

*MINUTES –Draft 12/3/05*  
**Of the University of Central Oklahoma**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2005**  
**Education Building, Room 106**

***CALL TO ORDER***

President Roberson called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

***ROLL CALL***

Members present (29): Senator Beasley, Senator Bird, Senator Bizé, Senator Boling, Senator Dickson, Senator Dowdy, Senator Eckard, Senator Ferguson, Senator Hartmann, Senator Hepner, Senator Holt, Senator Law, Senator Lucas, Senator Mock, Senator Montes, Senator Moyers, Senator Nelson, Senator Roberson, Senator Rooker, Senator Singer, Senator Smith, Senator von Minden, Senator Voth, Senator Wallo, Senator Waters, Senator Webb, Senator Wright, Senator Youll, Senator Zhu.

Members absent (4): Senator Cochran, Senator Hickman, Senator Martin, Senator McNeiland.

Recognition of visitors to the Senate: Assistant Vice President Jerry Legere, Former Senator Donna Kearns, Senate Student Secretary Ashley Meade.

***APPROVAL OF THE October 13, 2005 MINUTES***

Confusion surrounding the distribution of the minutes led to a postponement of their approval until the December meeting.

***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**President's Report:**

President Roberson noted that the month had been very busy and that his report would be integrated into later parts of the meeting. His official report is available on-line at the Senate website.

**Vice-President's Report:**

Vice-President Beasley announced that the next deadline for submission of bills to the Senate would be December 1, 2005.

**Reporter/Historian's Report:**

Reporter/Historian Hartmann noted improvements to the Senate website. Archived materials (back to 1999) should now be accessible.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:**

Secretary/Treasurer Law reported that the Senate had expended nothing from its account, with the exception of a \$40.00 charge from the print shop that has no apparent explanation. This will be investigated.

**Parliamentarian's Report:**

Parliamentarian Mock announced that all was "peaceful."

***UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**Academic Affairs Council:**

Senator Montes: the committee report will be available online. The council is contemplating minimum grades that are required in some programs.

**Alliance for Institutional Advancement:**

Senator Law: the Alliance has been reconstituted as a branch of funding recruitment. Its first meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Senator Law expressed consternation, given that he was not consulted about convenient meeting times and he happens to teach a class at the time.

**Alumni Association Board of Directors:**

Senator Webb: no report.

**Benefits Committee:**

Senator Bizé: no report. The committee will not meet until January 2006.

**Budget Task Force:**

Senator Hepner: the task force has not been called into session yet; there was no report.

**Building Committee:**

Senator Law: again reminded the Senators that the committee has forwarded its recommendations to President Webb. He reiterated that it will probably be 5 to 7 years until the building is finished, that it will likely be a *general* classroom building, and it is likely to be located close to the utilities loop to keep costs down.

**Continuous Improvement Team:**

CIT Facilitators, Former Senator Donna Kearns and President Roberson: unfortunately, this subcommittee is meeting at the same time as the Promotion and Tenure Taskforce. A staff enhancement day is being contemplated.

CIT Prospective Students, Vice President Beasley: this subcommittee will not be meeting again.

CIT Technology, Senator Dickson: "ditto." President Roberson asked whether this subcommittee should then be removed from the agenda; Senator Dickson said, "Not yet."

CIT Development/Continuing Education, President Roberson: Senator Holt has agreed to replace President Roberson on this subcommittee; she reported that the subcommittee has not met.

**Distance Learning Task Force:**

Senator Hartmann: the task force met on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Vice President Dan Donaldson posed several questions concerning the BOLD Initiative to the task force, but Senator Hartmann said that he felt there was some confusion about our commitment to the initiative. Clarifications of administrative dispositions will be elicited. Senator Rooker asked about rumors of planned staff reductions and their impact on faculty training programs; Senator Hartmann was unaware of specifics of this situation.

Senator Montes asked the chairman if he wished to hear the "BOLD Report" at this time, and the chair recognized him for the report.

