

*JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE*

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – September 21, 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 Tassie Hirschfeld, Chair.

PRESENT: Anderson, Asprey, Ayres, Barker, Bembem, Bergey, Bisel, Burke, Burstein, Cifelli, Coleman, Cracknell, Crain, Davidson, Elisens, Ellis, Elwood Madden, Fiedler, Forman, Gutierrez, Halterman, Hart, Hirschfeld, Irvine, B. Johnson, E. Johnson, Koch, Kong, Kornelson, Kozadayev, Laubach, Lawson, Livingood, Markham, Merchan-Merchan, Miller, Mortimer, Raman, Riggs, Rodriquez, Safiejko-Mrocza, Schmeltzer, Scrivener, Sharma, Stock, Stoltenberg, Swinkin, Volz, Weaver

Provost's Representative: Provost Harper, Mark Morvant

ISA representatives: Chris Cook

ABSENT: Brede, Harm, Moxley, Sikavitsas, Terry

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**APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of May 6, 2015 was approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A list of the Faculty Senate members is attached. The new members will be introduced at the meeting.

The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for 2015-16 will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Jacobson Faculty Hall Room 102 on the following Mondays: September 21, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 25, February 8, March 7, April 11, and May 9.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee approved the nomination of Thomas Steele (University Libraries) to a 2015-18 term on the Publications Board, of Sarah Ellis (Music) to complete the 2015-16 term of Jennifer Saltzstein (Music) on the Research Council, and of Somik Ghosh (Construction Science), to a 2015-18 term on the Academic Programs Council.

The Faculty Senate now has a twitter feed at @FacultySenateOU. We will maintain the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OUFacultySenate>. The Senate's email address is [facsen@ou.edu](mailto:facsen@ou.edu) and website address is <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/>.

The Senate Executive Committee elected Jon Forman (Law) as parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate and Regular Faculty.

The compilation of the 2014-15 annual reports of University councils was distributed via email on September 4, 2015 to the Faculty Senate members and to chairs, directors, and deans to be made available to the general faculty. The reports are available at <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/cnclrep15.pdf>.

The 2015-16 list of faculty appointments to committees is available on the Faculty Senate website at <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/commem15.htm>.

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty members James Forgotson (Geology & Geophysics), Nathaniel Eek (Drama) on April 30, 2015, James Patterson (Architecture) on May 29, 2015, Thomas Sorey (Architecture) on June 20, 2015, and Frank McQuarrie (Instructional Leadership & Academic Curriculum) on September 7, 2015, as well as faculty members Owen Kulemeka (Journalism) on June 27, 2015 and Rajiv Dant (Marketing & Supply Chain Management) on July 4, 2015. A scholarship fund has been set up to honor Prof. Kulemeka and gifts may be made to the Owen Kulemeka Memorial Scholarship fund in the Gaylord College through the OU Foundation.

The New Faculty Seminar dealing with University Assessment & Governance, "Service. Why get involved?" will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at noon in the OMU Heritage Room. Visit the Center for Teaching Excellence at <http://teach.ou.edu> to register.

The Athletics Department is again offering the Faculty & Staff All Sports Package, which gives OU faculty/staff the opportunity to attend many athletic events (not including Football or Basketball) during the 2015-16 athletic year for \$40.00. For further information, contact the Athletics Ticket Office at 325-2424.

Students 8th grade and under are invited to join the Sooner Jr. Kids Club. By joining this club, they can receive free admission to select OU Athletic events along with other benefits. Membership is \$40 per child (each additional child is \$25) for July 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016. For further information, contact the OU Athletics Department at 325-6353 or e-mail [sjkc@ou.edu](mailto:sjkc@ou.edu).

Faculty and staff have received pledge cards and e-pledge information for the United Way campaign and can submit pledges via campus mail or complete the ePledge form online.

**REMARKS BY KYLE HARPER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST**

Prof. Hirschfeld introduced Kyle Harper, the Senior Vice President and Provost. Prof. Harper expressed his appreciation of being invited to speak at the first meeting of the Faculty Senate about the directions and priorities of the Provost's Office. His presentation was broken into three segments: 'OU Outlook', 'Being OUrbest', and 'On the horizon: priorities and focus'.

