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Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate

2-24-2023

February 24, 2023 Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

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SWOSU Faculty Senate Official Minutes

Friday, February 24, 2023 @ 2:30 PM in STF 108 and
via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99127834348>

Call to Order: Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by President Jessica Salmans at 2:31 PM.

❖ **Establishment of a Quorum:** Jimena Aracena, Landry Brewer, Glenna Davis, Jared Edwards, Trevor Ellis, Amanda Evert, Phillip Fitzsimmons, Swarup Ghosh, Angela Gore, Jon Henrikson, Jeremy Johnson, Daniel Kavish, Alex Lee, Dana Lloyd, Holly Mace, Shelley Martinson, Nolan Meditz, Vanessa Nix, Andy North, Kathy O'Neal, Dana Oliver, Bo Pagliasotti, Eric Paul, Brian Rickel, Hardeep Saluja, Horrick Sharma, Debra Stevens, Ubeidat Muatasem

❖ **Certification of Substitutes:** Dr. Bruce for Dr. Chang

❖ **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from January 27, 2023 were approved.

❖ **Reports from Representatives**

➤ **Faculty Athletic Representative** Bo Pagliasotti

- Bo is a representative for a scholarship program. Provide him information relating to any potential SWOSU students who may be candidates.

➤ **Student Government Representative** Frankie Acuna

- Nothing to report.

➤ **Library Representative** Phillip Fitzsimmons

- \$25,000 Oklahoma Society Grant to digitize reel-reel audio and film.

➤ **Staff Council Member:**

- SWOSU Staff Service Awards and Recognition event over the past week for the 2021 and 2022 years.
 - 50+ employees recognized for 5 to 30 years of service.

➤ After reports, representatives present were given the option to leave the meeting.

❖ **Announcements – President Salmans provided the Announcements and Information collected at various meetings first then opened the floor for comments and discussions among senators.**

➤ Executive Council & Administrative Council Meeting

- A summary of the Executive and Administrative Council Meetings were sent out via email to senators on February 6, 2023.

➤ Faculty Senate Executive officers meeting with Dr. Kendall on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

- Discussed department cuts. Were informed that any departments facing personnel cuts had already been notified. If an individual department had not had a meeting with the Provost about losing a faculty position, then those departments are not losing a position.
- Officers discussed online credit hour teaching stipend (\$300,000) and the proposed stepped phase-out process instead of a hard cut.
- Discussed RUSO universities working together to be thought of as a single entity rather than six (6) separate entities when relating with the state legislature. A reception, with the legislature, was held at the UCO Boathouse on Tuesday, February 21.
 - Emphasis on RUSO producing more graduates than either OU or OSU do, yet the “big two” get 80% of the state funding for higher education.
- Changes to the Bernhardt selection process are on-going to open the transparency of the selection process.
- The new Advising Support Plan should be presented to everyone soon.
 - Academic Support being moved to first floor of Stafford and the old chapel building, while the Honors College program is being phased out over the next couple of years to allow those who are in the program to finish their degrees. No new students will be brought into the Honors College program.

- Students who need academic support or remedial placement will now be flagged at NSO and by Taler Alexander's office.
 - During this process, support/remedial courses will be added to the enrollment "plan" for the upcoming semester for the student.
 - A course section will still need to be put in when the advisor and student meet.
 - There will be a "soft hold" on the student's account which will not prevent them from enrolling, but will stay on there as a reminder until any deficiencies have cleared.
- Distinguished Student Awards will be presented Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the Fine Arts Center.
- Staff council had an excellent turn out at their recognition awards on Tuesday, February 21. Over 50 individuals hit service milestones at SWOSU over the last two years.
- Representatives Rhonda Baker (Yukon), Mark McBride (Moore) and Anthony Moore (Clinton) published a statement to Ryan Walters related to Higher Education and his actual role in primary and secondary education.
- Town Hall Meeting held early in February was followed up by a Smaller Group "Campfire Chat" with the Provost.
- OSHRE Strategic Plan is out. It's called "Blueprint 2030: Innovating and Elevating Oklahoma Higher Education for Tomorrow's Workforce."
- Perks and Benefits: The Cabinet is looking over a draft and should be providing a finalized response soon, before our next faculty senate meeting.
- Summer and Fall 2023 enrollment is open.
- Graduation Applications process is open for those graduating.
- ❖ Senators discussed and voiced thoughts about the different announcements.
 - Senators discussed the Faculty Handbook relating Retrenchment Guidelines and how the decision on whether cuts to faculty in departments fits under these guidelines.
 - Discussion about the Mathematics Department losing two (2) instructors was one major point of focus. Part of the issue that needs to be recognized is that it has been documented that well over 100 students had been either misadvised or mis-enrolled in courses without the necessary support courses. Lack of department-to-department communication was addressed to convey needs or issues was brought forth. Senators from Department of Education brought up how issues for students needing to take a specific math course were addressed when they simply communicated between the departments. Other concerns about departments on campus advising students to take courses from other universities instead of SWOSU were brought up.
 - Further discussions were had regarding the online course teaching "stipend" were brought up.
 - Amanda Evert briefly discussed changes being worked on with the Bernhardt in more detail.
- ❖ **Secretary/Treasurer Jon Henrikson**
 - Please check the minutes carefully from each meeting to be assured you were not missed.
 - Treasurer's Report- No changes over the last month
 - BancFirst

	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
End of November Balance			\$2335.39
Current Balance			\$2335.39
 - University Account
- ❖ **President-Elect Trevor Ellis**
 - Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Past President Amanda Evert**
 - Nothing to report.

❖ **Reports from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- Nothing to report.

❖ **Unfinished Business:**

- Current Faculty Senate Committee assignments were sent out, along with designations of positions that need to be filled. Anyone wishing to fill an empty assignment needs to contact Daniel Kavish as soon as possible.

❖ **New Business**

- AI tools for Artificial and Augmented Intelligence (ChatGPT, Bard, and others) have been discussed with Dr. Kendall. Currently, there is no formal campus-wide policy and Dr. Kendall supports each Faculty members process for handling this in their own courses.
 - Department of Language and Literature hosted an AI Brown Bag on Wednesday, February 22 and discussions showed that some faculty are already including language related to these AI tools in their syllabi.
 - Dr. Landrum-Geyer and Dr. Orgeron have created a Google Document providing information related AI tools and a link can be provided to the Zoom recording of the Brown Bag meeting.
 - Senators discussed positives and negatives to the programs and how to adapt courses and programs to account for the presence of these programs.

❖ **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM

❖ **Next Meeting:** Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:30 PM