

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – November 12, 2012 – 3:30 p.m. – Jacobson Faculty Hall 102

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The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Michael Bembem, Chair.

PRESENT: Apanasov, Baer, Bembem, Bergey, Chang, Devegowda, Ellis, Fagg, Grady, Gramoll, Grasse, Hahn, Hewes, Hofford, Keresztesi, Kim, Klein, Knapp, Kosmopoulou, Kutner, Landis, Leseney, Loon, Mackey, Mata, Minter, Morvant, Moses, Nelson, O’Rear, Palmer, Park, Pigott, Ransom, Refai, Riggs, Smith, Snell, Stock, Stoltenberg, Strout, Vehik, Zhang, Zhu

Provost's office representative: Mergler

ISA representatives: Hough, Cook

ABSENT: Ayres, Bisel, Burns, DePew, Duncan, Griffith, Laubach, Lucas

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of October 8, 2012 was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to a resolution at the April 9, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting, OU’s application for recognition as a Bicycle Friendly University was submitted. See resolution at <http://www.ou.edu/admin/facsen/BicycleResol412.htm>. On October 24, 2012, the League of American Bicyclists announced the designation of nine new Bicycle Friendly Universities (BFU), growing the

program to 44 colleges in 25 states. OU received Honorable Mention (<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicycelfriendlyamerica/bicycelfriendlyuniversity/>). Thank you to Prof. Moses and his colleagues for the hard work they have done.

The University of Oklahoma Libraries is in the process of creating a strategic plan to guide its future endeavors, and would like to hear from faculty in all departments through a series of one-hour town hall meetings from November 13 to 15. If you are interested in participating in one of these one-hour sessions, please sign-up online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TownHallSchedule>. The sessions will take place in Bizzell room 339. If you have any questions or concerns about the town hall sessions, please contact Sarah Robbins, Director of Public Relations & Strategic Initiatives for the OU Libraries at srobbins@ou.edu or 325-5293.

PARKING RESOLUTION FROM THE FACULTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

The resolution ([attached](#)) was presented as a motion from the Faculty Welfare Committee. It asks OU Parking Services to allow the purchase of single-day parking passes by faculty and staff at the cost of approximately \$3 per day. This would be a less expensive option than buying the annual parking passes for those faculty/staff who carpool, walk, or bicycle to work normally, but occasionally need to bring a car to campus. Motion made by the Faculty Welfare Committee and seconded by Profs. Devegowda and Moses. Prof. Bemben stated that the Senate would vote on this resolution at the next meeting.

Prof. Grasse asked if these passes would allow access to gated lots. Prof. Bemben said he believed that they would not. Prof. Pigott wondered if there would be an annual revenue loss by Parking Services. Prof. Grady suggested the passes would be useless if they did not include the gated lots and that they could result in fewer parking spots available to students. Prof. Bemben said that he thought the passes did not include gated lots, but that he would check with Parking Services before the December Faculty Senate meeting. (Note: Subsequent to this meeting, Prof. Bemben contacted OU Parking Services about whether or not the single-day passes could be used in gated lots. Parking Services stated that the single-day parking passes would be usable for the gated lots on campus.)

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT DAVID BOREN

President Boren stated that this is not really an address, but more of a visit, with the faculty. He discussed where OU has been and where are we going. President Boren said he would talk about the challenges that we are facing and then open it up for a general discussion.

OU's research was record-breaking this year, and the new radar research facility is an example of our growth in this area. OU's graduation rate is a record 68 percent this year, while 20 years ago, it was only 38 percent, but the goal is to go to a 75 percent graduation rate in the next five to six years. OU granted 2,495 degrees in the last 12 months and had its highest ranked freshman class this year, while enrollment numbers have held their own. President Boren wants OU to be the best university in the state, not necessarily the largest. Additionally, our enrollment numbers need to have a positive effect on our budget. We are stable in many ways and have improved significantly over the last 20 years.

President Boren met recently with the governor. One of her goals for Oklahoma is to increase the number of college graduates in the state. There is a positive correlation between the percentage of college graduates in a state and the per capita income. OU has been doing many things to carry out these initiatives, but with no additional funds from the state. In fact, we have absorbed a significant amount of costs over the last few years. President Boren expressed to the governor that to achieve these goals, higher education needs to have adequate resources.

Two of President Boren's five-year goals for OU are "bringing state appropriations back to 2008-2009 levels" and "bringing higher education's share of the state budget back to 16%." Last year, our state

appropriation was not enough to cover our fixed costs, and OU received \$90 million less than in 2008-2009. To support education, Oklahoma's priority should be to return to the 2008-2009 funding levels, at a minimum.

