

DRAFT MINUTES – Revised 9/28/04
Of the University of Central Oklahoma
FACULTY SENATE
Thursday, September 9, 2004

Call to Order:

President Roberson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present (33): Senator Beasley, Senator Bird, Senator Boling, Senator Buxton, Senator Charoenwongse-Shaw, Senator Chen, Senator Cochran, Senator Cone, Senator Dickson, Senator Dowdy, Senator Eckard, Senator Haskin, Senator Hepner, Senator Kearns, Senator Law, Senator Lucas, Senator Martin, Senator McClendon, Senator Montes, Senator B. Parrish, Senator Pugh, Senator Reed, Senator Roberson, Senator Rooker, Senator Vaughan, Senator von Minden, Senator Wallo, Senator Waters, Senator Webb, Senator Wells, Senator Wilson-Martin, Senator Youll, Senator Zhu.

Members absent (3): Senator Hickman, Senator McNeiland, Senator R. Parrish.

Recognition of Visitors to the Senate: Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Pat LaGrow, Assistant Vice-President Jerry Legere, Senate Student Secretary Ashley Meade

Special Guest Speaker: *Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Pat LaGrow*

The Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Pat LaGrow, was invited by President Roberson to speak to the Senate on the issue of “faculty evaluation by students” – specifically, the plans to have Fall 2004 evaluations done on-line.

Asst. VP LaGrow noted that the decision was made subsequent to a task force recommendation that security issues would have to be addressed before on-line faculty evaluation by students should be employed. Based on subsequent security evaluations and other recommendations, the Provost decided that electronic evaluations should move forward. Asst. VP LaGrow reminded the Senate that all faculty had received notification concerning this plan in the pre-semester letter that was mailed to our homes.

Asst. VP LaGrow elucidated a tripartite rationale for the on-line reviews, noting that they would be designed to enhance “maximum efficiency, maximum participation, and maximum accuracy.” Envisioned improvements include “fewer fingers” involved in handling the data, a lesser impact on instructor’s class time, and more “written comments” by our students.

The Asst. VP opened the floor for questions.

Senator McClendon reminded the Asst. VP of the historical origins of the evaluation process and its more recent transformations into a tool that critically impacts Promotion and Tenure considerations. He also expressed concerns about student motivations and the possibility of biased results. President Roberson interjected that this was the sort of issue that should be addressed by the Senate Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Eckard noted that students – especially students in the College of Arts, Media, and Design – feel that “generic evaluations” mean little, and, therefore, the evaluations are not taken seriously. Asst. VP LaGrow acknowledged the phenomenon and reminded the senator that CAMD did have representation on the task force. “College specific” questions will be included in the evaluations, and it is hoped that these sorts of issues will be addressed on the college level.

Senator Dickson asked about best practices for “motivating” students to do the evaluations. Asst. VP LaGrow responded that there are many methods being used, and that the issue is still very much a topic of discussion.

Senator Reed questioned the notion of moving forward without more certainty as to methods and outcomes. He also questioned the fact that “security issues” have not been completely established yet. Asst. VP LaGrow agreed that there were problems, but she felt confident that things would be ready in time for this Fall’s evaluations. Senator Reed followed with a question about a “back-up plan;” the Asst. VP said that it would be too costly from an economic standpoint.

Senator Buxton commented that on-line evaluations might also be established for program evaluation. Asst. VP LaGrow expressed interest in the notion.

Senator Wallo reminded the Asst. VP of the popular belief among faculty of a correlation between “ease of requirements” and “positive feedback.” He also expressed to her his concern about the deleterious effects of pandering to the students and the resultant phenomenon of grade inflation.

Senator Webb asked whether we could eventually have on-line evaluations of administrators?

Senator Dickson asked whether this would be a “trial semester”? The Asst. VP expressed the hope that the 12 week Fall Semester would suffice as a “trial run.”

A number of senators expressed concerns about costs. Asst. VP LaGrow said that all costs are borne by the Assessment Office and that the previous costs of \$54,000 (2003) could be trimmed significantly.

President Roberson thanked the Assistant Vice President for appearing before the Senate and Asst. VP LaGrow received a round of applause.

President’s Pre-Report and Announcements:

President Roberson began by adjuring the various committees of the Senate to take action. Bills should not be allowed to sit idly in committee.

He thanked Webmaster Hepner for the updates to the Senate website, and specifically endorsed the value of the new editorial column, *The Voice*, which Senator Hepner is maintaining.

He also stated that the College Bowl would continue to operate under the aegis of the Senate, and that Dr. Albahadily has agreed to resume his role as the director of the program.

The new Senate Student Secretary, Ashley Meade, was formally introduced to the senators.

