

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

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February 9, 2021 – March 8, 2021

On **February 9**, I met briefly with Chair-elect Keri Kornelson and FS DEI Committee Chair Heather Shotton to review the tentative agenda for our scheduled meeting with President Harroz the following day.

On **February 10**, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met with President Harroz. Topics discussed included salary equity in budgets and strategic plans; optics of administrative raises while some faculty are far below respective compa ratios; disentangling equity and retention; and priorities for future faculty raise programs. We also discussed shared governance processes, policies, and practices, specifically as they relate to the elimination of SRI and replacement with FAR, and uses of Academic Analytics data; the OU Tribal Liaison role; and serious concerns among faculty regarding the letter received from OU Physicians and the lack of agreement between OU Physicians and BCBS. President Harroz suggested a webinar on the latter topic and we agreed it was a good idea. We also followed up on our previous conversations related to cooperation among upper administration, Faculty Senate standing committees, and the OU Budget Council. President Harroz updated FSEC on issues related to measurement of strategic plan goals; the Provost search; a new VP of Advancement; searches for a new Chief Financial Officer and Chief Human Resources Officer, and recruiting and enrollments.

On **February 11**, I attended the Oklahoma State Regents Faculty Advisory Committee meeting. Later that day I met with Keri Kornelson and Dave Hambright for the weekly FS Officers meeting.

On **February 12**, I sent Interim Vice Provost for Faculty feedback from the FSEC regarding the Benchmarking Task Force's draft of an Academic Analytics Use Policy. The same day, FSEC met with a candidate for the position of Dean of the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education (JRCoE). On **February 18**, FSEC met with a second candidate for the JRCoE Dean position. Later that day, Keri Kornelson, Dave Hambright and I met for our weekly officers meeting.

On **February 15**, I attended the webinar about OU Health Physicians' ongoing negotiations with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

On **February 22**, FSEC met with a third candidate for the JRCoE Dean position. On **February 25**, Keri Kornelson, Dave Hambright, and I met for our weekly officers meeting. During that week and through the weekend, FSEC members provided extensive feedback on the three candidates and, early on Monday, **March 1**, a letter summarizing FSEC feedback was sent to the JRCoE Dean Search Committee Chair.

On **February 26**, I met with Interim Provost Jill Irvine. We briefly discussed appropriate uses of academic analytics data; DEI course updates, the concept of a partner accommodation information (not funding) concierge; the need for more clarity related to COVID-19 vaccine scheduling and availability; and FSEC's interests and requests related to salary equity data.

On **March 1**, FSEC met for our monthly meeting. FSEC unanimously approved a proposal from the FS Faculty Welfare committee to form an ad hoc committee reporting to FSEC, to explore and make recommendations regarding the issue of lack of representation in shared governance structures for faculty who do not fit the narrow definition of “regular faculty,” which is specified on page 1 of the Faculty Senate charter as

“... faculty members with tenure track, tenured, and renewable term appointments at the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. The Regular Faculty does not include faculty members with temporary appointments.”

We received updates from the standing committees, as well as a proposed slate of officer candidates from Chair-Elect Keri Kornelson, which was approved by FSEC. (I note here for clarity that nominations for these roles may also be made from the floor, assuming such nominees meet the qualification of having served on the FSEC.) Interim Provost Jill Irvine and Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Lori Snyder joined the meeting so Lori could share with FSEC the slides and discussion previously shared in the Chairs and Directors meeting. FSEC and Provost Irvine discussed DEI course updates; the concept of a partner accommodation information (not funding) concierge; the need for more clarity related to COVID-19 vaccine scheduling and availability. Vice President for Research and Partnerships Tomás Díaz de la Rubia joined the meeting and we discussed matters related to SRI and FAR, and ensuring clear communication with the broader faculty. We also discussed upcoming awards nomination deadlines (announced in the March Faculty Senate agenda) and availability and communication of funding opportunities related to Arts and Humanities.

On **March 4**, I met with Keri Kornelson and Dave Hambright for the weekly FS Officers meeting

On **March 5**, Chair-elect Keri Kornelson and I attended the public portion of the OU Regents meeting.