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Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-29-2023

September 29, 2023 Minutes

SWOSU Faculty Senate

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SWOSU Faculty Senate Minutes

Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 2:34 PM in STF 108

Call to Order: Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by President Trevor Ellis at 2:33 PM.

❖ **Establishment of a Quorum:** Landry Brewer, Nathan Brooks, Jieun Chang, Marc DiPaolo, Jared Edwards, Phillip Fitzsimmons, Swarup Ghosh, Jon Henrikson, Jeremy Johnson, Daniel Kavish, Geo Kelly, Eunice Lonebear, Shelley Martinson, Nolan Meditz, Vanessa Nix, Andy North, Kathy O'Neal, Dana Oliver, Bo Pagliasotti, Brian Rickel, Tyler Rickey, Jessica Salamans Meditz, Hardeep Saluja, Horrick Sharma, Debra Stevens

❖ **Certification of Substitutes:** Vijay Somalinga for Jimena Aracena, Terri Stubbs for Sharon Lawrence, Lincoln Brown for Holly Mace, Daniel Farris for Richard Tirk, Mark Garcia for Muatasem Ubeidat

❖ **Presentation of Visitors:**

❖ **Reports from Representatives**

➤ **Faculty Athletic Representative** Bo Pagliasotti

○ Provided updates on the upcoming athletics events as Homecoming approaches.

➤ **Student Government Representative** Tess Tracy for Jessica Findley

○ Provided updates for preparations related to Battle of the Bulldogs for Homecoming.

➤ **Library Representative** Phillip Fitzsimmons

○ Participated in Hosting Ambassador Jesper Møller Sørensen from the Kingdom of Denmark.

➤ **Staff Council Member:** Kacy Delk

○ Nothing to report.

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

❖ **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from August 25, 2023 were approved.

❖ **Announcements**

➤ **Administrative Council Meeting**

○ **USDA Distance Learning Grant**

• Approximately \$1 million (new estimates closer to \$800K-\$900K)

• Current plans SWOSU will get five Zoom Rooms and an interactive learning library.

▪ Rooms were originally assigned during grant preparation however they'll be reviewing those locations now that Newlines were placed in classrooms.

▪ Questions regarding what rooms were planned for the zoom rooms.

▪ Discussion was also had about what hey Zoom Room would entail as far as infrastructure.

• Additionally, 10 high school partners each get \$30,000 for distance learning purposes.

▪ Questions regarding what high schools would be selected currently there's not a certainty of the exact high schools based on information provided.

▪ Encouraged to contact CETL if desired for additional information.

○ **2nd 8-Week Classes Gaining Popularity**

• Fall 2022 total enrollment in these classes is 98 students.

• Two weeks in the fall 2023 semester enrollment is over 200 in second eight-week course.

▪ These numbers have probably changed since information was provided.

• There were still 100 seats available in second eight-week courses in the fall 2023 semester after two weeks of classes.

○ **Commencement**

• Fall 2023 commencement will be held on Friday December 16th at 6:00 PM.

- Spring 2024 commencement plans, as of September 11, will occur indoors at the PCEC.
 - Initially there was a thought that there be a conflict with Weatherford high school commencement.
 - Commencement was moved back indoors based on feedback from last year and concern for students leaving early before completing commencement for all.
 - Current commencement plans are as follows for times and dates:
 - (a) Pharmacy will be held Friday May 3rd.
 - (b) Nursing and health professions will build Friday May 10th.
 - (c) CAS/CBT will be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday May 11th .
 - (d) CEBS will be held at 11:30 AM on Saturday May 11th.
- RUSO Meeting
 - Regents discussed student faculty ratios.
 - Regent representative wanted 20:1 student:faculty ratio.
 - (a) Presidents presented arguments as to why setting arbitrary numbers would have at first effects on programs.
 - (b) Fact faculty senators asked about where that number came from as far as a student faculty ratio.
 - SWOSU is currently at 18.5:1 ratio.
 - (a) Would entail a loss of eight faculty in order to reach 20:1 ratio brought forth by RUSO representative.
- Academic Affairs
 - OSHRE: Take a more hands off approach.
 - RUSO: Will be handling more matters with respect to programs.
 - Policies and procedures are currently being established.
 - (a) Currently uncertain how this will look and is going to take some reorganization.
 - (b) Universities are going to have to have a greater responsibility in the process under these circumstances.
- Legislator Visits
 - Markwayne Mullin, US Senator of Oklahoma, visited SWOSU regarding budget earmarks for the current focus in the Aerospace areas.
 - Oklahoma House of Representatives visit.
 - Included Kyle Hilbert (Speaker Pro Tempore), Anthony Moore, Jared Deck (SWOSU Grad), and Cyndi Munson.
 - Focus on current progress related to different funding provided by State of Oklahoma.
- Let's Talk about SWOSU.
 - Being replaced with a twice a semester open form discussion.
 - Current plans are to hold one in early October and late November.
 - Questions being asked include:
 - (a) How many people will likely participate?
 - (b) Where should these sessions be held?
 - (c) Are prepared or impromptu questions preferred?
 - (d) Plans will be that there's a narrowed focus for each meeting.
 - (i) October meeting focus is open.