Approval of the August 26, 2004 Minutes:

The minutes were approved without emendation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President’s Report:

At this point, President Roberson gave his official report. This report was also made available to the senators in written form.

- He said that Academic Affairs will be continuing its effort to improve syllabi.
- The Promotion and Tenure Task Force may be rekindled in December 2004. It is presumed that there will be considerable “carry-forward” membership from the original T&P task force as well as the first revision task force.
- He urged that new guidelines should be created for membership on the Grievance Board.
- The Regents’ annual Articulation and Course Transfer Meetings will begin on September 16th on this campus. Senator Martin-Wilson was asked to clarify, for the Senate, what these meetings were about.
- UCO President, Roger Webb, has expressed interest in raising ACT admission scores at UCO, and the Provost, Don Betz, has asked for input from the Senate. President Roberson expressed his concern about needing an immediate response from the Senate, but elicited a parliamentary motion from Senator Webb for a “suspension of the rules for the purposes of moving to a Committee of the Whole.” The Senate approved the suspension.

Special Action by The Committee of the Whole:

President Roberson yielded the podium to Vice President Beasley, who opened the floor to a discussion of the topic: should we endorse the notion of raising ACT scores 1 point per year for 3 successive years beginning with the fall semester 2005? A very lively discussion ensued.

Senator Eckard asked what the state-wide averages were and VP Legere said 20.6. Senator Webb advised that that meant about a tenth grade education, and hoped that recent improvements in student quality could be further enhanced. Senator Lucas acknowledged the positive effects that higher scores would have in the domain of mathematics. Senator Chen advocated the notion that raising admission standards actually *increases* enrollment.

Senator Wilson-Martin interjected an important qualifier with regard to timing our increased standards: she noted that recruiters are already visiting Oklahoma high schools with literature for the 2005-2006 academic year that states our current admission standards; therefore, any increase in ACT scores should be delayed till 2006-2007.

Senator Hepner noted that the President and the Provost will both insist on a parallel effort to recruit minority students as we raise admission requirements. Senator Reed questioned the assumption that we could reconcile the stated goals of “raising admission standards” and “increasing enrollment by 2%.”

Senator Webb ended the debate by “calling for the question.”

Secretary/Treasurer Law then proffered an suggested resolution [FSR 2004-05-03]. Stated resolution:

“The Faculty Senate hereby resolves that ACT standards at the University of Central Oklahoma be raised one point in the academic year 2006-2007 and one additional point in each of the following two academic years.”

Senator Webb “Called For the Question,” and the Committee of the Whole approved the resolution by a vote 19 yeas to 8 nays.

Vice President Beasley then returned the Senate from the Committee of the Whole to the regular Senate meeting and elicited a motion to Suspend the Rules in order to officially vote on the resolution. Senator Wallo suggested a Friendly Amendment to the resolution, that we append “*without altering any other admissions criteria*” to the end of resolution. The Friendly Amendment was accepted by Senator Law.

Vice President Beasley then read the final version of the resolution [FSR 2004-05-03]. Stated resolution:

“The Faculty Senate hereby resolves that ACT standards at the University of Central Oklahoma be raised one point in the academic year 2006-2007 and one additional point in each of the following two academic years, without altering any other admissions criteria.”

The resolution was approved by a vote of 17 yeas to 6 nays. President Roberson thanked the senators for their swift action on the matter, and the Senate returned to the meeting’s agenda.

Vice-President’s Report:

Vice-President Beasley officially acknowledged the decision of the Committee of the Whole as binding action of the Senate.

Web Master’s Report:

Web Master Hepner noted that *The Voice* is now in its second edition, and that we should encourage our colleagues to read the column.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Law said that arrangements would be made to get access to the monthly budget reports that are sent out to account managers. Currently, the administration had not sent him any updates on the Senate budget.

He also reminded senators that he would be looking for door plates from previous senators for distribution at the next meeting.

Parliamentarian’s Report:

Parliamentarian Montes announced that he will be holding the mandatory meeting on parliamentary procedures on *Wednesday, September 22 from 2:00-3:00 pm in room 213 of Howell Hall*. All senators are encouraged to attend, especially those unfamiliar with parliamentary procedures.

SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Academic Affairs:

Senator Lucas: no report.

Adjunct Affairs:

Senator Vaughan: information is being gathered, and a 2003 bill has been forwarded to the committee from the Faculty Welfare and Development Committee.

Alumni and Community Affairs:

Senator McNeiland: the following report given by memo *in absentia*.

The Alumni and Community Service Committee e-mailed me ideas regarding our direction for the year.

The following objectives were identified:

1. Continue participation with the American Democracy Project.
2. Sponsor an Edmond & UCO community (faculty and Staff) meet-n-greet, perhaps at the Alumni House.

