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Faculty Senate Minutes


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4-28-2023

April 28, 2023 Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

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SWOSU Faculty Senate Official Minutes

Friday, April 28, 2023 @ 2:30 PM in STF 108 and
via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4918967375>

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

- ❖ **Establishment of a Quorum:** Jimena Aracena, Landry Brewer, Nathan Brooks, Jieun Chang, Glenna Davis, Marc DiPaolo, Jared Edwards, Trevor Ellis, Amanda Evert, Swarup Ghosh, Jon Henrikson, Jeremy Johnson, Daniel Kavish, Sharon, Lawrence, Dana Lloyd, Holly Mace, Shelley Martinson, Nolan Meditz, Vanessa Nix, Andy North, Kathy O’Neal, Eric Pritchard, Brian Rickel, Hardeep Saluja, Horrick Sharma, Muatasem Ubeidat
- ❖ **Certification of Substitutes:** Mr. Jon Woltz for Mr. Phillip Fitzsimmons, Dr. Brandy Chase for Dr. Sharon Lawrence, Dr. Stephen Drinnon for Dr. Horrick Sharma, Dr. Meri Hix for Dr. Debra Stevens
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from March 31, 2023, were approved.
- ❖ **Reports from Representatives**
 - **Faculty Athletic Representative** Bo Pagliasotti
 - Nothing to report.
 - **Student Government Representative** Frankie Acuna
 - Nothing to report.
 - **Library Representative** Jon Woltz
 - April 23 – 29 is National Library Week.
 - **Staff Council Member:** Kathy Megli
 - Discussed issue with Summer Hours change that had the potential to affect summer hour expectations for some of the staff positions on campus. Asked for faculty senate support related to current issues.
 - After reports, representatives present were given the option to leave the meeting.
- ❖ **Announcements**
 - Summary of Executive Council & Administrative Council Meetings
 - Oklahoma Legislative Update:
 - State currently has a budget surplus, but issues between governor and state representatives with respect of how to earmark funds. Governor holding 30+ bills with threaten to veto, which could impact how soon the next fiscal budget is processed.
 - Currently, a special session is anticipated, meaning a budget may not be finalized until late summer/early fall, which means SWOSU budget is incomplete as well.
 - Faculty and Staff Perks and Benefits Request
 - President Salmans provided Senators the email exchange between Garrett King and herself.
 - Faculty Senators discussed issues and concerns related to the information provided.
 - President Salmans is wanting clarification on if a “membership” for family members of faculty and staff could be provided and the cost.
 - Questions regarding if a “scholarship” program could be set up with foundation to defer some of taxable costs for tuition waivers for employees and family.
 - Reminder that graduation will be outside unless there is the possibility of rain. Decision will be made by Thursday if graduation will be moved inside.
 - Meeting with Dr. Kendall on Thursday, April 27.
 - Discussed the split to five (5) Colleges.
 - Revisited cost and concerns about positions created and new agreements being made with potential Deans of the new Colleges. Chad Kinder’s role will continue as VP of Strategic Development, but also obtain the role of Director of the Graduate College.

- Discussed how these changes will impact documents and committees. Next year will require the need to amend items such as:
 - The Faculty Senate Constitution
 - The Faculty Handbook
 - The makes up Standing Committees
 - (a) Since official split will not be until start of Fall 2023 semester, current assignments will be based on current College make-up.
 - (b) Will need to determine how to adjust committee assignments in future.
 - (i) Based on same number for each college?
 - (ii) Based on number of departments/faculty in each college?
- No changes will occur with the \$100 per credit hour stipend online instructors receive next fall.
 - Still being evaluated, may be based on class size in future, small class size means loss of the stipend vs. a larger enrollment online course.
 - Issue brought up that this may mean a trade-off of loss of overload for a \$100 stipend, which may be an issue in the current favored plan being discussed.
- Faculty Senate makeup will change for the upcoming year.
 - Currently, up to seven (7) faculty allows for one (1) representative. Between seven and eleven allows for two (2) representatives.
 - Math and Pharmacy Science will each lose a Senate Seat for the upcoming academic year.
 - Discussed if this would also want to be revisited as other changes are being made with respect to the formation of the new Colleges.
- Campus Communication and Emails through the Office of Communications
 - Discussed issues with getting campus-wide communications from Boone Clemmons, particularly related to the recent Faculty Retirement Reception, that did not get announced to the campus community. This has been an on-going issue throughout the year.
- Yukon and other concurrent/satellite locations.
 - Discussed ongoing issues with Dr. Kendall.
 - Jonna Myers is being given load-release this summer to communicate with our Mary Ellis, who is our hired liaison at Yukon.
 - During discussions with Dr. Kendall, wanted further explanation on why we need to “hire” a liaison to work with our liaison.
 - Was brought up that this would be a role for an Associate Provost, so just using resources in another way. Executive Committee reminded that in past, President Lovell had stated that the Dean of Enrollment position was created which replaced the Associate Provost as a way to say no new administration roles had been created.
- Further discussion about five (5) Colleges and new positions created along with cost.
- University is looking to cut the custodial staff by 10% by not rehiring open positions. Latest listings also are now for custodial staff to be hired as contract workers.
- Concern about shared governance discussion with Dr. Kendall was shared with Senators.
 - Senators discussed language in HLC accreditation regarding shared governance and whether we were meeting those assurances.
 - Discussed statements directly in the Faculty Handbook.
- A proposal has been put forward that SWOSU Adopt a Land Acknowledgement Statement for placement on the website and/or at events.
 - Senators discussed concerns about if the agreement had been discussed with local tribal leadership to see if it is something they want and if the language fit.

- Motion was made to visit with tribal leadership before moving forward with discussions regarding SWOSU.
 - Motion 04-28-23 -1: To visit with local tribal leaders regarding the Land Agreement statement for approval or the statement or to modify as needed before continuing discussion.
 - Motion passed.

❖ **Secretary/Treasurer Jon Henrikson**

- Upcoming charges for the Faculty Retirement Reception and other items upcoming.
- Treasurer’s Report
 - BancFirst

	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
End of November Balance			\$2335.39
Current Balance			\$2335.39

- University Account

- Reminder that Senators should check to see if their terms will end at the close of this semester to make sure a replacement is determined if needed.

❖ **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**

❖ **New Business**

- Ballot for selecting new members of Standing Committees and for President Elect of Faculty Senate were distributed.
 - Most positions were able to be filled. There are a couple of positions that need to be caucused for from the College of Pharmacy and one position that needed to be caucused for in the College of Professional and Graduate Studies.
 - Dr. Kavish will compile the information and once everything has been filled, will submit to ensure all information is updated.

❖ **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 3:44 PM

❖ **Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 2:30 PM