approval of Minutes:** Approved
- VI. Announcements**
  - A. President Stephen Burgess
    1. Executive Council Meeting: Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and Dr. South Feb 26<sup>th</sup>
      - a. Ashley Hancock is the new University Bookstore manager
      - b. Expecting a flat budget from state for next year
      - c. Cognito Suicide Prevention Program will be available Sp 2020 through Sp 2021. The training takes about 30 minutes for faculty and about 25 minutes for students.
      - d. SWIM March 26<sup>th</sup>. Each department is in charge of scheduling rooms.
      - e. OK Research Day March 6<sup>th</sup>.
      - f. Registration for Fall 2020. If a student has outstanding bill of over \$1000 cannot enroll but can complete planning process. If less than \$1000 can enroll.
      - g. Textbook adoptions for summer are being collected.
      - h. SISA banquet will become the International Festival this year. Will be held April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Pioneer Center.
      - i. Excused absence process for non-athletic events. See Unfinished Business.
      - j. Collegiality update.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Amanda Evert

1. Roll Sheet—please sign
2. Treasurer's Report
  - a) BancFirst
    - (1) January Balance: \$1,793.88
    - (2) Withdrawal: \$0
    - (3) Deposit:
    - (4) Current Balance: \$1,793.88
  - b) University Account
    - (1) January Balance: \$105.01
    - (2) Current Balance: \$105.01

C. President-Elect Karen Sweeney: No Report

D. Past President Amanda Smith-Chesley: No Report

E. Faculty Athletic Representative Bo Pagliasotti: No Report

F. Student Government Representative: No Report

**VII. Reports from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees:**

**VIII. Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Guns on campus resolution:** The resolution to support maintaining the current law regarding guns on campus was passed. This was a reaffirmation of previous Faculty Senate resolutions supporting this position. See attachment.
- b. **Excused absences for non-athletic events:** This issue was sent to committee for continued consideration.
- c. **The current Professional Behavior statement:** Is currently in the Faculty Handbook.
- d. **Policies and Procedure committee representative:** Volunteered to follow up on Promotion and Tenure Review Form questions.

**IX. New Business:**

- a. Faculty Senate Resolution opposing changes to remedial placement policy scheduled to take effect in the 2020-2021 was proposed, modified, and approved. (See Attachment)

**X. Adjournment:** 3:32 p.m.

**XI. Next Meeting:** Friday Friday March 27, 2020 in HLC 213

Fall 2019 Meetings at 230  
Friday, August 30, 2019  
Friday September 28, 2019  
Friday October 25, 2019  
Friday November 22, 2019  
Friday December 6, 2019

Spring 2020 Meetings at 230  
Friday January 24, 2020  
Friday February 28, 2020  
Friday March 27, 2020  
Friday April 24, 2020  
Wednesday May 6, 2020

## **Attachments**

### **Previous resolution**

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.

## **Senate Resolution 2019-02-28a.**

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.

Therefore, be it resolved, the members of the Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University support maintaining the current law regarding weapons on campus, in which the President has the discretion to allow individuals to carry weapons on campus when the individual circumstances warrant it. We strongly oppose any changes to state law regarding weapons on college and university campuses.

# Senate Resolution 2019-02-28b.

The Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University hereby present the following resolution: Be it resolved that the SWOSU Faculty Senate opposes the changes to the remedial placement policy scheduled to take effect in the 2020-2021 academic year. This change was made without consultation of the academic departments involved. The faculty at SWOSU understands that many students have financial difficulties, and we appreciate the University's attempt to help on that front. However, the proposed changes will discourage academically underprepared students from seeking the support that will help them succeed.

WHEREAS: According to the administration, the new program of support courses for deficient students has increased student success and led to better retention. If this program is indeed successful, then it should be continued.

WHEREAS: According to the administration, the higher costs for developmental courses and lack of funding from Oklahoma Promise for such courses causes financial hardships for students. Rather than removing a program that works, the university can look into better ways to help these students financially.

WHEREAS: Using HS GPA will put students with poor reading, writing, and mathematics skills into courses that they may not be prepared for. Data on this year's FTF (full-time freshman) shows that 80% of those students entering deficient in math or English had a HS GPA of 3.0 or higher and 62% had a HS GPA of 3.25 or higher.

WHEREAS: There is no distinction among different subjects under the new plan. Any student with a 3.25 or higher HS GPA has any developmental requirements waived.

WHEREAS: Having students with such different academic backgrounds in a class will lead to an up-tick in the DFW rate, rather than a reduction of it. Pedagogy differs significantly for classes with under-prepared students. The likely outcome of such a mix of students will be that the underprepared students will be overwhelmed with the work while the well-prepared students may DFW through boredom.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University:  
That: The members of Faculty Senate on behalf of the faculty of Southwestern Oklahoma State University oppose the changes to the remedial placement policy for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Collegiality as addressed in faculty handbook currently

### **Professional Behavior**

SWOSU faculty members should aspire to cultivate a respectful and collegial work environment by encouraging all members of the university community (faculty, students, administration, staff, and visitors) to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Members are expected to adhere to applicable University and RUSO policies and procedures.

**Senate Motion:** That signature lines for all Academic Unit Review Committee (AUC) members be added to the currently used forms entitled, “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Promotion” and “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Tenure.”

### **Rationale:**

- (1) The current Faculty Handbook procedures for granting of promotion and/or tenure involves the use of forms, “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Promotion” and “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Tenure.”
- (2) Both of these forms currently only require the signature of the AUC Chair. Outside of the Chair, the other members of the AUC do not sign either form. Although implied, verification of agreement with the wording of the rationale by the members of the AUC is not established by the current forms.
- (3) Therefore, we request that both forms be required to have signature lines for all AUC committee members for both Tenure and/or Promotion. The current form entitled, “Departmental Continuance Recommendation” contains signature lines for all members of the departmental continuance committee and could serve as a model for modifying the both the “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Promotion” and “Recommendation of the Academic Unit Review Committee: Tenure” forms.