

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – December 9, 2013 – 3:30 p.m. – Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102

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Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. A recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Edgar O’Rear, Chair.

PRESENT: Apanasov, Atiquzzaman, Ayres, Bembem, Bergey, Clark, Cracknell, Cravey Stanley, Duncan, Elisens, Forman, Grady, Hahn, Halterman, Hewes, Johnson, Keresztesi, Kim, Klein, Kong, Kornelson, Kutner, Lamb, Laubach, Loon, Mackey, Marcus-Mendoza, Merchan-Merchan, Mortimer, Nelson, O’Rear, Palmer, Raman, Refai, Riggs, Schmeltzer, Schwarzkopf, Shelton, Smith, Stoltenberg, Strout, Terry, Warren

Provost’s representative: Mergler

ISA representatives:

Others: Nick Kelly, Kelly Damphousse

ABSENT: Burcham, Burns, Irvin, Irvine, Miller, Pigott, Sharma, Snell

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of November 11, 2013 was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Advisory Committee on the Course Management System, OU Information Technology, and the Center for Teaching Excellence will be piloting D2L+ and Canvas during the Spring semester. If you are interested in participating in the pilot, please contact Chris Kobza, chriskobza@ou.edu, or Mark Morvant, mmorvant@ou.edu. A Course Management System (D2L) Survey is currently in progress and instructors are encouraged to participate in the survey. Faculty can take the survey by going to: http://oucas.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cPlxufAHfYcQvjv.

The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for the spring 2014 semester will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102 on the following Mondays: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 5.

The Faculty Senate sent out the call for proposals for the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards on November 20, 2013. Proposals are due to the Faculty Senate office by February 3, 2014 and up to \$2,500 may be awarded per proposal. Further information is available at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/facdev.htm>.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee approved the nomination of Karen Antell (University Libraries) to complete the 2013-14 term of Guoqiang Shen (Regional & City Planning) on the Research Council in the "Other" category.

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty member Maurice Rasmussen (Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering) on November 16, 2013.

The Center for Teaching Excellence, OU Information Technology, and the University Libraries will be hosting the Third Annual Academic Technology Expo on January 10, 2014. This event is open to all faculty members who are interested in learning about emerging technologies that can facilitate improvements in teaching. Additional details should be emailed to faculty soon.

The following faculty member was recently elected to the Faculty Senate:

Jonathan Forman (Law), completing the 2013-16 term of Brian McCall (Law) and representing the College of Law.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee approved the nomination of Pamela Genova (Modern Languages, Literatures & Linguistics) to complete the 2012-15 term of Joanna Rapf (English) on the Faculty Awards & Honors Council.

REMARKS BY NICOLE CAMPBELL, DEAN OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Prof. O'Rear introduced Nicole Campbell, Dean of University College, and thanked her for agreeing to speak to the Senate. Dean Campbell thanked Prof. O'Rear for the opportunity to make faculty members more aware of the University College (UC), whose motto is "Where OU Excellence Begins". The College is located in Lissa & Cy Wagner Hall, along with the Writing Center. Dean Campbell imparted that there are study rooms and computer labs available for student use and that the building is open 24 hours per day during finals week in order for students to have a place to study. Dean Campbell offered to give a tour to any faculty members interested in seeing their facilities.

Established in 1942, UC is not a degree-granting college. Students stay in UC until they have 24 hours of college credit, have declared a major, and have the GPA needed to enter that major. The College serves about 5,500 students: 2,600 incoming freshmen, 1,000 pre-HSC 2+2 degrees, contract students, and students not yet able to go to a degree-granting college.

The college has ten full-time professional advisors that advise all majors. They receive a significant amount of training to prepare them to advise incoming freshmen and sophomore students on the 150+

degrees at the university. They are a student-focused bunch; our advisors meet with contract students; these are students who are designated as at-risk more than just that once for the academic advising. Our academic advising unit also runs the summer enrollment program, meeting with approximately 68 students a day plus their parents. They run half-day conferences for students and their parents for 52 straight days during the summer. They provide orientation videos, assessment testing, and one-on-one advising. Students have a chance to be advised and enroll in their first semester of college right there during the summer.

