

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)  
November 13, 2017, 3:30 p.m., Jacobson Faculty Hall 102

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Senate Journals for the regular session of October 9, 2017 and the special meeting on October 11, 2017.
2. Announcements:
  - a. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee approved the nomination of Melissa Stockdale (History) to replace Sherri Irvin (Philosophy) for a 2017-19 term on the Campus Tenure Committee.
  - b. The following faculty will serve on the 2017-18 Academic Program Review Committee: Daniel Glatzhofer (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Ronald Halterman (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Jeffrey Harwell (Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering), Jill Irvine (Political Science / Women's & Gender Studies), Nancy Marchand-Martella (Educational Psychology), Ameya Pitale (Mathematics), and Albert Schwarzkopf (Management Information Systems). The panel also will include Provost Kyle Harper (Classics & Letters), Vice Provost Simin Pulat (Industrial & Systems Engineering), Associate Dean Joe Antonio (Computer Science), Graduate College representative Nancy LaGreca (Modern Language, Literatures, and Linguistics), and Director of Assessment Felix Wao. The units to be reviewed are Aviation, Biology, Geography & Environmental Sustainability, Meteorology, Microbiology & Plant Biology, and Physics & Astronomy.
  - c. The Center for Teaching Excellence, OU Information Technology, and the University Libraries will be hosting the annual Academic Technology Expo on Thursday, January 11 & Friday, January 12, 2018. This event is open to all faculty members who are interested in learning about emerging technologies that can facilitate improvements in teaching. Additional details can be found at <http://academictech.ou.edu/>.
3. Remarks by Randy Hewes, Dean of the Graduate College.
4. For Discussion: Proposed Changes to the Continuing Education Council Charter (attached).
5. For Discussion: Faculty Running for Public Office (attached)
6. Senate Chair's Report.
7. New business (any matter not known about or that could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time the agenda was prepared).

*The Executive Committee invites senators to submit discussion topics for future agendas. Please send your suggestions to the Executive Committee through the [facsen@ou.edu](mailto:facsen@ou.edu) email address, or you can reach out individually to Chair Sarah Ellis at [sjr@ou.edu](mailto:sjr@ou.edu) or Secretary Joshua Nelson at [joshuabnelson@ou.edu](mailto:joshuabnelson@ou.edu).*

*Refreshments will be served at 3:15 p.m.*

## Continuing Education Council (Norman)

### Purpose:

The Continuing Education Council (CEC) works with and supports the ~~Vice President for University Outreach~~ **Associate Provost for Continuing Education and Dean of the College of Professional & Continuing Studies (PACS)**, and reports to the Faculty Senate on matters concerning continuing education. The Council provides a forum for faculty and administrators to discuss all aspects of lifelong learning as it impacts the University of Oklahoma. It also serves an advocacy role in raising the level of campus discussion on such issues as:

- cross disciplinary interaction
- technology transfer and its campus-wide impact
- the role of the university in workplace education **and learning for place-bound adults and community/public service**
- certification and non-degree **academic** programming
- interdisciplinary continuing education
- distance education

The CEC serves a proactive role in providing information about ~~outreach and~~ lifelong learning to the Faculty Senate, the Provost's office, and the President's office and directing campus dialog regarding these issues. In addition, the CEC provides substantive input and acts as a constructive sounding board for the ~~Vice President and CCE~~ **Associate Provost/Dean** and staff regarding ~~outreach~~, distance education, and **academically-oriented** lifelong learning programs and activities. Finally, the CEC serves as a liaison between the President's office, the College of ~~Continuing Education~~ **Professional & Continuing Studies**, and the faculty and staff, providing effective communication between these and other campus groups.

### Administrative Liaison:

1. The Provost of the Norman campus or a designated representative will be an ex-officio member of the Council without vote.
2. The ~~Vice President for Outreach~~ **Associate Provost/Dean** will be an ex-officio member of the Council without vote and will provide staff support for the Council.

### Operating Procedures:

The Council shall formulate its own operating procedures that will include:

1. The election of a chair from among the faculty members of the Council.
2. Provision for subcommittees of the Council to which non-members of the Council may be co-opted if appropriate.

### Council Membership:

Membership: The Continuing Education Council shall consist of 15 members apportioned in the following manner:

6 Norman Faculty Members: Faculty Senate appoint 4, President appoints 2-3 year terms (1/3 to retire each year)

1 HSC Faculty Member: HSC Faculty Senate appoints – 3 year terms

3 ~~CCE~~ PACS Staff Members: Selected by the President from nominations by ~~CCE~~ PACS Professional Staff – 3 year term

Provost, Norman Campus (or designee): Ex-officio and nonvoting

Vice President for Research: Ex-officio and nonvoting

Graduate College Dean: Ex-officio and nonvoting

~~Vice President for Outreach~~ Associate Provost for Continuing Education and Dean, College of Professional & Continuing Studies: Ex-officio and nonvoting

Staff Services: ~~Vice President for Outreach and Dean of the College of Liberal Studies~~  
One support staff designated by the Associate Provost for Continuing Education and Dean, College of Professional & Continuing Studies: Ex-officio and nonvoting

### History of Committee:

Compiled and approved by the Norman campus Faculty Senate on April 9, 1984 and the University President on May 11, 1984. Restructured Spring 1991. Additional member added January 1992 approved by the President. Charge revised and deleted two public members approved by the Faculty Senate on October 13, 1997 and the President on April 2, 1998.

