

*MINUTES –Draft 1/16/06*  
**Of the University of Central Oklahoma**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2005**  
**Education Building, Room 106**

***CALL TO ORDER***

President Roberson called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. He noted that he was using a gavel that had once belonged to the Caddo Nation.

***ROLL CALL***

Members present (21): Senator Bizé, Senator Boling, Senator Dickson, Senator Ferguson, Senator Hartmann, Senator Hepner, Senator Holt, Senator Law, Senator Mock, Senator Montes, Senator Roberson, Senator Rooker, Senator Singer, Senator Smith, Senator von Minden, Senator Voth, Senator Wallo, Senator Webb, Senator Wright, Senator Youll, Senator Zhu.

Members absent (12): Senator Beasley, Senator Bird, Senator Cochran, Senator Dowdy, Senator Eckard, Senator Hickman, Senator Lucas, Senator Martin, Senator McNeiland, Senator Moyers, Senator Nelson, Senator Waters.

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

***APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES***

Both the October 13, 2005 and the November 17, 2005 minutes were approved without emendation.

***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**President's Report:**

President Roberson noted that his official report is available on-line at the Senate website. He also observed that Vice President Beasley was in Washington, D.C., so she would not be at today's meeting.

**Vice-President's Report:**

No report was given as the Vice President was not at the meeting (see President's Report above).

**Reporter/Historian's Report:**

Reporter/Historian Hartmann demonstrated some of the new improvements to the Senate website. Search options are now available.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:**

Secretary/Treasurer Law reported that the Senate had expended nothing from its account. He was asked by President Roberson to find the whereabouts of the budget line that grants the Faculty Senate President release time.

**Parliamentarian's Report:**

Parliamentarian Mock had nothing to report.

***UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS***

**Academic Affairs Council:**

Senator Montes: the council has approved a "Leadership Minor." President Roberson asked how "leadership" was being defined and whether there were specific criteria of evaluation used in the creation of the minor. Senator Montes said that he is aware of a steering committee, of sorts, but is unaware of the specifics. President Roberson asked for a report on this issue at the next Senate meeting.

**Alliance for Institutional Advancement:**

Senator Law: the Alliance has been reconstituted, but it meets while the senator is teaching a class.

**Alumni Associate 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. President Roberson noted that he had heard there were concerns about the budget for adjunct faculty. Senator Law said that he was aware of complications concerning “release time” for faculty: apparently, release time will be scaled back, as it is tied to the funding available for part time faculty.

**Building Committee:**

Senator Law: there was no report. President Roberson asked whether the committee should be removed. Senator Law said he would investigate the disposition and future continuance of the committee.

**Continuous Improvement Team:**

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

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

CIT Development/Continuing Education, President Roberson: no report.

**Distance Learning Task Force:**

Vice President Beasley: was not at the meeting; no report was given.

**Faculty Merit Committee:**

Senator Lucas: was not at the meeting; no report was given.

**Faculty Enhancement Center Advisory Board:**

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

**Faculty Handbook Editorial Board:**

Senator Montes: the Grade Appeal process is being reviewed. Expectations concerning faculty “office hours” are also currently being reviewed. Other Handbook issues being discussed are evaluation of administrators by faculty, and the roles and responsibilities of deans and department chairpersons. President Roberson stated that Faculty Senate might deliberate the issue of office hours, if asked by the board.

Senator Dickson asked if “assessment” was going to be addressed in the revised Handbook; Senator Montes said he did not think so. President Roberson also discussed concerns about (1) the selection process for deans, (2) grievances against deans, (3) review and recall of deans, (4) off-campus employment of faculty members, and (5) the differing grade appeal processes that apply to undergraduate and graduate students.

**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: the next meeting of the council will be December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Information Technology Advisory Board:**

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

ITAB Academic Affairs Group, Vice President Beasley: was not at the meeting; no report was given.

**Outreach Committee:**

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

**Bold Report:** Senator Montes confirmed that a proposal was submitted to the Regents Office by UCO on December 5, 2005. The probable notification date will be January 12, 2006. All decisions about the program are likely to be made by the end of January. The administration of the program will be external to the administration of the individual colleges associated with the program. Senator Von Minden asked where the instructors for the program would be coming from. No one is sure; however, the UCO proposal stressed the position that no uncompensated costs should be borne by our institution. President Roberson also expressed concerns about a need for vigilance in regards to articulating the course work accepted for this program.