Freshman Programs hosts the University College or “UCOL” seminars and the Gateway to College Learning courses, such as FOCUS (First-Year Orientation Community Unlocking Success) sections. Both of these are two credit hours, letter graded electives, typically taken in the fall of a student’s freshman year. The UCOL seminars are content specific. Dean Campbell noted that faculty members can guest lecture in these courses to expose freshman to their academic discipline. Faculty are also welcome to teach these courses as an overload teaching assignment. The Gateway to College Learning course is designed to systematically expose students to the resources they need to be successful, everything from cognitive development and citizenship skills to University policy. Most of the 80 sections are offered in the fall to serve about 1,800 students. The sections are small (capped at 25), and they are taught by hand-selected, student-friendly faculty and staff.

Prof. Kornelson asked about the interaction between gateway courses and the standard courses. She has been approached by students in the gateway course about tying it to her calculus courses. Dean Campbell said that the goal of the program was to make students comfortable approaching and meeting with faculty members. Prof. Warren asked whom students, especially freshman, should talk to if they are in her classes and are not doing well. Dean Campbell said that if it is a psychological issue, then contact OU Cares at either (405) 325-0841 or oucares@ou.edu. If it is an academic issue, then contact the Student Learning Center at either (405) 325-7621 or studentlearning@ou.edu.

The Center for Student Advancement (CSA) coordinates the President’s Distinguished Faculty Mentoring Program and Strategies for Success for stopped-out students and at-risk students identified through early progress reports. Student-friendly faculty members are invited to take a part in the program as faculty mentors. Your assignment will be to mentor ten incoming freshmen. You will get a modest stipend to host pizza parties or take them to a fine arts event; the idea is to provide an unstructured, informal way for this group to get to know one another, and perhaps as important if not more so is for them to get to know you and see you as someone they can come talk to. Experience and research both suggest very strongly that students who have a faculty or staff member that they can go to with questions are more successful. You do not have to have the answers. Just listen and you can help them find the answers. More information about CSA is available at: <http://www.ou.edu/content/univcoll/about/departments>

Strategies for Success is a course which was developed over ten years ago to help students who are on academic probation. We reach literally hundreds of students every year, about 200 in the fall and about 400 every spring. These are students who are newly on academic probation, and this is an ongoing effort on the part of the University to make sure that students don’t just slip through the cracks. These resources are not optional; everyone who’s on academic probation must take the class.

The Center for Student Advancement looks at all of the early progress reports and reaches out to students who have two or more D’s or F’s and other students who are clearly in trouble. So, I implore those of you who teach 1000-level and 2000-level courses to please complete your early progress reports. The Assessment Center provides assessments for course placement, major exploration coaching, and coordinates the Majors/Minors Fair.

The Student Learning Center provides study skills training, test-taking strategies, managing stress, overcoming procrastination, connecting on campus, studying for the sciences, the psychology of student success, and deciding a major/minor. One-on-one study skills coaching is now available to students.

The UC Action Center provides tutoring to students. This is a tremendous resource; it is been growing every year since we started it in 2007. We offer it now in more than 70 subjects. We focus on 1000-level and 2000-level courses, but we also have some 3000-level courses.

There were no additional questions. Prof O'Rear thanked Dean Campbell for speaking to the Senate.

REMARKS BY BREION ROLLINS, OU HEALTH & WELLNESS COORDINATOR, CONCERNING THE HEALTHY SOONERS PROGRAM

Prof. O'Rear introduced Breion Rollins, OU's Health and Wellness Coordinator. Mr. Rollins distributed a handout "My Resources for Success" as well as directed faculty members to the Healthy Sooners webpage (<http://healthysooners.ouhsc.edu/>). He mentioned the partnership OU has with Blue Cross Blue Shield and that a goal of that partnership is for OU to provide personal health coaching by 2014. Prof. O'Rear asked if that would be individual coaching. Mr. Rollins said it would be done individually. Prof. Hahn asked for more details on the program. Mr. Rollins said that they are still trying to finalize the details and that he would provide that information to faculty members at a later date.