**BOLD Report:**

Senator Montes: UCO will submit a proposal to the Regents office on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Chancellor Risser wants the program to be operational in August of 2006, so it may be rushed to completion. Faculty have voiced concerns about (1) the curriculum of the degree completion program, (2) who will be teaching the courses associated with the program, and (3) who will pay the costs of the program. The committee is of the opinion that UCO should not have to bear the costs of the program if we are chosen to administer and deliver it. Senator Eckard questioned the "hodge-podge" nature of the credit allotments in the program. Senator Montes clarified that the BOLD Initiative seemed to be migrating towards a "business" degree. President Roberson wondered whether faculty were going to have an opportunity to review the proposal before it was submitted to the Regents office. Senator Mock inquired if we would be staffing this initiative with regular faculty or "intermediate faculty." Senator Montes speculated that the latter would likely be the case. Senator Law voiced concerns that we might be establishing an under-funded program that delivers a less strenuous degree and is staffed with under-paid faculty. President Roberson reigned in the discussion and returned to the official agenda.

**Faculty Merit Committee:**

Senator Lucas: the committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. It is reworking some aspects of the rubric used to evaluate submissions. Senator Hartmann noted that greater systematization of the applications would be helpful to the evaluation process. President Roberson again inquired about the reduced funding for the awards and was told that, yes, \$10,000 had been allocated (down from the initial \$18,000 per annum that started the program).

**Faculty Enhancement Center Advisory Board:**

Senator Youll: the board has not met; there was no report.

**Faculty Handbook Editorial Board:**

Senator Montes: the board meets every other Tuesday. It is examining a number of issues. Progress has only been made up to the section of the Handbook dealing with the duties of deans. Future discussions will wrestle with summer teaching and the real "contractual dates" associated with the terms of employment.

**Globalization Task Force:**

Senator von Minden: the task force did not meet this month. Egypt will be next year's highlighted country for the *Passport UCO* series.

**Graduate Council:**

Senator Rooker: Research Day was November 11<sup>th</sup>; 15 institutions were represented and there were 482 abstracts accepted (124 from UCO).

**Information Technology Advisory Board:**

ITAB Faculty Advisory/Strategic Planning, Senator Dickson: there was no meeting; no report.

ITAB Academic Affairs Group, Vice President Beasley: there has been no contact; no report.

**Outreach Committee:**

Senator Montes and/or Senator Webb: neither had heard anything; no report.

**Parking Task Force:**

Senator Bird: the Senator reported that she did not the task force meeting; she had heard that it only dealt with disputed parking tickets. President Roberson expressed concern about the increased congestion in many of the parking lots.

**Research Advisory Council:**

Senator Ferguson: the council has not yet met.

**Tenure and Promotion Task Force:**

President Roberson: the task force is moving towards the completion of its charges, and will soon be submitting its recommendations to the Provost. A draft of the document is available on the Faculty Senate website. Senator Ferguson bemoaned the “abysmal level of response” of the students on the faculty evaluations, and expressed concerns about the potential impact this will have on materials submitted for promotion and tenure. Senator Mock interjected that there have been many discussions about these concerns, given that student evaluations of faculty are mandated by the regents. Senators Wallo and Eckard expressed the desire for more control of the process within the colleges. President Roberson noted that some areas – notably the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service – are mandated, but there will remain enough flexibility within the documents to accommodate the needs of the colleges.

***SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS***

**Senate Executive Committee:**

President Roberson: a new concern will be reported later in the meeting.

**Academic Affairs:**

Senator Montes: there was no report.

**Alumni and Community Affairs:**

Senator McNeiland: Senator McNeiland was not at the meeting. There was no report.

**CPP&E:**

Parliamentarian Mock: one bill has been assigned to the committee; one bill is coming up later in the meeting.

**Information Resources:**

Senator Dickson: a written report was distributed to the senators. The UCO library will be going “wireless.” Prospective students may be given greater access to the university’s website to encourage enrollment.

**Faculty Welfare and Development:**

Senator Wallo: the committee met on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Vice President Robert Epstein met with the committee to discuss the newly proposed policy statement on outside work. Additionally, the committee is drafting a proposal to recommend that faculty be given free access to the Wellness Center. Another proposal (FSP 2005/2006-08 *Financial Compensation for Individual Study Courses*) has been assigned to the committee.

**Personnel Policies:**

Senator Webb: the committee has endorsed FSP 2005/2006-06 and it will be coming up later in the meeting.

**Research:**

Senator Ferguson: the committee is working on drafts of two proposals.

