

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – February 9, 2015 – 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 Randall Hewes, Chair.

- PRESENT: Asprey, Barker, Bemben, Bergey, Bradshaw, Burcham, Burke, Cracknell, Cravey Stanley, Elisens, Fiedler, Fincke, Forman, Frickenstein, , Halterman, Harm, Hart, Hewes, Hirschfeld, Irvine, Kong, Kornelson, Kutner, Laubach, Lawson, Liu, Livingood, Lupia, Mackey, Merchan-Merchan, Miller, Mortimer, Offen, Raman, Refai, Schmeltzer, Schmidt, Scrivener, Sharma, Sikavitsas, Snell, Stock, Terry, Weaver
- Provost's Representative: Kyle Harper
 ISA representatives: Dan Hough, Chris Cook
 Others: Matt Hamilton, Jeffrey Blahnik, Michael Thompson (VPR office),
- ABSENT: Ayres, Coleman, B. Johnson, E. Johnson, Marcus-Mendoza, Riggs
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APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of December 8, 2014 was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following faculty members were recently elected to the Faculty Senate:

Karl Offen (Geography & Environmental Sustainability), completing the 2012-15 term of Laurel Smith (Geography & Environmental Sustainability) and representing the College of Atmospheric & Geographic Science.

Stuart Asprey (Art & Art History), completing the 2012-15 term of Andrew Strout (Art & Art History) and representing the College of Fine Arts.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Committee on Committees approved the nomination of Juanita Vargas (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) to complete the 2014-16 term of Donna Nelson (Chemistry and Biochemistry) on the Faculty Compensation Committee.

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of former faculty member Ronald Hess (Architecture) on January 13, 2015.

OU Sooner Flight Academy summer flight camp registration opens March 1. These camps challenge children and youth ages 6-18 to engage in hands-on activities, which demonstrate the science, technology, engineering, and math of the exciting world of flight. Children of OU Faculty/Staff receive a discount on tuition and partial scholarships are available. Learn more at <http://flightcamp.ou.edu> or contact the academy at flightcamp@ou.edu.

The call for volunteers for councils, committees, and boards was sent to faculty, chairs/directors, and deans on February 6, 2015. Nominations are due to the Faculty Senate office by Friday, February 20, 2015.

Proposals for the 2015 OU Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowships (AHFF) program coordinated by the VPR's office are due on February 23, 2015. The purpose of the AHFF program is to support dynamic and innovative research and creative activity projects proposed by regular faculty in the arts, fine arts, and humanities by providing them the opportunity to focus on a scholarly and / or creative activity that significantly transforms the faculty member's research program and makes notable contributions to the field. More information is available at <http://vpr-norman.ou.edu/funding/VPR-funding-opportunities/arts-humanities-faculty-fellowship-program>.

Recently opened at the Art Museum on January 20, 2015: *101st Annual School of Art & Art History Student Exhibition*. This competitive juried show is held each spring and highlights the diverse works of art created by art and art history students from the University of Oklahoma.

REMARKS BY MATT HAMILTON, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES & REGISTRAR AND JEFFREY BLAHNIK, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Prof. Hewes introduced Matt Hamilton and Jeffrey Blahnik to speak about admission trends and the common application, referred to as the common ap. Mr. Hamilton's focused on the historical perspective and Mr. Blahnik described the present state. They both thanked Susannah Livingood in Institutional Research & Reporting (IRR) for providing data that was important to their work.

Mr. Hamilton stated that prior to the holistic admissions implementation, it was an automated process based primarily on ACT score, high school GPA, and class rank. The current holistic rubric incorporates GPA, ACT/SAT, rigor, engagement/leadership, and an essay. In addition, admission officers have the flexibility to accommodate students that have overcome challenges in high school. OU has a predictive database that can generally predict a student's college GPA and retention based on several factors. The pilot year for holistic admissions was 2012-13. The following year, 2013-14, was the first year of holistic admissions being the standard. The first year of the Common Application was 2014-15

There was a seven-year low in the number of Oklahoma High School Graduates during 2013-14, which encouraged OU to look outside of the state for additional applicants. We had the highest minority admit total and percentage (32.6%) in OU history during Fall 2013. During Fall 2014, we had a record number of Non-Resident Admits (5,340) and we enrolled 57% Oklahoma residents during the first year of the common ap. We have also increased the number of international admits.

Mr. Hamilton presenting some figures on the holistic admission performance measures and then shared graphs based on the work of Robert Terry and Nicole Campbell which showed retention by admit date.