Mr. Rollins stated that OU's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a wellness program for mental and psychological health. The EAP provides employees and their dependents with three free counseling sessions per incident. There is a dedicated toll-free number (1-800-327-2513) and a website (<http://MagellanHealth.com/member>) available to request assistance. In early 2014, OU will be adding legal and financial counseling to this service as a benefit; attorneys will be available to help employees by phone with bankruptcy, divorce, or mediation counseling.

Prof. Johnson said that she is interested in the benefit for reduced-price gym memberships, but was concerned that there are only two local gyms participating in the program and they are both on the other side of town from OU. Mr. Rollins said that he has submitted additional gym names, but that part of the program is controlled by Blue Cross, not OU. He did note that joining a gym earns employees points towards the Healthy Sooner incentive program.

Prof. Warren asked if employees that are not covered by Blue Cross, but by another health insurance program are eligible for these benefits. Mr. Rollins said they are working on OU-employee specific programs. Prof. Kim in Tulsa asked about programs for Tulsa employees. Mr. Rollins stated there is a gym facility in Building One at the OU-Tulsa Campus.

Mr. Rollins went over some employee medical issues that we track along with Blue Cross. These include hypertension, obesity, high cholesterol, and diabetes. Prof. Ayres if those statistics were limited to just those participating in the wellness programs or if it was tracked for all OU employees. Mr. Rollins stated that the trends were applicable to all employees.

There were no additional questions. Prof O'Rear thanked Mr. Rollins for speaking to the Senate.

REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Recent changes have resulted in a need to change the apportionment of the Research Council. Possible funding for proposals went up to \$15,000 and there is less restriction on what the money can be used. In addition, each proposal must have at least two primary reviewers, and the new conflict of interest policy prevents Council members from reviewing proposals from their departmental colleagues. Thus, the Research Council has had a problem securing adequate reviewers in the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts, which has forced them to bring in reviewers from outside the Research Council. In order to remedy this issue, the council would like to increase the number of reviewers from the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. (See the attached recommendation).

Prof. O'Rear introduced Kelvin Droegemeier, OU's Vice President for Research, to address some of the issues that were raised at the last Senate meeting. He stated that the Research Council presently consists of the following disciplinary representation among its thirteen voting members, nine of whom are appointed by the Faculty Senate with four appointed by the President.

- Engineering (two members): including all units within the College of Engineering as well as the School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering within the College of Earth and Energy
- Physical Sciences (two members): including Chemistry and Biochemistry, Geology and Geophysics, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, and Meteorology.
- Social Sciences (two members): including Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Geography, Health & Exercise Science, Human Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, and College of Education.
- Biological Sciences (two members): including Biological Station, Biological Survey, Botany & Microbiology, and Zoology.
- Humanities (two members): including Classics, English, History, History of Science, Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, and Philosophy.
- Other (two members): including College of Business, College of Journalism, Library & Information Studies, College of Architecture, and University Libraries.
- Fine Arts (one member): including all units within the College of Fine Arts.

The suggested changes would:

- Rename/combine some of the groups for clarity
 - Engineering, Physical Sciences → Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences
 - Biological Sciences → Life Sciences
 - Social Sciences → Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Other → Education, Professional, Other
- Add two new members to the Council
 - One in Fine Arts
 - One in Humanities
- Reallocate one existing member from Engineering/Earth and Energy/Physical Sciences to Social Science

Thus, the Research Council recommended unanimously, at its April 15, 2013 meeting, to change its disciplinary membership representation to the following:

- Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (three members): including all units within the Colleges of Engineering, Earth and Energy, Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, along with Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry and Biochemistry.
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (three members): including Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Geography and Environmental Sustainability, Health & Exercise Science, Human Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology.
- Life Sciences (two members): including Biological Station, Biological Survey, Microbiology and Plant Biology, Biology, and the Natural History Museum.
- Humanities (three members): including Classics, English, History, History of Science, Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, and Philosophy.
- Education/Professional/Other (two members): including all units in the College of Business, College of Journalism, Library & Information Studies, College of Architecture, College of Education, and University Libraries.
- Fine Arts (two members): all units within the College of Fine Arts.

