

MINUTES –Draft 4/25/06
Of the University of Central Oklahoma
FACULTY SENATE
Thursday, April 13, 2006
Education Building, Room 106

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Beasley called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. She announced that President Roberson had been asked to give a report to the Chairs Council of his college; therefore, he would be slightly delayed.

ROLL CALL

Members present (29): Senator Beasley, Senator Bird, Senator Bizé, Senator Boling, Senator Dickson, Senator Eckard, Senator Ferguson, Senator Hartmann, Senator Hepner, Senator Hickman, 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 Webb, Senator Waters, Senator Wright, Senator Youll, Senator Zhu.

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

Recognition of visitors to the Senate: Vice President of Enrollment Management, Assistant Vice President Jerry Legere, Senate Student Secretary Ashley Meade.

Attendance Record for members of the 2005/2006 Senate:

Two senators have resigned (Martin and McNeiland). Two senators have missed five Senate meetings (Dowdy and Moyers); four senators have missed four meetings (Cochran, Hickman, Smith and Youll); three senators have missed three meetings (Bird, Eckard, and Nelson); three senators have missed two meetings (Singer, Waters, and Zhu); eight senators have missed one meeting, and ten have a perfect record of attendance.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Myron Pope, Vice President of Enrollment Management

The Vice President addressed the Senate, highlighting the issues of “recruitment, retention, and graduation.” He recommended the establishment of a campus-wide taskforce with three subcommittees (each dedicated to the above mentioned issues). He recognized that there were concerns about UCO’s relatively low admission standards, and encouraged a dialogue be initiated on this topic. He also advocated an assessment as to which students we are retaining and which we are not; this will allow us to make a more meaningful strategic plan for retention. A similar tack needs to be taken with graduation rates.

The Vice President then opened the floor to questions. Senator Webb noted that, based on feedback from students, advisement needed to be improved and better funded. Vice President Beasley noted that the Senate had, indeed, passed a bill that called for better funding for advisement. Senator Ferguson cautioned that the growth of the university might soon outstrip its advisory infrastructures. Several senators expressed the desirability of departmentally based, or college based, advisors. Parliamentarian Mock asked the Vice President how UCO retention rates stand, compared to national averages. Vice President Pope said that “UCO’s rate is 64% or about eight percentage points below the 72% national average.” Assistant Vice President Legere was called upon to clarify the three ways by which an applicant can qualify for admission at UCO (20 on the ACT Exam / 2.7 GPA and in the top 50% of class / 2.7 in all of the core curriculum classes). Senator Dickson noted that it would be helpful to have department-specific data on retention. Senator Boling suggested that this would be available in the near future. Senator Dickson also advocated the “university college model” whereby students are counseled by the university advisors for their first two years, and then by the faculty for the remainder of their program. Vice President Pope was receptive to the notion, but cautioned that there were many logistical concerns with this model (costs, space, load reduction, etc.). To Senator Ferguson’s added concerns about unprepared students, the Vice President observed that “about 40% of incoming freshmen were in need of remediation.” Senator Lucas expressed hope that a state and nationwide initiative, Project Diploma, would help align the practices of the high schools with the expectations of the colleges and universities.

Vice President Pope was applauded by the Senate.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- The March 9, 2006 minutes were approved without emendations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report:

President Roberson was delayed, so no official report was given at this time.

Vice-President's Report:

Vice President Beasley announced that the Senate had a total of 16 bills for the year. Any new bills will have to be carried forward to the 2006/2007 Senate.

Reporter/Historian's Report:

Reporter/Historian Hartmann lamented the recent problems with the server, and apologized for any emails that were lost in cyberspace as a result.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Law thanked Vice President Beasley both for taking the March 9th minutes and writing the draft which had just been approved. There were no appreciable expenditures from Senate coffers since the last meeting.

Parliamentarian's Report:

Parliamentarian Mock announced that the election of senators for next year had been finished and that only one run-off election is necessary. He thanked former the Parliamentarian, Senator Montes, for helping with the official counting of the ballots. The following winners of the election were acknowledged:

- CAMD: Rukmini Ravikumar and Lori Wooden.
- CBA: Renee Warning, Waleed Zaghoul, and Lee Tyner (who will be filling the remaining year of an unfilled two-year term).
- CEPS: Glee Absher, Jerel Cowan, Cherel Kelsey, and Bonnie Voth. A run-off election is occurring between Shari Villani and Judith Wakefield.
- CLA: Darian DeBolt, Louis Furmanski, Patti Loughlin, and Rashi Shukla.
- CMS: Robert O. Bost, Mauricio Sanchez, and David Von Minden.
- ADM: Jo McGuffin and Georgia Morgan-Pyron.
- LIB: Cari Roberts.
- ADV: William McCormick.

[President Roberson arrives at this point, but leaves the podium to Vice President Beasley.]

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Council:

Senator Montes: the council had a brief meeting yesterday. A decision was made *not* to forward the Dance Education degree to the Regents. A short discussion of the differences between an "internship" and a "practicum" also took place. A poll on this issue will be taken amongst the department chairs.