Faculty senators had many questions and comments related to this format change. These included some of the following:

- 1) can a zoom option be possible for attendance?
 - 2) Will there be varying times, or will this be held only at 2:00 PM?
 - 3) Can these events be held around campus? There was a concern about attendance size and how large of a space would be needed.
 - 4) Oklahoma humanities currently has a concept entitled let's talk about it. Questions regarding can this be rebranded to provide a new name for this event.
- U.S. news and World Report
 - SWOSU is currently up six spots to #64 in Regional Universities West.
 - This spot provides additional information about SWOSU in the posted information.
 - Senators brought up other changes, such as faculty pay, out-of-state tuition changes, etc. which may provide an additional boost to the rating in upcoming reports.
 - Enrollment
 - SWOSU is 1 of 3 RUSO Schools with increased enrollment.
 - Administration is looking for suggestions on how to improve retention.
 - From Provost: Retention Council meeting to discuss options.
 - Head count was up 1.6%; Credit Hours were -1.1%
 - Reasons include: 1) Concurrent enrollment for head count boost and 2) College of Pharmacy being down and how their hours are calculated in credit hours.
 - Freshman class was approximately 1100, with 700 of these students being first-time, full-time enrollees.
 - University trends based on OSHRE Reports related to enrollment.
 - SWOSU STEM graduate up 143% in the last 10 years.
 - (a) Significant because of areas of focus for workforce needs in the state.
 - Concurrent enrollment up 70% in the past year.
 - Center for Health and Well-Being
 - Cards with list of resources for mental health and well-being available and can be picked up to be handed out or placed in buildings.
 - All cards available with information regarding Bulldog Food and Resource Center.
 - Dean of Students
 - Faculty can not opt out of approved accommodations if issues arise contact the Dean of Students Office.
 - There is a different between an Emotional Support Animal and a Service Animal.
 - Emotional Support Animals are only approved for direct living spaces on campus without special accommodations from the Dean of Students office.
 - (a) Individuals must get permission from the Dean of Students to have an Emotional Support Animal on campus.
 - (b) Faculty Senators inquired if this was also true for faculty members.
 - Human Resources
 - 7% of work study has been dedicated to community outreach.
 - Typically, this is Math and Reading Programs at public schools.
 - Human Resources is currently in search of candidates to fill these work study positions.
 - (a) Senators brought inquired if this was for after school or before school programs.
 - (b) Brought up information about a current flyer for the America Reads Program.
 - (c) Listing on Handshake related to positions of support for English as a Second Language Title 3 Program.

- Dean of Enrollment and Registrar
 - Be mindful of FERPA
 - Forward inquiries to Keith Sayles or Jennifer Cook-Johns.
- Benefits Open Enrollment
 - Will be open from October 16 through October 27.
- Public Relations
 - New SWOSU Viewbooks are available for recruiting purposes from Boone Clemmons office.
 - Anything you would like considered for display on campus e-display should be sent to Boone Clemmons.
 - Faculty Senators also discussed website issue and were updated on current status of our webmaster on leave and website being pieced together by others on campus.
- Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with Provost Joel Kendall.
 - HLC – 4 Year Review
 - Committees should start meeting this week.
 - Federal Compliance Issues
 - Training required for all recruiters.
 - (a) Senators had questions regarding what is needed in the training process to meet federal guidelines.
 - (b) Do students need this training as well?
 - Chief Information Officer
 - New position
 - Coordinator for all technology on campus.
 - Centralized figure to aid in integration of technology platforms.
 - Senate body discussed how this position could potentially correct some of the issues discussed in last meeting regarding the Technology Committees on campus.
 - Continuance Forms
 - It was brought to Joel's attention that Faculty Senate submitted revised forms in Spring of 2022.
 - WinMester
 - Voluntary opportunity
 - Focused on GE classes.
 - NWOSU only other RUSO school offering
 - Very little desire from faculty or students was reported by NWOSU.
 - Paid as overload.
 - Overload based on hours not adjusted for course term.
 - Senators inquired about a few items:
 - (a) Senators had questions regarding if this was going to be considered overload.
 - (b) If so, is this added to the Fall or Spring overload?
 - (c) Senators inquired if this is different than programs that offer advanced courses over the semester breaks, such as education.
 - (d) Senators had concerns if this was a way to get more adjuncts to teach our GEs due to overload limits to meet HLC guidelines.
 - Expected that these would be online not in person.
 - Will IT support be available? Still looking at schedule.