This change adds two new members to the Council (in Fine Arts and Humanities) and reallocates one from Engineering/Earth and Energy/Physical Sciences to Social Sciences.

In addition, the Council recommends changing the language noted above to the following (new text is shown in italics): "Appointments to the Council are expected to provide a balanced representation across

the University *and consider the disciplinary mix of proposals received. This mix shall be evaluated every five years and reported to the Faculty Senate and President."*

Prof. O'Rear raised a question that came up in the Faculty Senate Large Executive Committee meeting as to whether re-submissions counted as a submission. VPR Droegemeier said that it is not counted as two submissions.

Prof. Schwarzkopf made a motion to approve the changes from "In light or..." through "Faculty Senate and President." except to change the term of review from five years to three years. This motion was seconded by Prof. Strout.

Prof. Apanasov stated that the Research Council always has the option of bringing in additional reviewers. He stated that this change is just a convenience for the Council, but that the Council should reflect the disciplines of the faculty of the university, not just the disciplines of the proposal submissions, such as the George Lynn Cross Professorships. Prof. Apanasov suggested that the Senate turn down this recommendation.

Prof. Johnson stated that having more representation on the council would make the humanities feel more included in the research goals of the university. Prof. Mackey stated that within the college of Education, they have appreciated the VPR's attempts to get more participation from her college. Prof. Kornelson asked about why the current use of external reviewers is not working and what percentage of the Research Council's time is spent reviewing proposals. VPR Droegemeier stated that external reviewers may not vote on proposals. Currently, about 75% of the Research Council's time is spent reviewing proposals.

There was a voice vote and the motion carried with the modification of the review period from five to three years.

COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (COIA)

Prof. O'Rear presented an invitation for the OU Faculty Senate to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). He recognized Kelly Damphousse, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and Jason Leonard from the Athletic Compliance Office to speak on the issue.

The COIA has been in existence for over ten years and is comprised of the Faculty Senates at 61 of the FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) schools, which is approximately half of those with faculty senates. Former and current Big XII Conference members: Baylor, Colorado, Missouri, TCU, Texas Tech, and Texas are members. Members also include programs with similar athletic accomplishment and traditions such as The University of Alabama, Notre Dame, Michigan, and Penn State.

COIA is concerned about the NCAA announcement to decentralize regulatory structure, has worked on plans for greater faculty oversight of athletics in the context of deregulation, aims to work closely with FAR associations and the Knight Commission as well as NCAA, and acts in part by proposing changes to existing NCAA bylaws.

There is a concern that COIA is redundant to OU's Athletics Council. The OU Athletics Council is a University-level body with broad representation including members chosen by both HSC and Norman faculty senates, staff from both campuses, alumni, and students. The charge to the OU Athletics Council includes oversight related to compliance with NCAA & Conference rules, admission, and academic performance of student-athletes. The OU Athletics Council has advised against joining COIA. In addition, joining COIA would mean additional administrative responsibilities for faculty. COIA calls for the creation of new administrative groups, i.e. an Athletic Integrity Group (AIG) and a Senate Athletic Representative (SAR) with defined functions. The AIG and SAR would supplement and not replace the OU Athletics Council and the FAR.

Prof. O'Rear asked Prof. Damphousse and Mr. Leonard if they had any statements to make on this issue. Prof. Damphousse stated that the faculty members already have a voice on the Athletics Council, as six of its members are faculty. In addition, the FAR travels to NCAA meetings with the Athletics Director. He also noted the Athletics Director makes an effort to speak to the Faculty Senate each spring.

Prof. Schwarzkopf said that we have a good relationship with the Athletics department, but questions why would we not want to have a voice in what COIA is doing as well. Prof. Hahn asked if we were already working with COIA. Prof. Damphousse said that OU did not have a formal relationship with them. Mr. Leonard said that OU's President and Athletics Director are very active in changes within the NCAA. Prof. Damphousse said that he understands that COIA has no official role with the NCAA, that they primarily write position papers. Prof. Mackey said that her impression is that COIA is most active on campuses where the athletics departments are not self-supporting and where there are not procedures in place to maintain academic standards within athletics.

