

**XXXVIII Faculty Senate
President's Report
09/13/2007**

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.