Proposed addition to this section: Committee representatives renamed in keeping with the strategic realignment of Outreach that was implemented in January 2017.

Faculty Senate  
November 13, 2017

Discussion Topic: Faculty Running for Public Office

The OU Board of Regents Handbook sets forth the following:

3.1.13—CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE Any employee of the University who becomes a candidate in any primary or general election for any county, state, or federal office shall, prior to announcing candidacy for any said offices, offer his/her resignation to the Board of Regents, without reservation. In making the announcement of the adoption of the resolution, the Board of Regents stated: “In adopting this resolution, the Board of Regents does not want to be understood as offering discouragement to faculty members or employees from becoming candidates for public office. As an American citizen, an employee may regard it his or her duty to become a candidate.” (RM, 9-14-43, p. 1427; 1-27-2004, p. 28924)

Requiring resignation significantly deters members of the OU community from becoming candidates. This policy effectively precludes some of the most qualified among our citizenry from serving in public office and divests them of the right of civic participation. Many kinds of political activity may be consistent with effective service as members of the University faculty. The rule, while not exclusive to state employees in higher education, appears alterable at the Regents’ level. On November 7, Faculty Senate Secretary Joshua Nelson spoke with Jan Preslar, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Ethics Commission. As far as she knows, there are no state statutes that prohibit University of Oklahoma faculty members from running for political office, although she reiterated that individual employers, by which I take her to include particular state agencies, may enforce standards of their own. The Hatch Act Modernization Act of 2012, at times referenced in related discussions, does not appear to preclude political candidacy by University employees unless they are funded entirely by federal grant funds (<https://osc.gov/Resources/Hatch%20Act%20Modernization%20Act%20Guidance%20for%20State%20and%20Local%20Employees.pdf>). Oklahoma statutes may prohibit “classified” employees from seeking partisan office, but faculty are “unclassified” employees, and do not appear to be similarly restricted.

Several comparable state universities provide in their bylaws for more reasonable accommodations for employees seeking office, generally allowing them to take a leave of absence for campaigns and sometimes for up to two years in the event of successful election. Oklahoma statutes may require that state employees can hold only one state position at a time. Faculty Senate might take up the question of allowing for a leave of absence for a campaign rather than resignation.

Attached is a chart comparing comparable state university policies.

## Faculty Running for Public Office University Guidelines

| University               | Resign                    | Leave of<br>Absence (w/o<br>pay) | When?  |             |         |   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|---------|---|
|                          |                           |                                  | Declare/ File<br>for Primary   | Win Primary | Elected | Sworn in  |
| Indiana University       | No                        | Yes.                             | LoA when participation prevents full discharge of obligations  |             |         |   |
| Ohio State University    | No                        | Yes.                             | LOA When infringes on ability to complete assigned duties. July 1 of general election yr                                     |             |         |   |
| University of Arkansas   | Maybe                     | Yes.                             | When participation prevents full discharge of responsibilities. Options are workload/salary adjustment, LoA, or resignation. |             |         |   |
| University of Colorado   | No                        | Yes.                             |  |             |         | LoA During legislative sessions. LoA required for Governor, US Representative or Senator.         |
| University of Kansas     | No.                       | Yes                              |  |             |         | Date of Oath of Office or first day of legislative session.                                       |
| University of Kentucky   | No, unless LoA is denied. | Yes.                             |  |             |         | LoA before assuming new position.   |
| University of Michigan   | No.                       | Yes.                             | LoA If interfere with performance of University duties.  |             |         |   |
| University of Minnesota  | Yes, if necessary.        | Yes, if necessary                | LoA -- If interfere with performance of University duties.   |             |         | Resign -- In absence of compelling circumstances & requiring continuous 2+ yrs full-time service. |
| University of Missouri   | Yes                       | Yes                              | LoA  |             |         | Resign  |
| University of Nebraska   | Yes                       | Yes                              | LoA  |             |         | Resign  |
| University of New Mexico | No                        | Yes                              | LoA if interferes with performance of University duties.   |             |         |   |
| University of Oregon     | Yes, if necessary.        | Yes, if necessary                | LoA -- If interfere with performance of University duties. Resign -- if required.  |             |         |   |
| University of Oklahoma   | Yes                       |                                  | <b>Must Resign when declaring candidacy</b>  |             |         |   |