Alliance for Institutional Advancement:

Senator Law: no contact has been made; no report.

Alumni Associate Board of Directors

Senator Webb: no report.

Benefits Committee:

Senator Bizé: no meeting; no report.

Budget Task Force:

Senator Hepner: The task force has been trying to make sense of the chimeric messages coming out of the legislature. With the House and the Senate holding educational funding hostage, it is impossible to say what funding will emerge. A recent meeting between representatives from higher education and the Speaker of the House did not prove favorable.

On another note, Senator Hepner noted that his term as senator will expire before the task force has completed its work. Senator Rooker suggested that the Senate might make Senator Hepner a temporary appointee for the remainder of the fiscal year (which ends June 30th). Senator Montes inquired whether Senator Hepner would be amenable to this; he said he would be.

Building Committee:

Senator Law: the committee has been officially deactivated.

Continuous Improvement Team:

CIT Facilitators, Former Senator Donna Kearns and President Roberson: no report.

CIT Prospective Students, Vice President Beasley: no report.

CIT Technology, Senator Dickson: no report.

CIT Development/Continuing Education, Senator Holt: no meeting; no report.

Distance Learning Task Force:

Reporter/Historian Hartmann: Vice President Dan Donaldson has asked for suggestions. A draft will be put together by the end of April.

Faculty Merit Committee:

Senator Lucas: a meeting will take place on April 21 at 2:00/

Faculty Enhancement Center Advisory Board:

Senator Youll: [Senator Youll arrived at 2:30 and left at 3:04; she was not here at the time of her report].

Senator Wright was asked to report that there was no meeting and therefore no report.

Faculty Handbook Editorial Board:

Senator Montes: most recommendations have been accepted so far. Work will methodically continue, but it is slow going in areas where official policies need to be taken into account.

Globalization Task Force:

Senator von Minden: the task force continues its planning for next year's focus on Egypt.

Graduate Council:

Senator Rooker: the report was given onscreen. Research Day 2006 is scheduled for December 1. Work continues on the categories of graduate student employees (TA, RA, LA).

Information Technology Advisory Board:

ITAB Faculty Advisory/Strategic Planning, Senator Dickson: the senator expressed consternation that he had not heard anything ... since last year.

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

Outreach Committee:

Senator Montes and/or Senator Webb: Senator Montes reported that, so far as he knew, the committee was in the "Twilight Zone."

Parking Task Force:

Senator Bird: no contact; no report.

Research Advisory Council:

Senator Ferguson: no contact; no report.

[Vice President Beasley yielded the podium to President Roberson at this point.]

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Senate Executive Committee:

President Roberson: the President asked Secretary Law, who had taken notes at the recent Executive Committee Meeting, to give a report.

Secretary Law gave an account of the March 22, 2006 meeting with President Roger Webb. The following issues were discussed:

- Low admission standards. Previous Senate action had endorsed raising the ACT scores required for admission. The President noted that he was concerned, but that the 10-year forecast implied there would be fewer students available to be recruited, and without reasonable revenue increases we will continue to be over reliant on tuition dollars in our E & G Budgets. The low TOFL scores are another area of major concern, and some colleges, notably Business, are advocating stricter standards for basic communication skills.

- Adjunct Affairs. President Webb has approved the following:
FSP 2002/2003-06 *Creation of a Task Force to Address Adjunct Health Issues*
FSP 2004/2005-06 *Pay Increase for Adjunct Faculty Members*
He is also amenable to FSP 2002/2003-07 *Adjustment of Adjunct Pay Timetable to Five Paychecks per Semester*, but this will require a feasibility check with the appropriate areas of the administration.
[Secretary Law expressed his gratitude for the presidential decisions, and also thanked the previous chair of the Adjunct Affairs Committee, Former Senator Theresa Vaughan, for her dedicated work on behalf of our part-time faculty.]
- COL Salary adjustments. President Webb said the picture remained bleak. At best, all he could envision was about 2% at this juncture. With the budget in flux, he couldn't make any specific predictions.
- FSP 2005/2006-14R *University of Central Oklahoma provision of free membership for faculty and staff to the UCO Wellness Center*. The president was interested, but expressed concern that the requirements of the bonds, and the student fees that were paying for the bonds, might preclude this possibility. He said he would look into how much this "benefit" might cost the university. As he continued to muse about health issues, the president also pondered what it would be like to have a "smoke-free" campus and a more active health screening program for faculty and staff.
- FSR 2005/2006-16 *Formula for Calculating New Base Pay Schedules for Full-Time, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty and for Current Faculty Who Opt to Leave the Present Compensation Schedule*. This would likely be forwarded to the recently created taskforce on salaries and the pay card.

Academic Affairs:

Senator Montes:

Adjunct Affairs:

Secretary/Treasurer Law: the good news from this committee was reported above. No additional report.

Alumni and Community Affairs:

Senator Webb: no report.

Budget:

Senator Hepner: the committee has two bills that will be discussed later in the meeting.

CPP&E:

Parliamentarian Mock: the report was given above.

Faculty Handbook Revision:

Vice President Beasley: there are no charges to the committee at this time.