3. Involve ourselves with worthwhile community projects like the Children's Christmas party.
4. Increase community/state awareness by getting UCO merchandise in local stores and shops (like Wal-Mart, sport stores, etc.)
5. Work on packaging shows and sporting events to alumni and community members. Their attendance will encourage their knowledge of UCO events and hopefully get them to be a part of the university.

The committee will meet briefly after the Senate meeting to determine regular meeting times/locations.

Budget Committee:

Senator Barbara Parrish (*left Senate meeting*), report given by Senator Dickson: the committee is still seeking information concerning the budget.

CPP&E:

Senator Montes: the following committee report was submitted in memo form:

1. Dr. Jim Dechter (MS) and Dr. James Mock (LA) agreed to serve as *ad hoc* members to CPP&E. Both have extensive experience with parliamentary issues and the governing documents of the Senate.
2. CPP&E met on 9/3/04 and 9/8/04. Quorums were present at both meetings, with full attendance at the 9/8/04 meeting.
3. The committee discussed issues relating to the governing documents for future consideration. These include revising the terms of the officers (requiring a change in the constitution), how to deal with inactive senators, and reviewing the representation formula (again requiring a change to the constitution.)
4. The committee reviewed FSR 2004/2005-1 Amendment of Faculty Senate Bylaws to Update Article III. Committees. Several changes to the resolution were discussed and unanimously agreed upon by the committee. These changes are presented in the attached document "Recommended changes to FSR 2004/2005-1." Although most proposed amendments to the resolution are minor, a substantial change is made in rewording the role of the Information Resources Committee.
5. The committee reviewed FSR 2004/2005-2 Amendment of Faculty Senate Operating Code to Amend Section 1 Business Before the Senate and Section 2 Committee Structure. Again, several changes to the resolution were discussed and agreed upon by the committee. These changes are presented in the attached document "Recommended changes to FSR 2004/2005-2." Many of these changes are substantial.

Faculty Welfare and Development:

Senator Chen: "e-meetings" are underway and bills are under development.

Information Resources:

Senator Dickson: the following report was sent to the senators in memo form:

I have a meeting with Dr. Rolfe on Friday afternoon so that I can be brought up to date on the planning and development efforts currently underway. I will report back to the committee after that meeting so we can communicate regarding any additional issues or questions we find to be pertinent among the faculty.

We know about some initiatives taking place on campus:

1. The recent organization of a Student Task Force;
2. An apparent enhanced interest in the technology needs of faculty and staff most visible in the newly refurbished training facilities in Lillard Hall.

Some issues that we believe will be important in the future:

1. Implementation of wireless access for the campus community;
2. Broader use of distance learning across the academic divisions;
3. Authentication, anonymity and motivation concerning any evaluation activities performed online;
4. Email and spam control;
5. Security and virus issues.

Personnel Policies:

Senator Webb: *left Senate meeting*, no report given.

Research:

Senator Martin: no report.

Student Relations:

Senator Cone: contact has been made with representatives from both Student Government and the President's Leadership Council.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs:

Senator Lucas: Academic Affairs Council to meet on Wednesday, September 15.

Alliance for Institutional Advancement:

Senator Law: no meeting yet.

Alumni Association Board of Directors:

Senator Pugh: *left Senate meeting*; no report.

Benefits Committee:

Senator Haskin: *not at Senate meeting*; no report.

Budget Task Force:

Senators Roberson and Hepner: no meeting yet.

Continuous Improvement Team:

Senators Kearns and Roberson: meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 23.

Faculty Merit Committee:

Senator Vaughan: no meeting yet.

Faculty Enhancement Center Advisory Board:

Senator Youll: *left Senate meeting*; no report.

Globalization Task Force:

Senator Bird: no meeting yet.

Graduate Council:

Senator Rooker: Tuesday, September 14 will be first meeting.

Information Technology Advisory:

Senator Beasley: no meetings yet.

NSSE Task Force:

Senator Beasley: no meeting yet.

Parking Task Force:

Senator Ralph Parrish: *not at Senate meeting*; no report.

Research Advisory Council:

Senator McClendon: *left Senate meeting*; no report.

Old Business:

President Roberson reminded the senators to look at the two bills which will come before the Senate at the next meeting:

- FSR 2004/2005-01 *Amendment of Faculty Senate Bylaws to Update Article III. Committees.*
- FSR 2004/2005-02 *Amendment of Faculty Senate Operating Code to Amend Section 1 Business Before the Senate and Section 2 Committee Structure.*

New Business:

There was no new business brought before the Senate.

Announcements:

There were none made.

Adjournment:

Seeing that there was no further business before the Senate, President Roberson acknowledged a motion to adjourn at 4:32 p.m.