**Student Relations:**

Senator Wright: there was no report.

**Budget Committee:**

Senator Hepner: priorities are being considered in preparation for next semester’s budget planning meetings.

**Adjunct Affairs Committee:**

Senator Law: the study done by Institutional Research on adjuncts at UCO has been distributed to the committee. The findings in this document will be compared to the study done by the 2003/2004 Faculty Senate. Senator Law also expressed thanks to President Roger Webb for including the part-time faculty in the recently awarded holiday bonuses given to faculty and staff.

**Faculty Handbook Revision Committee:**

Vice President Beasley: the committee has not met yet.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. FSR 2005/2006-01 *Faculty Senate Statement on Ethical Conduct, Discrimination, and Harassment*  
Parliamentarian Mock introduced the bill and acknowledged the support of CPP&E for this modified version of the resolution. As author of the first three bills being considered, President Roberson yielded the podium to Vice President Beasley. There was no discussion and the resolution passed unanimously.

2. FSR 2005/2006-02 *To Restrict the Service and Selection (by election, approval, or Presidential appointment) of Senate appointees to the Grievance Board and to the Appellate Committee On Dismissal Of Tenured Faculty Members to Full Professors.*

Parliamentarian Mock: This bill has *not* been endorsed by the CPP&E Committee. Potential revisions are being considered, but – for the time being – the resolution will remain in committee.

3. FSR 2005/2006-03 *Modify the Faculty Handbook to Limit the Voting for Chair or Director to Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty in the Department or School only, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the tenured members of the school or department prior to each vote for chair or director.*

Senator Montes noted that there was a *Minority Report* associated with this bill, and he asked that it be delivered to the Senate. Senator Holt distributed copies of the *Minority Report* to the senators. The report highlighted several perceived consequences that might occur if certain faculty are disenfranchised from the process of voting for departmental chairpersons. Senator Law suggested amended wording which was accepted by President Roberson, the author of the bill. The observation that some faculty have teaching responsibilities in several departments complicated interpretations of the bill. Senator Hepner raised a procedural inquiry about a *recently revised* bill being voted on: had the Senate had enough time to consider the *revised* bill? Senator Ferguson moved to postpone discussion of the bill. A discussion ensued concerning whether the changes were substantive enough to merit postponement. The motion to postpone carried by a show of hands: 16 to postpone and 10 to continue debate. Vice President Beasley then yielded the podium to President Roberson.

4. FSP 2005/2006-06 *Support for the issuing of Faculty/Staff identification cards and Faculty/Staff parking permits for Graduate Assistants who serve as teachers of record for UCO classes.*

There was no discussion and the resolution passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Roberson requested unanimous consent to establish an *ad hoc* committee to advise the Senate on the emergent policy concerning “outside work” that can be undertaken by UCO employees. Assigned to the committee will be Vice President Beasley (chair), other members of the Senate Executive Committee, and Senator Wallo. There was no discussion.

President Roberson then broached the topic he had postponed twice within the day’s meeting: President Roger Webb has decided that it is time to review and revise the pay scale at UCO. He read aloud a letter he had just received from Associate Vice President LaGrow (dated November 17<sup>th</sup>). Models of pay scales will be studied. Faculty satisfaction with the emendations will be paramount. Current employees will be “grandfathered” into the system. Some disciplines are having hiring problems. The Senate, President Roberson assured us, will have an instrumental role in this monumental change of university culture. Although the Senate has officially endorsed maintaining the Salary Card, the university will establish a taskforce to study the matter and make recommendations. There is no firm time table for this enterprise, as the potential effects are considerable.

An emotionally charged discussion ensued. Numerous senators expressed considerable consternation, with (1) the very notion of what is being contemplated and (2) the slow means by which this information gradually filtered down to the Senate.

**Loss of Quorum –**

At this point a substantial number of senators left the meeting and quorum was lost.

President Roberson quickly had Vice President Beasley introduce the two new bills that had been submitted since the last meeting:

- FSP 2005/2006-07 *Restrict Grievance Board appointees to Full Professors*
- FSP 2005/2006-08 *Financial Compensation for Individual Study Courses*

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

There were no announcements.

***ADJOURNMENT***

President Roberson adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Law revised draft 12/03/05