Prof. O'Rear said that he thinks there is no overwhelming desire to join COIA at this time. Prof. Damphousse said that if faculty members want to know more about what is going on in the Athletics department in terms of academics and faculty, he would be willing to report to the Faculty Senate at any time.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Edgar A. O'Rear, III

"The Dean's Council convened November 20 at the Graduate Student Life Center in Robertson Hall. Dean Lee Williams explained that the idea for the Center came from a series of interviews done some years ago by Tim Davidson in Human Relations. Results of that survey indicated that graduate students have a more integrated view of their studies and families, similar to professionals and distinct from undergraduates. Student affairs, while open to all, is tailored and marketed to undergraduates and perhaps poorly attuned to the needs of graduate students. For those pursuing advanced degrees, scholarship constitutes their primary relationship to the University, but they also want to be part of a larger community. The Graduate College decided to create activities for academic and social interaction such as a "Welcome Week" with a cookout on the lawn. It is hoped the Graduate Student Life Center will become a competitive edge for recruiting at OU. Center facilities include a workroom, lounge area and a meeting room, which can be reserved by contacting Clay Wesley (claywesley@ou.edu). Dean Williams also announced that applications for graduate school were now being handled in a separate office from undergraduate admissions in Buchanan Hall. Online applicants see a single point-of-entry that connects seamlessly to additional materials for departments.

"Director of Institutional Research Susannah Livingood presented preliminary data on Norman Campus Total Faculty for Fall 2013. As of the official Fall 2013 faculty reporting date, there were 975 Tenured and Tenure-Track faculty and 85 Renewable Term faculty members at the rank of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor. The number of Renewable Term regular faculty represents 8.7% of the number of Tenured and Tenure-Track faculty.

"Center for Teaching Excellence Director Mark Morvant gave a report on the Fall 2013 Teaching Scholar's Initiative. TSI took place on Saturday, October 19, with an afternoon workshop the day before. The focus of TSI this year was digital education. There were 62 attendees at the Friday workshop while the total number of participants at the Saturday colloquium was 99 with 55 faculty, 23 graduate students, and 13 staff. Dr. Morvant followed with an update on pilot evaluation of course management systems in the spring. Analysis and recommendations for the course management system is slated for Summer 2014 with the transition period coming in academic year 2014-15.

"The Large Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate met on November 25. This group consists of Council Chairs augmenting the regular Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. The meeting

opened with a discussion of issues which included the dissertation repository/embargo policy, medical insurance premiums, Dead Week, TEACH test, graduate student support, and the online Tenure and Promotion system. Faculty Compensation Committee Chair Lawrence Baines inquired about “Complete College America”. To improve economic competitiveness internationally, the states’ governors created this program to increase the number of college graduates. The Oklahoma version creates incentives for the community colleges, regional colleges, and research universities to grant more degrees. Fran Ayres asked if they think there are many young people in Oklahoma that should be going to college who are not. Dr. Baines mentioned there are negatives to Complete College America, specifically rating college based on 4-year graduation rates.

“Academic Programs Chair Karen Hayes-Thumann then gave the report from that Council. APC has been undergoing changes as Associate Registrar Breck Turkington took over administration because Judy Cain is retiring. The objective is to make procedures more efficient for the Council and units of the University. With programs only being submitted in the Fall, the number of requests related to programs and courses has declined from last year. However, a backlog in processing exists as Breck Turkington oversees training to implement changes. Faculty Senate Secretary and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies Jill Irvine stated that tracking progress of applications can be difficult. Professor Hayes-Thumann responded that APC is working with the Provost, looking at CourseLeaf, and considering putting material on Desire2Learn with aim of being in place for Fall 2014. Mike Bemben brought up a problem that occurred when the course prefix ZOO changed to BIO, which affected degree sheets in Health and Exercise Science. It was suggested that all departments associated through cross listing be notified when an application is received.