President Boren said that excellence in both common and higher education is necessary to improve this country. He does not think that most Oklahomans realize that we have had such significant cuts to both the common and higher education budgets in Oklahoma. Therefore, OU faculty and staff need to participate in educating the people of Oklahoma about what cuts to the education budget have cost Oklahoma and its young people.

Traditionally, about 18 percent of the total state budget went towards higher education. More recently, it has been only about 16 percent. This year, the percentage of the state budget going to higher education is just 14 percent. It is hard to maintain OU's forward momentum without sufficient funding. For example, because of the budget position, OU has not been able to increase faculty compensation. He stated that our progress as a university must be recognized by increased compensation for our faculty and staff.

President Boren said there are two other things that OU is doing to demonstrate to the public that we are fully accountable. While our goal on average teaching load at OU should be 2+2 in all the colleges, we have to judge that on a case-by-case basis. President Boren has been meeting with the deans to discuss teaching loads and plans to reach our goal in the next two years. Curriculum review is another important area. President Boren has set up a committee to look at the curriculum comprehensively; several of its members are a part of the Faculty Senate. OU needs to review which courses really meet core course requirements, and this may allow us to reconfigure our resources. The President also suggested that OU should put more emphasis on how first-year courses are taught. When our best faculty members teach our large introductory classes, that excites the undergraduate students about OU.

OU now has a digital committee chaired by Mark Morvant (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence. According to President Boren, digital technology will not replace brick and mortar campuses, but can be very valuable in supplementing what the traditional university does. One of those areas is reducing textbook costs using digitally accessible materials instead. Faculty can use digital technologies to enhance the educational experience, but online education will not replace traditional education. We need to be mindful of new technologies but thoughtfully evaluate them before adoption. President Boren said that since the faculty needs to take the lead on this, and most of the members of the digital committee are faculty.

Increasing the number of OU students able to study abroad is one of President Boren's goals. Currently, approximately 25 percent of OU students study abroad at some point in their college careers. President Boren would also like to increase the number of honors sections of courses. He would like to encourage more retired faculty to come back to teach one class a year as this is valuable to students and very cost effective for the university.

This spring, another "teach-in" is planned, this time focusing on American history in the period from the Great Depression through World War II, ending with the Truman administration. Three Pulitzer Prize winners are already on the program for that day. In April, a special day of learning is planned for alumni and supporters of the university, starting on a Friday evening. The goal is to have at least 2,000 of our alumni back on campus to experience three or four courses taught by OU faculty. This will help strengthen the ties of our alumni to OU. Additionally, OU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has been very active and received another million dollars of funding.

President Boren said that educators must be able to take their case to the people of Oklahoma and demonstrate how important public education, both common and higher, is to the success of our state. In the last decade, there has been an acceleration in the loss of financial support for education. There needs to be more debate about the important role of higher education. President Boren thanked the faculty for another incredible year and for all their support and encouragement. He stated that the faculty and staff of OU have exhibited unbelievable performance in a time of declining funding.

Prof. Mata expressed appreciation for the Boren Fellowship program (<http://www.borenawards.org/>) that has provided OU students with the opportunity to learn Arabic as part of a collaborative program.

President Boren stated that OU has saved a significant amount of money by sharing some IT resources with OSU. He asked OU faculty to continue to give him input through the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Prof. Ellis asked about the best way to approach elected officials about supporting education funding. President Boren answered that elected officials generally respond to the desires of their constituents, so the people of Oklahoma need to be heard from in support of education. He recommends educating our elected officials in a positive way about the importance to Oklahoma's future of supporting education.

While OU has been able to weather recent budget cuts, 80 percent of the costs at OU are for personnel and we cannot cut administrative costs anymore. The President said that OU is at a critical period and there is room for guarded optimism with our state leaders. In conclusion, he stated that a great university is being built here and he is grateful to be a part of it.

(Copies of President Boren's Handouts are available in the Faculty Senate Office.)

OU STUDENT MEDIA PRESENTATION OF SELF-STUDY OF CAMPUS MEDIA, BOTH PRINT AND ELECTRONIC

Judy Gibbs Robinson and Brian Ringer spoke about the self-study that Student Media has been conducting this semester. They have observed what other universities are doing with their student newspapers, especially in terms of cutting the number of days per week they publish. However, OU Student Media wanted to take a more methodical approach and get feedback from students, faculty, staff, and advertisers before making any significant changes.

The Oklahoma Daily was founded in 1916. Starting in the mid-90's, digital technology became very important to newspapers. Over the last several years, *The Oklahoma Daily* has launched a companion website, added multimedia, added social media, and moved to a web-first, 24-7 publishing cycle. Each platform adds additional duties to the student reporters and editors.

The 24/7 multimedia news cycle changes how they work. News is published quickly on the web and requires reporters who can stay with a story, while OU's newspaper staff all have classes, study time, other part-time jobs, etc. Other challenges being faced include recruiting and training students to report, write, and edit quickly and the use of web technologies. Additionally, staff size is a concern, since *The Oklahoma Daily* needs a newsroom of over 100 students each semester.