Fall 2013 class

- 85.2% Fall-to-Fall Retention
- 2nd Highest Retention Rate in OU History
- 3.13 – 1st time OU GPA
- GPA Below 2.0 - 7.8% of class (it was 8.3% the previous year)

Fall 2014 class

- Highest ACT Average in History (26.4)
- Highest Number of #1 Ranks in Seven Years (305)
- High School GPA - 3.59

Mr. Blahnik, who joined OU in July 2014, presented the remaining material. The Applicant 5-Year Trend Comparison shows that OU is ahead in both applicants and admits this year. Mr. Blahnik shared the following numbers with the Senate:

Admits to Date 2/6/14

- 6,525 in 2015 (compared to 5,618 in 2014, 5,998 in 2013)
- 3.67 GPA in 2015 (compared to 3.66 in 2014, 3.66 in 2013)
- 27.5 ACT in 2015 (compared to 27.1 in 2014, 26.7 in 2013)
- Change in waitlist procedure
 - Qualified waitlist
 - Waitlist offered total 2015: 706 (327 have opted in) compared to 370 in 2014.

Admits with Contract 2/6/14

- 500 contract offers + 158 Sooner Math Program offers = 658 contract offers in 2015.
- 164 contract offers + 217 Sooner Math Program offers = 381 contract offers in 2014.
- 22.4 ACT for contract offers in 2015 (20.6 ACT in 2014, 21.1 ACT in 2013).
- Average GPA is 3.42 in 2015 for contract admits (3.47 in 2014, 3.36 in 2013).
- Identifying retention risks earlier and assigning them coaches (grade trends, poor grades in core areas, etc.).

Indicators of Intention to Attend

- 1,403 enrollment commitments (compared to 1,132 in 2014, 1,215 in 2013)
- 530 housing contracts/exemptions only (405 in 2014, 226 in 2013).
- 1,933 with either enrollment commitment and housing contract/exemption or both (1,537 in 2014, 1441 in 2013)

Prof. Refai asked if Admissions tracks students that took Advanced Placement (AP) courses or did an International Baccalaureate (IB) and noted a study that was done at Virginia Tech on these populations. Mr. Hamilton said that this information is tracked and much of the 'rigor' component in admissions is AP courses or to a lesser extent, IB programs. There is also a United World College (UWC) group made up of international students that completed an IB program. Many of these students come from poverty-stricken countries and this is an excellent opportunity for them. There is a generous benefactor, Shelby Davis, that provides up to \$20,000 per student per year to support the UWC program (<http://www.davisuwcscholars.org>).

Prof. Halterman asked why OU has more admissions this year than this time last year. Mr. Blahnik said that OU has been both quicker to respond and our applicants this year are more knowledgeable at using the common ap. OU have increased admissions at this point, but we expect to end up with a similar number of student, 4,200 students. In addition, we are moving the application deadline from April 1 back to Feb 1. We are moving the scholarship deadline from Feb 1 back to Dec 15. This puts pressure on high school counselors to get their recommendations to OU, as the common ap looks at both teacher and counselor recommendations.

Prof. Sikavitsas asked if there is a mechanism where faculty can help in making admissions decisions on borderline students. Mr. Hamilton said there is a 10-member Admissions Committee that sets the standards for admission and it includes a diverse group of faculty. It is the 2.4 or 2.3 GPA students that are the borderline and admissions looks more carefully at the course-specific grades for those students based on the field they want to pursue. Faculty members within the departments are not currently directly engaged in this decision making process. Prof. Sikavitsas expressed his concern regarding students entering an engineering program without having taken high school physics. Matt asked Prof. Sikavitsas to send his specific concerns to Mr. Blahnik after the meeting.

Prof. Fiedler asked about the status of the recently approved tuition waivers for faculty/staff children, as that could affect the decision making of some applicants. Mr. Hamilton stated that there is a committee in Human Resources working out the details of that program. He anticipates that it will begin in either summer or fall of 2015. Human Resources is taking the lead on this, but a lot of the content is coming from areas under Mr. Hamilton's direction. It is expected to be a 100% tuition waiver that would be valued at \$4,200 for the year.

There were no addition questions and Prof. Hewes thanked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Blahnik for speaking to the Senate.

FOR DISCUSSION: GUNS ON CAMPUS

Prof. Hewes introduced a revised guns on campus resolution to the Senate. Recently, he was told to expect legislation to be introduced regarding guns on campus. In response to that impending legislation, Chancellor Glen Johnson published an op-ed in the *Tulsa World* expressing the reasons for OSRHE's opposition to guns on campus. In addition, student organizations on several campuses have come out against allowing guns on campus.

The Faculty Senate's at the various universities were asked to send copies of their resolutions from 2014 to the OSRHE. Danny Hilliard and Pres. Boren both feel that an updated resolution would be helpful in discouraging the legislation. In support of that request, the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee has drafted a resolution very similar to the one approved by the Senate last year. Pres. Hewes proposed that the Senate vote on the resolution at the March meeting.

Prof. Bergey asked if this resolution would preclude students or faculty members from keeping guns in their automobiles while parked on campus. Prof. Hewes thought that this might be the current law, but stated that he was not a legal expert on this issue and referred Prof. Bergey to the Legal Counsel. Prof. Fiedler asked if the National Weather Center would be allowed to have guns at their facility in gun cabinets. He asked if that facility would fall under Pres. Boren's control. Prof. Terry asked what OU law enforcement personnel recommend in lieu of faculty and students having guns. Prof. Cracknell asked if this pertains to replica guns that may be used in theatrical productions. Prof. Hewes thought it only applied to functioning firearms.