He stated that the OU is a gateway of opportunity—a comprehensive, public university combining excellence and accessibility. He reiterated the President's view that OU is a family—a campus where people from different walks of life come together and care about each other. By preparing students for citizenship and for life in a global society, we build character and civility. Our faculty members are competitive and utilize collaboration, boldness, and creativity, to excel and give Oklahoma a university of which to be proud.

Provost Harper stated that tuition and fees are now a dominant force in higher education, however, ours are low for a Carnegie R1 university. He sees the rate of tuition growth overall slowing. In response, universities are increasing their enrollment, which leads to competitive pressures on institutions. Thus, OU's brand, value, and identity are important.

Our undergraduate population has become 'bigger and better'. Our Fall 2015 Cohort consists of 4,200 freshmen, of which 285 are National Merit Scholars. Their average ACT is 26.4 and GPA is 3.62. It is also the most diverse cohort in OU's history. OU had 13,000 applicants of which 9,000 were admitted and 4,200 enrolled. There have been major changes in Admissions and Recruitment in terms of organization including a recent union of Admissions with Recruiting, the transition to completely holistic admissions, and recruitment strategy.

Provost Harper has been Provost since March 2015. His key team consists of:

- Simin Pulat, Vice Provost for Faculty Development
- Glen Krutz, Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives
- Stewart Berkinshaw, Director of Financial Operations
- Chris Walker, Faculty & Student Affairs
- Kathleen Shea Smith, Associate Provost of Academic Advising
- Susannah Livingood, Institutional Research & Reporting
- Mark Morvant, Center for Teaching Excellence, Associate Provost for Teaching & Technology

During Academic Year 2014-2015, the Provost's office addressed the following issues.

- Dependent tuition benefit
- FMLA policy
- Dependent Travel Grant
- David L. Boren Professorship
- New Faculty Initiatives including new faculty orientation
- Lower Level 1 of Bizzell opened
- Hiring Workshop & Hiring Authorization
- Budget initiatives (endowments, scholarships)
- Leadership development for Chairs and Directors
- 1000-level curricular investment: History, Political Science, English, Biology, & Chemistry
- Communication: Provost Bulletin initiated
- Faculty Development website – one site with information on multiple opportunities
- Activity Insight – faculty activity database
- PAC-WI – revived Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues
- Diversity – worked with new VP for Community

Areas where the Provost's office has put significant emphasis are retention, graduate education, and community engagement. Provost Harper noted that 86.1% of last year's freshmen returned, but our goal is to approach 90-92%. In order to better support freshman, the Provost's office is requiring all faculty who teach 1000-level classes to participate in providing mid-semester grades; these grades are now due at the end of week 8 of the semester instead of week 6.

Provost Harper said that Stewart Berkinshaw was hired last year to provide more insight, organization, and discipline into our budgeting process. For example, we have \$60 million in cash/carry forward. Provost Harper prefers timely and accurate information: one-page income/expense. He noted the recent change to a Presidential Hiring Authorization, which provides a single annual cycle, in line with the R1 norm. It features an early, simple authorization that flows from the Department through the Dean and Provost to the President. The departments and deans both play a critical role in this process. He noted that we had almost \$20 million in unexpended endowments and scholarships in non-interest bearing accounts.

Graduate Education is very important to the Provost. OU is in the process of evaluating our competitiveness, funding model, opportunities, and recruiting/marketing. The Provost noted that several faculty members told him that our research programs are as good as the graduate students that we can get to come here.

On the horizon are the renovation of the lower level 2 of Bizzell Library, the creation of residential colleges, the IRB review, the management of space and classrooms, and changes to the OU Portal (oZone).

The Provost asked the faculty to consider 'What Kind of University Can We Be?' He proposes that OU aspire to be a university whose students succeed at such rates that people ask "how do they do it?", a university that leads a state on the move and connects to the community in a special way because it represents the people's university, a university known for its top-tier faculty who are making an impact in their fields and on the world, a university known for its broad variety of top 5/25/50 programs, and an elite but affordable public university that embodies the American ideal of opportunity for everyone. He stated that OU can only get there because of our faculty, because of their time, talent, and effort and working together.