**Parking Task Force:**

Senator Bird: was not at the meeting; no report was given.

**Research Advisory Council:**

Senator Ferguson: the council has not yet met; there was no report.

**Tenure and Promotion Task Force:**

President Roberson: the task force is nearing the completion of its assignment.

## **SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **Senate Executive Committee:**

President Roberson: the executive committee met twice this month. One meeting was with the Provost, the other a committee meeting to discuss issues of shared governance.

### **Academic Affairs:**

Senator Montes: there was no meeting; there was no report.

### **Adjunct Affairs:**

Secretary/Treasurer Law: the senator asked that the previously requested report from Institutional Research on part time faculty be given by Senator Boling at this time. There was no objection.

**Report on Part Time Faculty at UCO:** Senator Boling gave a short PowerPoint presentation that encapsulated the findings of a survey done last fall by Institutional Research. A number of metro area schools and our "sister institutions" were contacted to generate information for an analysis of the situations faced by part time faculty. Amongst the issues highlighted by the senator were:

- Although financial compensation ranks as a source of serious dissatisfaction with part time faculty, there are other institutions that pay considerably less than UCO.
- The percentage of classes taught by part time faculty at UCO is much higher than at the other institutions being surveyed.
- 44% of our part time faculty are also employed by another institution of higher education.
- A significant number of our part time faculty are actually teaching full time loads (9-15 hours).
- Lack of benefits is an expressed concern of part time faculty.
- Inadequate office space is another issue of grievance for our adjuncts.
- Generally, part time faculty are pleased with how they are treated by their full time colleagues.

Senator Law thanked Senator Boling for the presentation and asked if she was aware of any plans to use the information generated in this study. Senator Boling said she was unaware of any plans. Senator Dickson noted the small response rate from the College of Education and Professional Studies; Senator Rooker clarified that email accounts for many of the education part time faculty are problematic, given that they are regulated by the common ed schools themselves. The senators applauded Senator Boling's presentation.

### **Alumni and Community Affairs:**

Senator McNeiland: Senator McNeiland was not at the meeting; no report was given.

### **Budget:**

Senator Hepner: the task force has not met; there was no report.

### **CPP&E:**

Parliamentarian Mock: one bill has been assigned to the committee; there will be a January meeting.

### **Faculty Handbook Revision:**

Vice President Beasley: was not at the meeting; no report was given (apart from President Roberson's observations above).

### **Information Resources and Technology:**

Senator Dickson: some clarifications concerning Web CT were provided.

### **Faculty Welfare and Development:**

Senator Wallo: the committee is working on a bill proposed by Senator Law concerning financial compensation for Individual Study courses. The committee is broadening the scope of the bill slightly, and bringing it into alignment with the variable hours associated with most of the "common course" classes listed in the catalog.

### **Personnel Policies:**

Senator Webb: the committee is engaged in discussions about a potentially dramatic improvement in how retirement benefits are calculated. The "caps" that are uniquely placed on employees in higher education may be removed in the not-too-distant future. The senator noted that the existence of the caps provided a serious disincentive to faculty remaining in the state system; under the current system, senior faculty are financially better off by moving out-of-state when they have reached the cap (of 80 or 90); doing so would allow the faculty member to begin a second retirement account. Hopefully, this financial inequity will be rectified by the legislature.

**Research:**

Senator Ferguson: the committee is continuing to work on drafts of two proposals.

**Student Relations:**

Senator Wright: forthcoming resolutions from the students will be reviewed by the committee soon.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS:***

1. FSR 2005/2006-02 *Appellate Committee and Grievance Board Election Requirements*.  
Parliamentarian Mock: potential revisions are being considered, but the resolution will remain in committee.
2. FSR 2005/2006-03 *Voter Restrictions Regarding Elections of Chairs/Directors*.  
The previously postponed bill was discussed. Minor modifications of wording were made for greater clarity. When discussions were ended, an inconclusive voice vote was taken. Therefore, a show of hands was needed; the bill passed 13 to 5 with no abstentions.
3. FSP 2005/2006-08 *Financial Compensation for Individual Study Courses*.  
The bill remains in committee.

***NEW BUSINESS***

In the absence of Vice President Beasley, President Roberson introduced one new bill that had been submitted since the last meeting:

- FSP 2005/2006-0 *University Focus Committee on Undergraduate Advisement Process*.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

There were no announcements.

***ADJOURNMENT***

President Roberson adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Law draft 1/16/06