

**XXXVIII Faculty Senate
President's Report
10/11/07**

I attended Assessing Learning Spaces, a two session webinar hosted by Library Director McNeely. I believe that UCO is already doing many of the recommended assessments and changes listed as desirable, and that the new classroom building will accord nicely with the suggestions made by the speakers.

I attended the Academic Affairs Executive Council meeting September 26th. The need for the UCO Foundation to coordinate mailings for fundraising was emphasized.

Dr. Lochner presented information on suicide prevention, noting that those who are suicide-prone are also often violence-prone. Full campus awareness and referral systems are being established. Training sessions for faculty intervention and referral are being expanded and should be expanded: an increasing understanding of the importance of these programs is highly desirable.

Dr. Lochner expressed great appreciation to the faculty senate for the relocation of the senate offices which has allowed the Student Counseling Center to establish the new stress reduction clinic in the former senate offices.

Chelli Gentry spoke on the developments in regard to establishing a mid-level testing instrument. There are three standard, nationally used tests, and they are being evaluated for a fit with UCO. I will summarize that the goal is the test that covers the broadest spread of skills, which allows for a customization which would provide an overview. The currently promising instrument, now moving through the approval chain, is the MAPP, the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress. The cost of administering the instrument is about 13.50 per student.

Assistant Vice President Cunliff noted that if the MAPP testing component is added to what is currently being done, UCO would then have all the required components in place for AHLC (national) accountability. The broad background is that this assessment approach, if taken by universities, may prevent a national imposition of standards such as are to be found in the Spellings Commission Report.

We were updated on responses to the Higher Learning Commission report presented last month.

Assistant Vice President Donaldson noted that there have been extensive developments and planning in eLearning.

Assistant Vice President Legere will be establishing graduate focus groups, with the goal of identifying what works for success in graduating.

There was a discussion of pay increases, which is now moot in light of President Webb's announcement of the other day.

The Executive Committee met with President Webb and Provost Radke on Tuesday, October 9th. Senate Vice President Hartmann presented the current status in crafting the Athletic Advisory Council. President Webb spoke of the developments in rowing, and the planning for a UCO boathouse at Bricktown. These developments are front page news in the October 9th *Oklahoman*.

Among many benefits to the university will be our Title Nine compliance.

The Forensic Science Building will be getting underway in February, and a month or two later groundbreaking for the new classroom building should take place. There is steady progress on rehabilitating Old North, but it is too early to give a re-entry date.

There was discussion of the merit pay system and the scheduling of faculty fora.

President Webb will be addressing the senate at a date to be agreed upon during the spring semester.

Finally, three more items and I will conclude my report.

Vice-Provost LaGrow asked me to begin the process to replace members of the Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Members. This will be taken up today under New Business.

Stephanie Kahne is the winner of the special election conducted to fill the vacant seat in the Academic Advisor's unit on the Faculty Senate. She will be serving a one-year term. She will be proposed for confirmation by the senate at the close of the parliamentarian's report.

I will collect and compile your responses to the Regents' survey, to be sent to the regents' Office before my attendance at the meeting on Saturday, October 27th.