Faculty Welfare and Development:

Senator Wallo: there has been no meeting.

Information Resources and Technology:

Senator Dickson: an onscreen report was given. Problems with off-campus access to Lotus Notes result from client servers that don't utilize Lotus Notes. The complications, therefore, will remain with us. This is particularly true with the short "compose time" that is frustrating many faculty and staff. AOL is notoriously brief in this concern. The "spam catchers" are also problematic, but 2/3 of current incoming messages to UCO are spam.

Personnel Policies:

Senator Webb: a proposal will be discussed below.

Research:

Senator Ferguson: no report.

Student Relations:

Senator Wright: no report.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grievance:

President Roberson: no report.

Policy Review Committee:

Vice President Beasley: The Vice President asked Senator Montes to give the report about work on the Grade Appeal process. Senator Montes discussed numerous concerns and gave a point-by-point analysis of

the proposed new procedures. In addition to staggered terms for members serving on this appellate committee, it is hoped that we can raise the GPA required for students serving on the committee (currently 2.5). Senator Bizé inquired whether there would be any official training involved in serving on this committee; Vice President Beasley said she would inquire about this.

Outside Work Committee:

President Roberson and Senator Wallo: President Roberson differed to Senator Wallo; the latter noted that the current draft report on this issue was not much different from the original.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. FSP 2005/2006-07R *Tenure Track Position After Tenure Denial.*

President Roberson said that Provost Radke responded that this bill would “tie his hands” and that a position could never be *guaranteed*. Nevertheless, the Provost said that situations of this nature would certainly merit the *priority* of the continuity of the position.

2. FSP/FSR 2005/2006-08R *Financial Compensation for Individual Study Courses.*

Discussion of the bill began with an inquiry from Senator Dickson about whether this was really a problem. The initial author of the bill, Secretary Law, clarified that many departments are hard pressed to offer required courses to students who want to graduate on time: if a required course is only taught once in a two year rotation, then, inevitably, students need to take this course as an independent study. This is a burden on small departments, where faculty are repeatedly asked to provide a service with no financial compensation. Senator Wallo noted that his committee had endorsed and broadened the bill, and believed that the option of compensation was clearly needed. President Roberson interjected that the bill might be more effective as a resolution (instead of a proposal). A lively debate ensued, as the original author thought that there were advantages to the bill remaining a proposal (i.e., it would require an action from President Webb). The motion carried (with one abstention) and the bill officially became a resolution at this point. Senator Hepner expressed his endorsement of the bill, anticipating that it would have a positive effect on research at UCO. Senator Eckard pondered whether this might change the teaching culture; Secretary Law noted that most colleges have operational limits on how many extra assignments a faculty member can take on. Senator Ferguson also expressed endorsement of the bill, noting that there are often financial costs to the faculty member who is providing the service to the student. Senator Webb stated that he viewed this as part of the traditional service a faculty member owed as a professional; Secretary Law countered that we were teaching a 12 and 12 load that made it very challenging to offer those traditional services.

Senator Wallo called for the question. The motion to end debate was approved. The bill was then approved unanimously by the Senate.

2. FSR 2005/2006-09 *Call for University Focus Committee on Advisement.*

Senator Montes noted that the Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval without modifications. President Roberson asked for discussion. Senator Cochran observed that many changes were being initiated in Advisement. Senator Mock said there was no harm in passing the bill, as it was a *resolution* (and not a proposal); Senator Webb concurred, and thought it appropriate that a faculty voice be heard on this matter. As discussion had ended, the resolution was voted upon; it was unanimously approved.

3. FSP 2005/2006-11 *Winter Break Modification*

Senator Hartmann moved that the bill be postponed until the next meeting. President Roberson explained that time was needed to take a poll and elicit data on this issue. The motion carried and the bill was postponed.

4. FSP 2005/2006-12 *Electronic Library Fee Increase to Match Other Regional Universities*

Senator Hepner noted that the March 9, 2006 minutes specify that this bill has been withdrawn by its author; it is therefore “dead.” The Senate moved on with no further discussion of this bill.

5. FSP/FSR 2005/2006-13 *Mandatory Funding to Support Inflation Rate for Journals*

Senator Hepner expressed his support for the proposal. President Roberson again interjected a motion that the proposal should be changed to a resolution. Senator Hepner agreed to the amendment and the senators passed the motion. The bill became a resolution at this point. Senator Boling wondered where the funding might come from; there were no clear answers to this inquiry.

6. FSP 2005/2006-14 *Free Membership for Faculty and Staff to the UCO Wellness Center*
This bill remains in committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of New Bills

As the Senate tenuously held on to quorum, Vice President Beasley quickly introduced three new bills that had been submitted since the last meeting:

- FSP 2005/2006-15 *Faculty Pay Raise*
- FSP 2005/2006-16 *Formula for Calculating New Base Pay Schedules for Full-Time, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty and for Current Faculty Who Opt to Leave the Present Compensation Schedule*
- FSR 2005/2006-17 *Faculty Senate Request for Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Salary Increase.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

President Roberson adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Law draft 4/25/06