“Larry Regens, Chair of the Athletics Council, was absent so his written report submitted beforehand was presented by the Faculty Senate Chair. The Athletics Council has met twice during the Fall on September 30 and November 18. Issues covered included fiscal integrity, a new director of nutrition, new coaches for baseball and track & field, and court cases that may affect amateurism. Other items were responsibilities of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), currently Kelly Damphousse, and activities of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). SAAC members participated in the November 23 St. Jude Gifts Walk with the goal of raising \$5,000. Another SAAC program called “IN7” aims to lower the high suicide rate among Native Americans by getting them involved in sports. The Athletic Department budget of FY14 is conservative and may change depending on bowl revenues and other sources that may come up during the year. The Department contributed to the general fund and has pledged another \$1 million over the next five years.

“The Budget Council meets monthly and sets priorities for use of fiscal resources. Its report was given by Chair Ron Halterman. In addition to faculty, there are student and staff representatives as well as the Provost on the Council. Recommendations from the Budget Council go to the President. This fall, the Budget Council has discussed state revenues and looked at areas of low cost with high impact on students. With the flat state budget, the Development Office has become very important to OU. Last year, Development raised \$194 million to bring the total endowment to \$1.24 billion. Significant increases in state support do not seem likely; the general view of state leadership is that the university can use technology to increase efficiency and so no new money. Total budget for FY13 was \$855 million with \$137 million in state appropriations and \$237 million from tuition and fees. The Council plans to keep monitoring the effects of the flat rate tuition. It was suggested that the Budget Council and Faculty Senate Executive Committee try to send the same message to Higher Administration for any raise program.

“Sheena Murphy passed out a handout showing the number of proposals submitted to the Research Council through October. The Research Council meets monthly for about two hours with time mainly spent reviewing proposals. A question was raised whether resubmissions count as new proposals in the statistics for funding rate. Dr. Murphy didn’t know, but she would find out. Another member of the Large Executive Committee inquired whether there was any attempt to distribute funds equally across colleges to which Sheena replied “no.”

“Al Schwarzkopf provided a written report on behalf of the Information Technology Council. With the Faculty Senate passing the ITC resolution on Student Response Systems consolidation, efforts are underway experimenting with the most popular systems. They are preparing to make recommendations. A group consisting of Al Schwarzkopf, Kelly Damphousse, Rick Luce, Adam Croom, and Danny Hilliard met with Senator Ron Sharp to discuss the Digital Initiative innovations being introduced into OU classrooms. This included a description of efforts to reduce cost of higher education through electronic and open source textbooks, library initiatives, book rentals, and course material placed on D2L. ITC has also been focusing on captioning with no simple solutions having been found. Transcription costs are very high and accuracy rates for software are poor with subsequent editing required. The Council will be examining details of the University policy.

“Lawrence Baines presented the report from the Faculty Compensation Committee. Last year, FCC focused on compression and inversion by rank and within academic units. Data from the study were reviewed. The University reported that approximately \$800,000 was distributed to departments to adjust the salaries of faculty experiencing issue of inversion and compression. FCC reiterates the need to prioritize addressing compression and inversion, taking merit and length of time in rank into account. The committee also recommended that compression and inversion be taken into consideration for long term financial planning.