- Yukon
 - No MOU yet, still in negotiation.
 - \$3.6 Million investment made by SWOSU has not been returned, but will be.
 - Senators inquired if interest lost can be requested to be paid back as well.
- Cybersecurity
 - NewLines are not as secure as our computers in our offices.
 - Be cautious when transferring files and USB drives between the two.
 - (a) When inquired why the security was different, the opinion expressed by those in charge of technology was that faculty would not comply with the sign-in policies.
- Spring 2024 Enrollment, be sure to check with bursar and registrar's office if it appears students' information is not up to date with respect to bursar bill or transcripts.
 - Examples have come up where transcripts for transfer students may not be processed yet.
 - Examples have come up where financial holds may not be removed after paying the bill down below \$1000.

❖ **Secretary/Treasurer Jon Henrikson**

➤ Treasurer's Report

- BancFirst

	Deposit	Withdrawal	Balance
End of August Balance			\$2358.65
End of September Balance			\$2358.65

- University Account
- Upcoming charges:
 - New Faculty Reception
 - Supplies purchased by Dr. Ellis for the New Faculty Reception
 - Purchase of two (2) service plaques

❖ **President-Elect Jared Edwards**

- Nothing to report.

❖ **Past President Jessica Salmans-Meditz**

➤ Council of Chairs Meeting

- Faculty Senate was invited to sit in on meeting.
- Chairs load and stipend increased was a major item from the meeting. There was a request that Faculty Senate provides a letter of support.

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

- Nothing to report.

❖ **Unfinished Business**

❖ **New Business**

➤ Service Recognition Plaques

- This discussion was just related to the Years of Service Plaques given to faculty at the All-Faculty meeting at the start of the semester, it does not impact the salary bonus that is based on full-time employment.
- Background:
 - Provost Sonobe counted 1-year temporary positions towards total years served.
 - Provost South did not count 1-year temporary positions towards total years served and Provost

Kendall has just continued that process.

- Need to decide how to move forward to ensure consistency in future awarding of Faculty Service Plaques.
- Was inquired if this needs to go to University Policies Committee or if this could be decided by Faculty Senate body.
- **Motion 09-29-23-1:** Count temporary one-year temporary positions as part of the years served for receiving a Faculty Service Recognition Plaque.
 - Motion passed. President Ellis awarded Dr. Shelley Martinson her 10-year Service to SWOSU plaque.
- Academic Advising Committee Elections
 - Ballots were passed out to Faculty Senators
 - Jerry Dunn and Kristina Kirk were selected as representatives from CAS
 - Eunice Lonebear and Amy Maynard were selected as representatives from CNHP
 - Veronica Aguinaga and Robyn Randol were selected as representatives from CEBS
 - Sherry Westmoreland and Hayden Harrington were selected as representative from CBT
- Faculty University Tenure/Promotion Committee (FUPTRC)
 - Colleges individually caucused for selecting representatives.
 - Needed 1 CAS representative 3 CPGS (1 from CBT, 1 from CEBS, and third for a 1 year term), and 1 from COP
 - Caucus occurred while Academic Advising Committee ballots were counted.
 - CAS: Jimena Aracena – 2-year term
 - CEBS: Amber Sturgeon – 2-year term
 - CBT: Todd Wiggin – 2-year term
 - CBT: Geo Kelly – 1 year term
 - COP: Randall Sharp – 2-year term
- Faculty University Tenure/Promotion Appeals Committee
 - Dr. Becky Bruce replaced Dr. Jon Henrikson as the committee member seated on this committee from the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Committee due to Dr. Henrikson applying for promotion.
- Fall Semester SWOSU Faculty Senate Meetings
 - October 27, November 17, December 8
- ❖ **Adjournment**
 - Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM
- ❖ **Next Meeting:** Friday, October 27, 2023, at 2:30 PM in STF 108.