

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Amy C. Bradshaw

October 10 – November 9, 2020

Following the October FS meeting, during which students presented and discussed a proposal for P/NP grading in Fall 2020, Vice Provost Mark Morvant sent me the Spring 2020 P/NP data, which was forwarded to senators by Stacey Bedgood on October 14. FSEC continued exploration and discussion of possibilities and concerns related to the P/NP issue during the time between the October and November senate meetings.

On **October 14**, the FSEC met with a Candidate for Dean of Libraries.

On **October 15**, I met with Keri Kornelson and Dave Hambright for our **weekly FS Officers meeting**.

In **October 20**, I forwarded names of nominees to serve on **Campus Crisis Response Team (CCRT)**.

On **October 21**, I attended the **Staff Senate meeting**.

On **October 22**, I met with Keri Kornelson and Dave Hambright for our **weekly FS Officers meeting**. Administrative Coordinator Stacey Bedgood also joined the meeting. Among other topics, we continued ongoing conversations about making Faculty Senate actions and information easier to access. In the recently added "**Latest News**" space on the main FS website, we added a new "**View Previous News**" link to a new page that will include all actions of the current Faculty Senate term since the September FS meeting, including Chair's Reports, Informal Meeting Notes, and any formal statements or actions.

On **October 23**, I provided feedback to Interim Provost Jill Irvine regarding **Faculty Annual Evaluations for 2020**, expressing FSEC's strong unanimous preference for narrative only evaluation. I also provided feedback related to ongoing discussion and consideration of the cap on Renewable Term faculty, and possible paths to promotion.

On **October 26** I learned that the **Graduate Student Senate had passed the P/NP bill** with a minor amendment, and that it was expected to go back to Undergraduate Congress on October 28, after which it would be sent to the SGA president for approval or veto. However, the Undergraduate Congress was not able to meet as expected because, following the ice storm beginning on October 26, the OU Norman campus was closed for October 27-28. Although campus and classes reopened on Thursday, October 29, many Norman residents were still without electricity and Internet service more than a week later. Therefore, our initial thought that we might seek senators' preferences between meetings after the SGA processes were complete was not feasible. I later learned that on November 5, P/NP formally passed by congress and senate. Both during the October 12 FS meeting and during the subsequent FSEC

conversation and considerations, including formal and informal feedback from senators and other faculty members, FSEC sensed a clear desire among faculty to support students to be successful. Although some of the strongest objections to P/NP in Fall 2020 were allayed by the students proposing that only C and higher count for a pass, there remained substantial concern among many of faculty we consulted that adopting a P/NP in Fall 202 would cause problems in the future in terms of the overall number of P/NP courses allowed, and related to future scholarship and graduate school applications. Overall, we did not sense either strong or uniform enough support for an outright endorsement of the students' proposal, nor strong or uniform enough objection for a formal statement against the proposal.

On October 29, I received a survey link related to the Faculty Advisory Committee of the State Regents for Higher Education and forwarded it to the Norman Campus regular faculty via the facsen@ou.edu account.

On October 30, I met with Interim Provost Jill Irvine, during which we discussed Faculty Annual Evaluations, and considerations related to the students proposal for P/NP grading in Fall 2020. We also discussed the need to support students who are most at risk of academic harm by the pandemic, regardless of what is decided regarding P/NP for Fall 2020. I asked how the university can support our most vulnerable students via policy and practice, and we discussed some examples of such supports. She indicated she would continue to explore these ideas with others throughout the campus. (Our meeting was cut short by another electricity outage.)

On November 2, FSEC met for our monthly meeting. We discussed P/NP grading concerns and considerations and were later joined by VP and Dean of Students David Surrat, and Interim Provost Jill Irvine. The same day, I forwarded to the Committee on Committees nominations to fill vacancies on FS committees (due to sabbaticals, retirements, etc.)

On November 4, I attended the monthly Deans Council meeting. Later that day, **FSEC met with Pres Harroz.** During the meeting, we discussed changes related to budget, finances, and accounting, recruitment of marginalized and faculty of color, partner accommodations and opportunity hires, the role of OU Tribal Liaison, and other topics. Following meeting, FSEC continued our discussion of retired faculty benefits concerns.