“Items on the agenda for the November 27 meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee included review of Procedural Guidelines for Faculty Appeals Board hearings, membership in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), and a discussion with University College Dean Nicole Campbell. Last year, the Faculty Senate approved a revision of the Severe Sanctions and Faculty Appeals Board policy; this year, the Office of OU Legal Counsel provided a copy of a new version of the Procedural Guidelines for review. No changes were recommended by members of the Executive Committee, but Past Chair of the Faculty Senate Mike Bemben advised referring the document to the current and most recent chairs of the Faculty Appeals Board for their input. The meeting continued with Dean Nicole Campbell describing operation and activities of University College. University College focuses on “connections, impact and relevance.” The College has worked on holistic admissions and student predictive modeling to determine likelihood of success at OU. With the aim of improving retention, University College coordinates Gateway courses to help students during the transition to college life. There are many aspects to retention including finances, family concerns and psychological-behavioral issues. One problem with the data for retention is that we don’t get credit for students who finish elsewhere; however, Tony Hutchison from the OSRHE will be providing data for the entire state. In response to a question about how their advisors are responding to Flat Tuition and 15 hours, Dean Campbell said they are promoting “Think 30” with the opportunities to take courses during the summer or intersession. With Provost Mergler, the FSEC discussed One University as there has been some confusion about what it is and how it relates to other programs such as the Digital Initiative and Janux. It was explained that One University is just a branding after the Athletic Department promotion “There’s only one OU!” One University helps to market a number of things on campus with a web site showing Janux courses, iTunesU and the OneUniversity store. Tuition waivers for dependents were discussed in response to an overture from the OSU Faculty Council to work together on a plan. Years ago, OU had approved a tuition waiver benefit for dependents, but that failed to be implemented when the budget situation weakened. In response to OSU, it was decided that this was not a good year to pursue waivers since any new funds will be dedicated to address increases in medical insurance premium costs for both the University and faculty. Moreover, President Boren had increased funds last summer to the Sooner Heritage scholarships. The FSEC and Provost looked at an invitation to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. Input has been obtained from the Athletics Council and Gerald Gurney who has participated in past meetings of COIA. In lieu of the January meeting of the Faculty Senate, a reception for Senators and members of the Higher Administration has been proposed.

“In its monthly meeting with President David Boren on December 4, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee raised concern about academic preparation of Oklahoma students for college. Recent standardized tests placed Oklahoma 50th in math while a Washington Post article the day before had

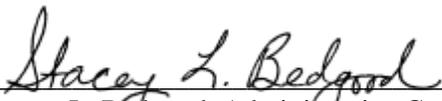
reported disappointing results for 15-year-olds in the U.S. on the international PISA test. In particular, performance by American students showed no improvement over the last decade. These findings do not bode well for the OU STEM initiative, Governor Fallin's promotion of STEM education, and education in all areas of the institution. President Boren mentioned the possibility of inviting the Oklahoma Secretary of Education to campus. In a recent survey prompted by Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, graduate student support was the highest priority for OU. Member-at-Large Wayne Riggs noted institutional barriers to addressing graduate student concerns since there is a separate graduate college, while support for graduate students comes from all over. With the uncertainty of some funding sources, Professor Misha Klein added that continuity of graduate student support can be a problem which impacts undergraduate education. President Boren commented that this can also affect faculty recruitment. Possible inclusion of a component for graduate student fellowships in the fund-raising effort for the 125th anniversary of the founding of the university was discussed. Since most alumni received bachelor's degrees, requesting support for graduate students can be challenging. However, President Boren appreciates the many donors who will provide support wherever the University sees needs. The State Regents for Higher Education have set a goal for more college graduates to which President Boren said it comes back to resources. OU is spending \$6-7 million on student retention and is better at identifying at-risk students. The quality of counseling has increased. The President mentioned a personal goal to get to a graduation rate in the high 70's or even 80's. He feels we could do it, but we need more resources. Dr. Klein said she had seen a problem with students being able to get access to mental health care, sometimes requiring more than a month to get access to the Counseling Center at Goddard. OUCares on the other hand has been found to be quite responsive. President Boren indicated they would look into the need for counselors. Two recent articles on MOOCs indicate some limitations so that how they will be used effectively, which remains a question. After seeing the findings of one study, the founder of Udacity, Sebastian Thrun, said MOOCs were a "lousy product" for unprepared students. A survey by the University of Pennsylvania of nearly 35,000 students from around the world showed that 80% of those taking MOOCs already had associates or bachelor's degrees with 44% having some graduate education. The meeting ended with a brief discussion of preparation for emergencies like weather. Lisa Teel has the responsibility for oversight of preparedness. President Boren described how the soundness of buildings on campus to tornados is currently being assessed."

NEW BUSINESS

Prof. Schwarzkopf asked if the change we approved to the Research Council would take effect as the Senate's Committee on Committees puts together the councils, committees, and board for the next academic year during this Spring. Prof. O'Rear stated the Vice President for Research's office would provide us with a transition plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2014, in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102.



 Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator



 Randall S. Hewes, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

Proposed Changes to Research Council Disciplinary Composition

(Approved at the December 9, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting)

BACKGROUND

The Research Council has been evaluating the disciplinary representation of its membership in light of two important factors. The first concerns substantially increased proposal activity driven by the restructuring, in January 2012, of the Council's previous funding programs into a single flagship Faculty Investment Program (FIP). The second involves the implementation, at this same time, of a conflict of interest policy (<http://vpr-norman.ou.edu/research-council/conflict-of-interest>) that ensures the Council is operating with the highest standards of ethical conduct, and in so doing prohibits Council members from reviewing certain proposals. Note that in addition to the FIP, the Council also operates the Junior Faculty Fellowship (JFF) Program and makes recommendations regarding the VPR Awards Program and George Lynn Cross Professorships – all of which follow the Council's conflict of interest policy.

The Council's evaluation, based upon three years of proposal data, has led to the unanimous recommendation that its present membership be modified. The process for doing so involves approval from the President based upon recommendation from the Faculty Senate, and this represents the formal request for that recommendation.

More specifically, the Council presently consists of the following disciplinary representation among its 13 voting members, nine of whom are appointed by the Faculty Senate with four appointed by the President.

- **Engineering (2 members):** including all units within the College of Engineering as well as the School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering within the College of Earth and Energy
- **Physical Sciences (2 members):** including Chemistry and Biochemistry, Geology and Geophysics, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, and Meteorology.
- **Social Sciences (2 members):** including Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Geography, Health & Exercise Science, Human Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, and College of Education.
- **Biological Sciences (2 members):** including Biological Station, Biological Survey, Botany & Microbiology, and Zoology.
- **Humanities (2 members):** including Classics, English, History, History of Science, Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, and Philosophy.
- **Other (2 members):** including College of Business, College of Journalism, Library & Information Studies, College of Architecture, and University Libraries.
- **Fine Arts (1 member):** including all units within the College of Fine Arts.

By virtue of this structure, "Appointments to the Council are expected to provide a balanced representation across the University."

The Council's analysis of FIP and JFF proposals submitted to and funded by the Council for academic years 2011, 2012 and 2013, including those prior to the creation of the FIP, clearly show the following:

- The arts, fine arts, humanities, and social sciences are underrepresented in terms of representation among Council members relative to the number and percentage of proposals submitted from these disciplines;
- Engineering, energy, and physical sciences proposals are relatively few in number and percentage, principally because those disciplines have comparatively large opportunities for external funding as well as large SRI distributions to support exploratory activities;
- Proposals from education disciplines are relatively few in number, principally because College of Education faculty members traditionally have not sought either external or internal funding;
- Because of the Conflict of Interest Policy, the above factors have contributed to the need for seeking non-Council reviewers of proposals in the arts, fine arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Furthermore, based upon a five-year evaluation (FY09-FY13) of data, the Council believes the recommended change in disciplinary mix will not affect its ability to thoughtfully evaluate nominees for the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship.

RECOMMENDED REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

In light of these factors, the Council recommended unanimously, at its 15 April 2013 meeting, to change its disciplinary membership representation to the following:

- **Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (3 members):** including all units within the Colleges of Engineering, Earth and Energy, Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, along with Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry and Biochemistry.
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 members):** including Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Geography and Environmental Sustainability, Health & Exercise Science, Human Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology.
- **Life Sciences (2 members):** including Biological Station, Biological Survey, Microbiology and Plant Biology, Biology, and the Natural History Museum.
- **Humanities (3 members):** including Classics, English, History, History of Science, Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, and Philosophy.
- **Education/Professional/Other (2 members):** including all units in the College of Business, College of Journalism, Library & Information Studies, College of Architecture, College of Education, and University Libraries.
- **Fine Arts (2 members):** all units within the College of Fine Arts.

This change adds two new members to the Council (in Fine Arts and Humanities) and reallocates one from Engineering/Earth and Energy/Physical Sciences to Social Sciences.

In addition, the Council recommends changing the language noted above to the following (new text is shown in italics): **"Appointments to the Council are expected to provide a balanced representation across the University and consider the disciplinary mix of proposals received. This mix shall be evaluated ever three years and reported to the Faculty Senate and President."**