

Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
FACULTY SENATE
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Education Building 106

CALL TO ORDER

President Mock called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, and asked for a call of the roll. A quorum was found to be present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (23): Senator Absher, Senator Barger-Johnson, Senator Bartgis, Senator Bost, Senator Cooper, Senator De Bolt, Senator Delano, Senator Eckard, Senator J. Ferguson, Senator S. Ferguson, Senator Furmanski, Senator Hartmann, Senator Hepner, Senator Hickman, President Mock, Senator Shukla, Senator Silcox, Senator Villani, Senator von Minden, Senator Voth, Senator Wakefield, Senator Warning, Senator White.

Members Absent (9): Senator Cowan, Senator Holt, Senator Lofton, Senator Loughlin, Senator McGuffin, Senator Morgan-Pyron, Senator Ravikumar, Senator Roberts, Senator Wooden.

Recognition of visitors to the Senate: COE Dean Machell, Asst. V.P. Ed Cunliff, and Dr. Luis Montes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the August 23, 2007 meeting were approved without correction.

After approval of the minutes, the assembled body entered into a committee of the whole for a discussion, lead by senate visitors Drs. Machell, Cunliff, and Montes, of the UCO Academic Community Educational Philosophy document. After this discussion the senate exited from the committee of the whole to continue with regular senate business.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's Report: (from his submitted written report)

Of the meetings attended since the last senate, I must mention the Academic Affairs Leadership Council, 29 August, at which we heard of the new on-line campus calendars being developed by Assistant Vice President Jerry Legere's office. These will allow five specialized, on-line, long-term calendars directed to such groups as prospective students, current students, and the surrounding community. (Also in regard to calendars and faculty planning, I have had a message from Assistant Vice President Legere outlining considerations and projections for the start of the 2009 school year. This message will be available on the Senate Homepage.) Leadership Central information was supplied indicating rapid growth, program health, and work on new website designs. Academic Affairs is working on gathering information for accountability surveys. This gathering is related to the Annual Higher Learning Commission Meeting in April of 2007. The meeting generated recommendations which were distributed for feedback, by September 19th, to Vice Provost LaGrow. The recommendations addressed university structure, students, faculty, and technology. At this meeting we also learned of the revised draft of the educational philosophy.

Past President Montes and I were interviewed as part of the campus survey for the Oklahoma Quality Award.

The Budget Task Force meeting on September 10th was interesting, always a scary term, and the financial constraints on the university are distressing. It could be summed up by saying that we are teaching 5000 more hours and are down by 326,000 dollars. This is mostly attributable to the nature of the student intake: for example, if out of state enrollments are down, we have less funding. The current financial situation will be addressed in a paper forthcoming from Vice President Kreidler. As of Monday, there was no official commitment as to how what funds that are available will be distributed, however there will be continuing market adjustments for staff who are now between 35 and 50 thousand dollars, and there will also be an adjustment for staff based upon the existing IPP merit system. For the faculty, the proposal is to follow the Merit Task Force suggestion and to distribute what funds are available equally, as a one-time supplement. It would be wildly improper for me to commit the administration to a figure at this time. I can only safely say that salary considerations were moved ahead of a long list of budget desires, in fact to the top of the list.

The Executive Committee met with Provost Radke on September 11th, and we had discussions of many issues. Not least were faculty observations about campus parking. The Provost is well aware of problems, noting that free parking has inevitably increased the number of cars on campus. The ongoing development of the athletic council was discussed. The ongoing campus questioning about the NCAA investigation was discussed. It is important that we all know that there is an NCAA prohibition on disclosing information until after the inquiry has been completed. There was extensive discussion of the budget and of the market/merit salary issues. The provost told us that there is a long term institutional problem if the bulk of available money is only adequate for modest salary improvements. This part of our conversation fit well with the Budget Task Force's extensive talk about desirable modifications to the state funding formulas. Both Vice President Kreidler and Provost Radke have been updated on the work of the Academic Affairs Committee in regard to 2103, and will aid the committee in their data gathering to assess the negative impact upon students of provisions in this law.