Prof. Emily Johnson asked if there has been consideration of limiting the number of hours that students may take during the summer session. She is concerned that over-enrollment is not in the best interests of the students. Provost Harper shares her view that there should be limits on enrollment hours, but is still in the process of gathering data on the summer enrollments. He does not want to unnecessarily limit student enrollments, especially if their courses are spread out over the entire summer session. Provost Harper said he would follow up with Prof. Johnson on this issue.

Prof. Fiedler asked if there is a way to alter the pricing structure to allow students to pursue the learning style and mode of delivery that works best for them. Provost Harper said that there is no discussion about changing our pricing structure. The flat rate 15-hour tuition charge is seen as the best option for our students. Our curriculum is designed for students to take at least 15 hours per semester and thus graduate in four years. He did note that pricing is a very complicated issue. He also stated that there is constant activity around determining the best way to help our students learn. We are investing in assessment of learning outcomes and want to provide faculty with multiple ways to meet their students' needs.

Prof. Bemben said that he has continued concerns that the current graduate student tuition waiver does not include fees, which can be quite large. He would like the University to waive graduate student fees

in addition to their tuition. Provost Harper stated that a fee waiver is not a financial option in the near term. For historical reasons, OU does have an uncommon structure of tuition and fees. An inadvertent effect had been high fees assessed on graduate students. He agreed that our tuition and fee structure does affect our ability to recruit graduate students.

Prof. Irvine asked about the review of the IRB process, as she sees a lot of variance in the current process. Provost Harper stated that IRB review has become a more important issue recently as he hears more faculty concerns about it. Our procedures may be more robust than the procedures at other peer institutions and this is complicated by our sharing the IRB with the Health Sciences Center. So, it may be advantageous to separate those processes.

Prof. Hirschfeld thanked the Provost for speaking at today's meeting.

***SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Tassie Hirschfeld***

"Dean's Council Report from the May 6, July 1, September 2 meetings. Issues discussed included diversity initiatives, the combination of recruiting and admissions into one office, and the Galileo exhibit and renovations to library 5th floor special collections. We have invited VP Shumate to speak at the October Faculty Senate meeting to speak more on diversity initiatives.

"The 2015-16 Faculty Senate Executive Committee met for the first time on Monday, August 31. The following items of business were completed:


- Senator Jon Foreman was elected to serve as the official Parliamentarian for the upcoming academic year.
- Discussion of short and long term issues affecting faculty productivity, welfare, and morale and the Faculty Senate committees that address these issues.
- Update on new University initiatives from Provost Kyle Harper.

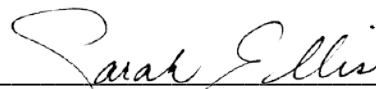
"Planned new and continuing Executive Committee work for 2015-16 includes:

- Supporting campus diversity initiatives as they become more formalized through the Vice President's office.
- Informational review of campus EEO policies, including changes in Title IX policies and procedures. We plan to have Bobby Mason speak at a future Senate meeting.
- Clarification of open records law as it relates to faculty email correspondence and records requests. Catherine Bishop of Public Affairs will be speaking at a future meeting.
- Review of institutional resources for faculty interested in optimizing web presence as well as potential strategies for social media crisis management.
- Information and updates on proposed renovations to Bizzell library. We are hoping that Dean Luce will join us to give a formal presentation on his vision.
- Information and updates from Human Resources on any proposed changes to benefits for the upcoming year. Les Hoven will speak at our October meeting in preparation for open enrollment."

***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015, in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102.

  
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 Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator

  
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 Sarah Ellis, Faculty Senate Secretary

