

MINUTES – Draft 4/17/05
Of the University of Central Oklahoma
FACULTY SENATE
Thursday, April 7, 2005
Education Building, Room 106

CALL TO ORDER

President Roberson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present (27): Senator Beasley, Senator Bird, Senator Boling, Senator Buxton, Senator Charoenwongse-Shaw, Senator Cone, Senator Dickson, Senator Dowdy, Senator Eckard, Senator Haskin, Senator Hepner, Senator Kearns, Senator Law, Senator McNeiland, Senator Montes, Senator B. Parrish, Senator Reed, Senator Roberson, Senator Rooker, Senator Vaughan, Senator von Minden, Senator Wallo, Senator Waters, Senator Webb, Senator Wilson-Martin, Senator Youll, Senator Zhu.
Members absent (9): Senator Chen, Senator Cochran, Senator Hickman, Senator Lucas, Senator Martin, Senator McClendon, Senator R. Parrish, Senator Pugh, Senator Wells.
Recognition of Visitors to the Senate: Assistant Vice-President Jerry Legere, Director of Quality Assurance Don Powers, Senate Student Secretary Ashley Meade.

APPROVAL OF THE March 10, 2005 MINUTES

President Roberson gave the senators a moment to reread the section of the minutes that dealt with President Roger Webb's March 10th address to the Senate. He then read a transcript, provided by Senate Secretary Law, of the President's exact words regarding his priorities for new full-time faculty positions:

"I will tell you that we fully intend to continue to make progress on providing more full-time faculty. Over the last two years we have added 18 FTE faculty. While we may not be averaging nine a year, I would hope that we would come close to that, at least over the next three years. All this, of course, depends upon future budgetary consideration, but I think we're going to be in position to where we will be able to see an average of five to ten – maybe even closer, hopefully, to ten – new additional faculty members a year."

The minutes were then approved without emendation.

EMENDATION OF THE February 10, 2005 MINUTES

In reviewing the previously approved minutes, Secretary Law noted that Senator Vaughan was marked both "present" and "absent." The February 10, 2005 minutes were emended to reflect that she was absent that day.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report:

President Roberson noted that his official report is available on-line at the Senate website. He chose, however, to highlight a few items from his report. The Budget Taskforce has begun meeting and is prudently dealing with a "worse case scenario" first. Mandatory costs (insurance, Pay Card, and promotions) may preclude anything but a modest 1% increase in salary. The Building Committee is now being activated. Enrollment estimates for Spring 2005 underestimated undergraduate numbers and overestimated graduate numbers; given the higher tuition paid by graduate students, there was less revenue than anticipated. There have also been discussions about "peer institutions" and the criteria used to make such a determination. President Roberson noted that partisan concerns could – hypothetically – predetermine how a peer institution is identified. This, in turn, could be used to argue for or against budgetary considerations. The example given, our BOROC "Sister Institutions," may be appropriate in some instances and inappropriate in others. The President urged senators to reflect upon the use of the term "peer institutions." Lastly, he noted that there had been no meeting of the Executive Committee with President Webb since the last Senate meeting.

Vice-President's Report:

Vice-President Beasley noted that the Senate had produced twenty bills this year. She thanked the senators for their dedication and hard work.

Web Master's Report:

Web Master Hepner commented upon the successful passage of the bond issue for higher education in the State of Oklahoma. The bill has already been signed by Governor Brad Henry. The State Lottery that will help offset the bonds, however, is still in limbo.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Law reported that the Senate coffers contained \$5,975.27, pending the submission of any current receipts from President Roberson.

Parliamentarian's Report:

Parliamentarian Montes provided updates on the three elections being conducted by the Senate:

- Three of the five representatives to the Promotion and Tenure Taskforce have been elected: James Mock will represent Liberal Arts, Daniel Haskin will represent Business, and William Wallo will represent the College of Arts, Media, and Design. Run-off elections are being finished for the Colleges of Education and Math and Science.
- The election for representatives to the 2005/2006 Senate is almost finished (run-off elections in The College of Education and Professional Studies and in amongst the Professional Administrators are still underway). Business, unfortunately, only fielded three candidates for their four Senate vacancies; as a result, the College of Business will have to wait till April 2006 for a chance to fill the remaining vacant seat.
- The voting on the two Senate Constitutional Amendments has begun and the ballots are already coming in.