We are doing all this in a changing media landscape. Newspaper audience is shrinking and newspaper ad revenue is dropping. All newspapers are facing revenue problems. In addition, print newspaper readers are aging while digital news consumption continues to rise, especially with more readers using mobile technology to access local news and information. Here at *The Oklahoma Daily*, print circulation has decreased 26 percent over the last five years and ad revenue has gone down 34 percent over the last three years.

In response to these issues, some other historically five-day-a-week student publications have tried establishing partial paywalls, cutting the days of publication, with some even going to a weekly instead of a daily or becoming an online-only publication.

OU Student Media's mission is two-fold: to administer publications, activities and services that strengthen the education experience for students interested in journalism and related fields; and to

enhance the sense of community and the overall quality of campus life for a diverse student body by providing an unrestricted student forum for the exchange of ideas.

Since Student Media thinks they are going to have to make some kind of changes, they wanted to ask the OU community to help them determine what is best for OU. During the Fall 2012 semester, they asked for feedback from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and advertisers through surveys, round-table discussions, advertiser focus groups, presentations such as this, and by using their Facebook page and blog, <http://imaginedfuture.wordpress.com/>.

Some scenarios being considering include:

1. Enhanced status quo.
2. Drop one. (Four print editions a week.)
3. New Orleans model. (Three print editions a week.)
4. Oregon model. (Two print editions a week.)
5. Georgia model. (One print edition a week.)
6. Orange County Register model. (De-emphasize digital.)
7. Weekender model (Drop Monday; rename/repurpose Friday.)

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Robinson introduced the OU Student Media self-study team: Brian Ringer, director; Anne Richard, associate director; Judy Gibbs Robinson, adviser; and Laney Ellisor, student editor. She then asked for comments and questions.

Prof. Mackey expressed curiosity about how content falls into this study. Ms. Robinson said that they have tried not to address content in this study. Prof. Mackey said that she has attended important events at OU that were never mentioned in *The Oklahoma Daily*, especially ones geared towards graduate students. Ms. Robinson said that the situation was better when there were some graduate students on *The Oklahoma Daily's* staff.

Prof. Snell said he is from the old school and was an editor in college. His vote is to enhance what they do, but he understands there are economic realities. Ms. Robinson said she realized that while the paper is written primarily for students, some of their most loyal readers are faculty and staff.

FACULTY SENATE PROPOSED ENDORSEMENT OF STAFF SENATE RESOLUTION FOR SAME SEX PARTNERSHIP FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ELIGIBILITY

The Faculty Senate officers met recently with the officers of the Staff Senate. The Staff Senate Chair asked the Faculty Senate to support their resolution on same-sex partner job protection. This resolution ([attached](#)) only provides job protection for employees so they are able to take time off to care for an ill same-sex partner. The Staff Senate resolution has been review by staff of both Human Resources and the Legal Counsel. Prof. Bemben explained that the Faculty Senate would discuss the resolution at this meeting and then vote on it at the December meeting.

Prof. Bemben mentioned that when this was brought before the Staff Senate, there was little discussion or opposition. In the situation that prompted it, there was a supportive supervisor, so there was no difficulty with the employee taking time off. The intent of this resolution is to address this issue for future situations.

Prof. Moses wanted to know exactly what the FMLA procedure and rules are at OU. Prof. Bemben recommended reviewing what is on the OU Human Resources website on employer and employee roles and responsibilities under FMLA. (See OU's FMLA Employee Rights, Responsibilities, and Guidelines at <http://hr.ou.edu/Documents/Files/FMLARightsResponsibilities04112012.pdf> .) Prof. Moses wanted more information about the purpose of FMLA and said he would visit the HR website to get more information about OU's FMLA policy.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Michael Bemben

“On Tuesday, October 9, the Faculty Senate Chair was invited to make a presentation on behalf of the Faculty Senate at the new faculty seminar. The role of the Faculty Senate, basic procedures of the Senate, the various committees, recent accomplishments, and current issues were all discussed. Additionally, the OU Speakers Service that the Faculty Senate office coordinates was explained as a possible service opportunity.

“An ad hoc committee was appointed for the re-apportionment of Faculty Senate seats based on faculty numbers at the university. Two of the committee members, Gary Copeland, Political Science, and Al Schwarzkopf, Management Information Systems, have served in this capacity before and will be joined by Cecelia Brown, Library Information Studies. Prof. Copeland will serve as Chair of this committee. This process occurs on a three-year cycle, and we hope to have it completed early in the spring semester.