## 2015-16 FACULTY SENATE

Senators	Dept	E-Mail(@ou.edu)	Representing	Term
Harm, Nick	Architecture	nharm	Architecture	2014-17
Anderson, Kermyt	Anthropology	kganders	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 *
Hirschfeld, Tassie	Anthropology	tkhirschfeld	Chair/non-voting	2015-16
Livingood, Patrick	Anthropology	patrickl	Arts & Sciences	2014-17
Bergey, Elizabeth	Biology	lbergey	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Cifelli, Rich	Biology	rlc	Arts & Sciences	2015-17*
Markham, Michalel	Biology	markham	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 *
Safiejko-Mroccka, Barbara	Biology	bsafiejko	Arts & Sciences	2015-17 *
Halterman, Ronald	Chemistry & Biochemistry	rhalterman	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Bisel, Ryan	Communication	ryanbisel	Arts & Sciences	3/2015-16
Rodriquez, Clemencia	Communication	clemencia	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 *
Coleman, Joyce	English	joyce.coleman	Arts & Sciences	2014-17
Bemben, Michael	Health & Exercise Science	mgbemben	Arts & Sciences	2014-17
Hart, James	History	jshart	Arts & Sciences	2014-17
Barker, Peter	History of Science	barkerp	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 **
Moxley, David	Social Work	david.moxley	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 *
Burke, Susan	Library & Informational Studies	sburke	Arts & Sciences	2015-18 **
Kornelson, Keri	Mathematics	kkornelson	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Elisens, Wayne	Microbiology & Plant Biology	elisens	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Lawson, Paul	Microbiology & Plant Biology	paul.lawson	Arts & Sciences	2014-17
Johnson, Emily	Modern Lang., Lit. & Ling.	emilyjohnson	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Riggs, Wayne	Philosophy	wriggs	Secretary/non-voting	2015-16
Terry, Robert	Psychology	rterry	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Miller, Christina	Social Work	crmiller	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Davidson, Lupe	Women's & Gender Studies	mdavidson@ou.edu	Arts & Sciences	2015-18
Irvine, Jill	Women's & Gender Studies	jill.irvine	Arts & Sciences	2013-16
Koch, Jennifer	Geography & Env. Sus.	jakoch	Atmos. & Geog. Sciences	2015-18 *
Fiedler, Brian	Meteorology	bfiedler	Atmos. & Geog. Sciences	2014-16
Crain, Terry	Accounting	tcrain	Business	2015-18 *
Stock, Duane	Finance	dstock	Business	2014-17
Elwood Madden, Megan	Geology & Geophysics	melwood	Earth & Energy	2015-18 *
Sharma, Suresh	Petroleum & Geological Engineering	ssharma	Earth & Energy	2013-16
Gutierrez, Kathrine	Educational Lead. & Pol. Studies	kjgutierrez	Education	2015-18 *
Stoltenberg, Cal	Educational Psychology	cstoltenberg	Education	2015-17 *
Laubach, Timothy	Instr. Lead. & Acad. Curr.	Laubach	Education	2013-16
Merchan-Merchan, Wilson	Aerospace & Mech. Engr.	wmerchan-merchan	Engineering	2013-16
Sikavitsas, Vassillios	Chem., Biol. & Mtrls. Engr.	vis	Engineering	2014-17
Weaver, Chris	Computer Science	cweaver	Engineering	2014-17
Volz, Jeffrey	Civil Engr. & Environ. Science	volz	Engineering	2015-18 *
Raman, Shivakumar	Industrial & Systems Engr.	raman	Engineering	2013-16
Asprey, Stuart	Art & Art History	stuart	Fine Arts	2015-18 **
Kozadayev, Ilya	Dance	ilya1	Fine Arts	2015-16*
Cracknell, Lloyd	Drama	lloydcracknell	Fine Arts	2013-16
Swinkin, Jeff	Music	jswinkin	Fine Arts	2015-18 *
Ellis, Sarah	Music	sjr	Chair-elect/nonvoting	2015-16 *
Mortimer, Harold	Musical Theatre	hrmortimer	Fine Arts	2013-16
Ayres, Fran	Accounting	fayres	Graduate College/nonvoting	2013-16
Kong, Bo	International & Area Studies	bo.kong	International Studies	2013-16
Schmeltzer, John	Journalism	j.schmeltzer	Journalism & Mass Comm.	2013-16
Forman, Jon	Law	jforman	Law	12/2013-16
Burstein, Sarah	Law	sarah.burstein	Law	2015-18 *
Brede, Kyle	Military Science	Thomas.K.Brede-1	Non-degree-recommending	2015-18 *
Scrivener, Laurie	University Libraries	lscrivener	Non-degree-recommending	2014-17
Johnson, Brian	Honors College	bjohn	Pooled--Liberal Studies	2014-17

\* New member

\*\* Re-elected member