President's Report Reprise:

President Roberson concluded the Executive Committee reports with a few additional notes. The Tenure and Promotion Taskforce has been handed over to Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Bill Radke. The P & T Taskforce may begin its work as early as July, once the two new deans have been chosen. The "Outreach Proposal" will also be moving forward; Senate representatives for this taskforce will be the 2005/2006 President (or his designate), the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, and the Chair of the Personnel Policies Committee.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS**Academic Affairs Council:**

Senator Lucas was not at the meeting. Although, technically, there was no report, several senators made comments. Senator Kearns noted that the Curriculum Taskforce was still working on streamlining the approval process. The Council is scheduled to meet on April 27. Senator Kearns also mentioned the possibility of a "summer meeting" of the Council, so preparations could be made for a faster start-up in the Fall semester.

Alliance for Institutional Advancement:

Senator Law: the Alliance has not been called into session since January 2004.

Alumni Association Board of Directors:

Senator Pugh was not at the meeting. Senator McNeiland gave her own report. She highlighted changes to *Old North* magazine and noted that alumni and alumnae have increased 25% since the recruitment efforts began. The Board will be inducting fifteen new members on July 1st. Plans are also underway for Homecoming 2005.

Benefits Committee:

Senator Haskin: the Committee has not met. Jeanette Patton, Director of Hiring and Benefits, is finalizing the changes for life insurance. President Roberson asked Senator Haskin to confer with Senator Vaughan concerning developments concerning possible insurance packages for part-time faculty. Senator McNeiland also reminded the senators that the Alumni Association had several attractive group insurance plans available.

Budget Task Force:

Senators Roberson and Hepner noted that they had discussed this material earlier in today's meeting.

Continuous Improvement Team:

Senators Kearns and Roberson: neither of the senators were able to attend the last meeting; therefore, there was no report.

CIT / Prospective Students: Senator Beasley said this subcommittee did not meet.

CIT / Technology: Senator Dickson was not at the meeting; no report was given.

Faculty Merit Committee:

Senator Vaughan: the Committee has met and begun evaluation the 23 submissions for Merit Credit. April 19th is the target date for final decisions.

Faculty Enhancement Center Advisory Board:

Senator Youll: the Advisory Board met, but Senator Youll was unable to attend.

Globalization Task Force:

Senator Bird: the Task Force is meeting concurrently with the Senate meeting, so attendance is impossible today. May 5th is the next scheduled meeting. Work continues on *Passport UCO: India*.

Graduate Council:

Senator Rooker: the Council will meet April 12th and again on April 26th.

Information Technology Advisory Board:

Senator Beasley: the Advisory Board has not met.

Senator Dickson was not at the Senate meeting; there was no report.

Parking Task Force:

Senator Ralph Parrish was not at the meeting, but filed his report on-line. Of some concern is the increased costs of parking for university employees: Faculty and staff permits will rise to \$80.00 with the Fall 2005 semester.

Research Advisory Council:

Senator McClendon has not attended since the November 2004 meeting. No reports have been given to the 2004/2005 Senate thus far.

SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**Academic Affairs:**

Senator Lucas was not at the meeting; the Committee has not met this month.

Part-Time Faculty Affairs:

Senator Vaughan: three bills have been submitted and will be dealt with under today's Unfinished Business. A survey has been distributed to the part-time faculty; about half of them have expressed serious interest in some form of insurance coverage. President Roberson asked the senator whether there were concerns amongst part-time faculty about being paid on a four month schedule for five months of work. Senator Vaughan said that there was. Senator Law, speaking as a department chair, concurred that considerable hardship was being faced by many part-time faculty who only receive their first paycheck after having worked seven weeks. Senator Law gave some of the background history on administrative rationale for this schedule (cost savings to the university), but he questioned the ethics of placing such a heavy burden on the shoulders of people who were already suffering the financial hardships of low pay. President Roberson observed that the Senate should voice its concerns on this matter. Senator Vaughan clarified that the Senate passed a bill on this issue two years ago, and nothing has been done subsequently by the administration.

Alumni and Community Affairs:

Senator McNeiland: there will be a meeting on the 19th of April.

Budget Committee:

Senator Barbara Parrish: the Committee met to consider FSP 2004/2005-17 which will be discussed today under Unfinished Business.

CPP&E:

Senator Montes: the CPP&E Committee will have a short gathering after today's Senate meeting to count ballots. Other senators are invited to attend.