“The Council of Deans meeting took place on Wednesday, October 17, at the Stevenson Research and Technology Center. There was a demonstration of the Active Learning Classroom, which encourages facilitation rather than the standard lecture format in an effort to enhance the learning experience through technology and team based learning. Doug Elmore, Director of the School of Geology and Geophysics, talked about the Bartell Field Camp near Canon City, Colorado and its availability for OU faculty to host retreats, short courses, seminars, field trips, etc. at very affordable rates. Provost Mergler provided a list of topics that the Digital Initiatives Committee is currently working with, and she discussed how the University of Oklahoma will comply with the ‘Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation in Oklahoma State Government 2.0 Act’ of 2011. The OU Open Records office will serve as the central collection point for processing and transmitting any forms from departments that the public would ordinarily request or utilize. Finally, data were provided summarizing first-time college students at OU by intended major, residency, and appointment/enrollment status for all the Colleges on campus.

“Georgia Kosmopoulou (Economics), past Faculty Senate Chair, attended the Faculty Advisory Council at the Oklahoma State Regents Center for Higher Education office in Oklahoma City and reported that Chancellor Johnson is planning to propose an increased budget for higher education that would include a salary program. Another issue that was discussed was the large number of adjunct appointments, especially at smaller universities and colleges in Oklahoma. In some instances, the adjuncts outnumber regular faculty 3 or 4 to 1. This often results in quality control issues, especially for the on-line delivery of courses, and it often becomes difficult to have stability in a program or course when adjuncts might be constantly changing.

“On Monday, October 21, the Provost had a meeting of all the Provost-Direct units that included Student Support Services, Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program, Fred Jones Museum of Art, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma Press, World Literature Today, Faculty Senate, and the Ombudsperson to discuss recent accomplishments and anticipated upcoming issues.

“Representatives from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Staff Senate Executive Committee (Chair, Chair-elect, and Administrative Coordinators) met to discuss two issues. Staff Senate had passed a resolution regarding Same Sex Partnerships’ Family and Medical Leave Eligibility and asked Faculty Senate to endorse the resolution. They also talked about parking concerns on campus and the possibility of carpooling. They mentioned that there is an online carpooler matching system, but it was not very user friendly. Faculty Senate informed Staff Senate about the possibility of purchasing single day parking passes for \$3 per day beginning in January for those who only occasionally bring a car to campus so that yearly tags did not have to be purchased.

“The representatives from the two Senates then met with UOSA representatives (President, Vice-President, Graduate Student Senate Vice-Chair, Undergraduate Student Congress Chair, and Campus Activities Council Chair) to discuss a number of student concerns.

“Parking on campus was discussed, and the information about single day passes was shared. There was also discussion about the number of hours assigned for lab credit that did not always reflect the large amount of time normally required for lab classes. The current Regents’ policy was discussed which requires 1,600 minutes per credit hour per semester for lab sections, whereas lecture classes require 800 minutes per credit hour per semester. The Dead Week issue was also brought up, but the students were reminded of the existing moratorium on that issue until 2014. The last item discussed was drop deadline notification. Students wanted to know whose responsibility it should be to notify a student who needs to drop a course of the drop deadline. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each student to know these deadlines; however, some Colleges currently send out mass emails notifying students of approaching deadlines. Matt Hamilton, Vice President for Admission & Records, indicated that he would look into having central administration send out centralized campus-wide email reminders in the future.

“On Monday, November 5, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate met. The committee discussed Vice President for Research Droegemeier’s email that contained contingency planning for sequestration in the area of research. The committee offered the VPR some assistance in prioritizing areas that might be impacted, with input from all faculty. However, he suggested a wait-and-see approach since the elections are now over, and it is not certain if the sequestration will take place or to what extent but that he would be back in contact with us once more is known. We also discussed security issues for HIPAA and FERPA data storage, decided to continue to pursue possible solutions, and discussed the resolutions dealing with single day parking passes and the Domestic Partners Job Protection Benefits. Provost Mergler then met with the committee, provided an update from the university accreditation process, and summarized the report from the Higher Learning Commission that was extremely positive. She also outlined the remaining schedule for this process to be complete. Finally, we discussed the transition to a new version of Desire2Learn, 10.1, that will be implemented on May 25, 2013.

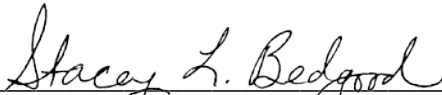
“The University community was saddened by the death of Leo H. Whinery, Sr., College of Law professor emeritus, on November 11, 2012.”

ISSUES FOR 2012-13


Prof. Bembien stated that he is glad that President Boren addressed the issue of salary compression and a salary program in his remarks. Some other issues facing OU are the potential sequestration, storage of HIPAA/FERPA data, and Open Access. Prof. Bembien asked senators to forward any additional issues to the executive committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2012, in Jacobson Faculty Hall 102.



 Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator



 Randall Hewes, Faculty Secretary