The proposed resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING FIREARMS ON PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND
COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN OKLAHOMA

WHEREAS bills allowing guns to be brought onto public college and university campuses have been introduced into the legislature of The State of Oklahoma, and
 WHEREAS the Faculty Senate of The University of Oklahoma – Norman campus represents all faculty members, and
 WHEREAS we, as faculty members, are sensitive to and aware of the physical, mental, and emotional trauma of school violence, and
 WHEREAS the welfare of members and guests of the University community is a primary concern, and
 WHEREAS the presence of guns on campus both endangers the safety of students, faculty, and staff, and undermines the teaching and learning environment, and
 WHEREAS a recent, scientific poll of introductory American Government students at OU showed that 68% of students disagreed and 20% agreed with the statement, "Persons should be able to carry a concealed weapon on a college campus," and
 WHEREAS a recent event at OU demonstrated the rapid response of law enforcement professionals to a report of "shots fired", and
 WHEREAS the presence of non-uniformed individuals with guns makes the job of law enforcement professionals more difficult when responding to a shooting incident,
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of The University of Oklahoma – Norman campus hereby urges the legislature to refrain from passing any laws allowing the possession of firearms on public college and university campuses other than those of duly authorized law enforcement personnel, so as to maintain a positive and safe educational and working environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Randall S. Hewes

"At the Council of the Dean's meeting on January 7, Interim Provost Kyle Harper introduced Dr. Christopher Walker, who was recently appointed as Associate Provost. Dr. Walker will take on many of the functions formerly performed by Greg Heiser, who has moved to the Office of Compliance, where he will oversee the academic integrity office while also focusing on compliance. At this meeting, Provost Harper also announced that he is reviving the Provost's Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

"On January 12, in lieu of our regular monthly meeting, the Faculty Senate hosted a reception for Senators and members of the higher administration at 3:30 p.m. in this room. This was the second year we have held this event, and it was well attended by Senators and administrators.

"The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on January 13 and January 21 with two external candidates for the next dean of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. Both candidates come from a corporate background, and each has about 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. The Executive Committee shared its impressions of both candidates in letters to President Boren. Vice President and College of Law Dean Joseph Harroz is chair of the search committee.

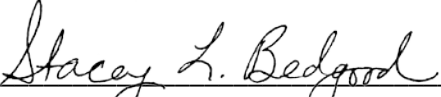
"The Executive Committee held its next regular monthly meeting on February 2. The guests included Matt Hamilton and Jeffrey Blahnik, who followed up on the same topics with their presentation today. We also had an extended discussion with Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Loretta Early, who was originally scheduled for today but could not attend and will be rescheduled for a later meeting this spring semester. The discussion with VP Early covered top IT priorities and concerns from faculty regarding information security and downtimes in the fall resulting from email blacklisting and a Sunday networking failure. We then met with Interim Provost Harper. He announced that the new Graduate Education Task Force has been constituted and will be meeting soon. He also indicated that an extensive legal and administrative review process has been completed for the current draft of the Family Fairness policy [covering Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)-related issues for faculty]. This policy was proposed originally by the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC), and now that it has undergone some changes, it will return to the FWC for any further comment. If and when it is adopted, the policy will serve as guidance for deans in dealing with faculty FMLA issues, which create special challenges when they occur during an instructional semester.

"On February 4, the Executive Committee met with President Boren. Most of the discussion concerned the state financial picture and possible impacts on higher education. This may be a very challenging budget year, but it is too early to make any strong predictions for the state budget and OU. We also discussed the announcement on January 26 that Rich Taylor, Dean of Fine Arts, had resigned his position and was being succeeded by Mary Margaret Holt, director of the OU School of Dance, on an acting and then interim basis, subject to approval of the OU Board of Regents. Finally, we discussed the executive committee's plans to introduce a resolution concerning guns on campus, in response to renewed activity in the state legislature to introduce bills to permit concealed or open carry of guns on university and college campuses.

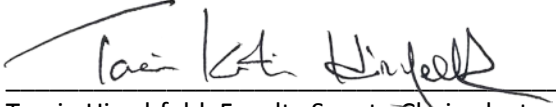
"In February, the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with each of the three current candidates for the next provost. There are two external candidates and one internal candidate, Interim Provost Harper. The interviews will occur on Feb. 16 and 17, Feb. 19 and 20, and Mar. 3 and 4. The co-chairs of the search committee are Suzette Grillot, Dean of the College of International Studies and Vice Provost for International Programs, and Berrien Moore, Dean of the College of Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences and Vice President of Weather & Climate Programs."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015, in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102.



 Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator



 Tassie Hirschfeld, Faculty Senate Chair-elect