Faculty Welfare and Development:

Senator Chen: comments will be provided later for the bills listed in today's Unfinished Business.

Handbook Committee:

Senator Montes: e-discussions have been taking place, but no formal meeting has happened yet.

Information Resources:

Senator Dickson was not at the Senate meeting; no report was given.

Personnel Policies:

Senator Webb: the Committee will meet to discuss the bill it is being assigned today under New Business.

Research:

Senator Martin was not at the Senate meeting; Senator Reed reported for him. The Committee continues to work on undergraduate research issues. It is contemplating initiatives to introduce the concepts of “research” to incoming students.

Student Relations:

Senator Cone: e-mail discussions have taken place, but no real issues have emerged. The plagiarism check-site, “turnitin.com,” may become something more *proactive* in attempts to discourage students from engaging in the phenomenon. Plans are underway to test a group of students with the new program. President Roberson then queried the senators about reactions to having faculty GPA and grade distribution information posted on the web. “Honorary Senator” Jere Legere, the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, was asked to clarify the situation: using the Open Records Act, an on-line company has threatened a lawsuit if they are not provided with this information. University and Regents counsel have advised that we cannot withhold this information. President Roberson noted that Promotion and Tenure will have to wrestle with this development, as it is possible that faculty will be under increased pressure to curry favor with their students by giving them easy grades. Senator Rooker asked if graduate faculty were also going to have their information posted. Assistant Vice President Legere said “yes.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FSP 2004/2005-17 Bonus Pay for Years of Service for Part-Time Faculty.

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Senator Barbara Parish, said her committee had concerns about the bill, particularly whether there might be resentment from those *not* getting bonus pay. Senator Law argued that *something* needed to be done, even if everyone wouldn't be happy with the solution. He noted that part-time compensation at other institutions [“peer institutions” Senator Haskins interjected] was making it increasingly difficult to attract and retain the best qualified part-time faculty. OU is offering substantially higher salaries to its part-time faculty, along with prorated health insurance and Teacher Retirement benefits. Senator Law also stated that administrative claims that we are paying a salary similar to those of our peer institutions, do not take into account the high cost-of-living in the Edmond area. Senator Montes reflected that budgetary plans might be affected by any changes in part-time salary. Sensing that the Senate might benefit from additional data on this bill, President Roberson elicited a *motion to postpone*. The motion carried; we will return to the bill at the April 21st meeting.

FSR 2004/2005-18 Creation of a Task Force to Address Adjunct Health Insurance.

Senator Eckard motioned that the resolution be approved. There was no discussion. The Senate unanimously approved the bill.

FSP 2004/2005-19 Tuition Waivers for Part-Time Faculty and Families.

Senator Chen motioned for approval of the bill. Senator Wallo asked how many people this might effect. Senator Vaughan reported that initial estimates specified about 10% of the part-time faculty. Senator Kearns expressed concerns about whether teaching one class should generate a nine hour waiver. Other senators thought this was not unreasonable. Senator Reed asked if there was money available for this, and Senator McNeiland reminded the senators that such waivers were “Monopoly money”: money *not* collected as opposed to actual money being allocated from the budget. Senator Chen suggested that the proposal might demonstrate administrative “good will” towards an increasingly important part of our university's community. Senator Wallo proposed that Vice President Kreidler be asked about the financial impact of the bill; he made a *motion to postpone* the bill to the April 21st meeting. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FSR 2004/2005-20 Senate Support for Disaster Resistant University Planning Activity.

The Director of Quality Assurance, Don Powers, the author of the bill, was asked to introduce the resolution to the Senate. Director Powers thanked the senators for the opportunity and provided

rationale for Senate support. Federal funding is being sought for a major improvement project to enhance both planning and preparedness for possible emergencies. Tornados, in particular, are a realistic danger that our campus needs to be better prepared for. "Sheltering capability" (the number of people we can accommodate in an emergency) is a major concern. "Mitigation efforts" will also be assessed to create a safer campus environment. The university will be applying for a funding package in which 80% of the costs will be covered by outside resources. Director Powers hoped the Senate would pass the resolution of support at its next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Roberson distributed a handout on the UCO Blood Drive and encouraged the senators to do their part in making the drive a success.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing that there was no further business before the Senate, President Roberson acknowledged a motion to adjourn 3:43 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Law draft 4/17/05