Provost Radke has agreed to be our invited speaker for our October meeting. President Webb will be invited for a date that coincides with the release of the Vision Plan, and it is the Executive Committee's desire to invite Vice President Kreidler to address the Senate at a date to be negotiated.

Today there will be a proposal which would create individual faculty development funds forwarded to a committee. It seems wise for all of us to look at the bill and offer ideas to the committee members. This way, when the proposal comes, if it does, from the committee to the senate floor, it will arrive in what parliamentarians like to call a perfected form.

Vice-President's Report: Vice President Hartmann reported on the senate formation committee for the UCO Athletic Advisory Council. He said he had had a large number of volunteers: Senators Barger-Johnson, McGuffin, Furmanski, Bost, Von Minden, Wooden, and Cowan. He also said web space has been allocated for the purpose of disseminating information concerning this. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17 in the Virginia Lamb Living Room in HES at 2 pm. He also then indicated that the senate has one new business item for consideration at the next meeting, Senate

Proposal 07/08-1 regarding the creation of individual faculty development accounts for UCO faculty.

Reporter/Historian's Report: Senator Hepner told the senate that the faculty senate newsletter "The Voice" has been reinstated. He asked the senate to submit any articles they might want to contribute to him.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Senator Cooper reported that every senator should have a name plate and asked those attending to check theirs for errors. He also said that we had a door plate turned in and asked any member needing one to see him about it.

Parliamentarian's Report: Senator Ravikumar: No Report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Council:

No report.

Academic Early Warning System:

No report.

Action Teams:

Academic Integrity:

No report.

Alumni Association Board of Directors:

No Report.

Benefits Committee:

No Report.

Budget Task Force:

The budget task force's report is incorporated into the President's report.

Continuous Improvement Team:

Senator Villani reported the CIT has had one meeting. Most of the discussion centered on the Baldrige visit and there was a consensus that there should be more training of committee members as to how to respond to questions of the examiners.

eLearning Advisory Committee:

Senator Hartmann reported that the committee will have its first meeting on September 25 in the new Center for Distance Education.

On-line Course Evaluation:

No Report.

Faculty Merit Credit Committee:

Senator Hartmann reported that they are working on a template for future Merit Credit submissions and that it is due out later this month. He also recognized and thanked Senator Bartgis who has been assisting in the template development.

FEC Advisory Board:

No Report.

Faculty Handbook Editorial Board:

No Report.

Globalization Committee:

Senator Von Minden reported the committee would be meeting soon.

Graduate Council:

No Report.

Information Technology Advisory:

No Report.

OneCard Committee:

No Report.

On Line Course Evaluation:

No Report.

Research Advisory Council:

No Report.

Transportation and Parking Advisory Council:

No Report.

Undergraduate Research Advisory Council:

No Report.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Affairs:

Senator Barger-Johnson reported they have begun consideration of House Bill 2103 and they have set up a priority list of the things in greatest need of discussion. One of these things was that the committee was in need of data concerning how much enactment of this bill would impact UCO's academic units.

Adjunct Affairs:

No Report.

Alumni and Community Relations:

No Report.

Budget:

Senator Hepner reported that they are considering one bill but did not specify the content of that bill.

CPP&E:

No Report.

Faculty Handbook:

No Report.

Faculty Welfare and Development:

Senator Cooper reported that the bill that the Budget Committee was considering would be forwarded to his committee for concurrent consideration of any faculty welfare implications and advised committee members to anticipate a call for schedules and subsequent meetings for this purpose. He also indicated the committee would probably have some input once the administration makes its announcement concerning faculty discussion of the merit pay system.

Information Resources and Technology:

No Report.

Personnel Policies:

Senator Warning indicated that they were still waiting for participants to submit their data.

Research:

No Report.

Student Relations:

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Mock adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary/Treasurer Cooper, 10/2/07