REGULAR MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)
February 8, 2021, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please mute your microphone until you have been recognized by the Chair to speak.
If you would like to speak, please ask using the Chat window, which will help coordinate discussion.
Please be advised that the meeting will be recorded, as will comments in Chat.

AGENDA


2. Announcement:
   a. The call for nominations for faculty volunteers for University and Faculty Senate councils, committees, and boards went out by email on February 3, 2021. Nominations are due to the Faculty Senate office by Friday, March 5, 2021 via https://ousurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1KUOaHHqtClbFLo.
   b. Former and current Faculty Senate Executive Committee members interested in running for Faculty Senate Chair-elect or Secretary for 2021-22 should contact Chair-elect Keri Kornelson, kkornelson@ou.edu, as soon as possible, with brief bios due by February 26. Past Examples of Officer Candidate statements: http://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2019_04jrn.pdf (pp. 16-18); https://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2020_04jrn.pdf (pp. 20-21)
   c. Faculty interested in running for an At-Large Member role on the FS Executive Committee should contact Chair-elect Keri Kornelson, kkornelson@ou.edu, to indicate interest, with brief bios due by April 2. Past Examples of At-Large Member Statements: http://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2018_04jrn.pdf (pp. 12-15); https://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2020_04jrn.pdf (pp. 22-23)
   d. The recipients of the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards for 2020-21 are: Elizabeth Avery (Music), Stuart Asprey (Visual Arts), Robert Bailey (Visual Arts), Kari Chew (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Emma Colven (International and Area Studies), Boyko Dossev (Dance), Tina Dothard Peterson (Social Work), Cathleen Faubert (Visual Arts), Emily Kuntz (Educational Psychology), A. Robert Lauer (Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics), Dingjing Shi (Psychology), Leslie Kraus Steffensen (Dance), Julie Ann Ward (Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics), and Jon Young (Drama).
   e. As follow up to University Libraries Interim Dean Karen Rupp-Serrano’s remarks and conversation with the Faculty Senate in October 2020, the University Libraries Committee’s Scholarly Communication Taskforce Report is available, https://mymedia.ou.edu/media/Finding+The+BalanceA+Creating+an+Open%2C+Sustainable+Future+for+OU/1_aji26t8g, as is a Taskforce website: https://libraries.ou.edu/content/university-libraries-committee-%E2%80%93-scholarly-communication-taskforce
   f. The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty member Rennard Strickland (Law) on January 5, 2021.

3. Senate Chair’s Report (will be made available prior to the meeting).

4. Remarks by Institutional Equity Officer Shaniqua Crawford.

5. For Action:
   a. Firearms on Campus resolution (attached).

6. For Discussion:
   a. Recent email regarding OU Physicians and BCBS (attached).
   b. Elimination of the Sponsored Research Incentive (SRI) program and replacement with Facilities & Administrative Return (FAR) program (attached).

7. New business (any matter not known about or that could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time the agenda was prepared).

There is a 300-person limit on this Zoom session. We will also utilize the ‘waiting room’ function. Senators and invited guests will be admitted initially, followed by OU faculty/staff/students, then the public. Members of the media may email the Senate at facsen@ou.edu prior to the meeting to expedite their admission.
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 or will be introduced into the Oklahoma State Legislature, and

WHEREAS we, the Faculty Senate of The University of Oklahoma – Norman campus, are concerned for the safety and welfare of all members of the OU community, as well as campus guests, and

WHEREAS we, as faculty members, are sensitive to and aware of the physical, mental, and emotional trauma of campus violence, and

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic has intensified physical, mental, and emotional stresses among members of the OU community, 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 the presence of non-uniformed individuals with guns makes the job of law enforcement professionals more difficult when responding to a shooting incident,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of The University of Oklahoma – Norman campus supports maintaining the current law regarding weapons on campus, in which the President has the discretion to allow individuals to carry weapons on campus when the individual circumstances warrant it. We strongly oppose any changes to state law regarding weapons on college and university campuses.
February 1, 2021

Dear University of Oklahoma Employee,

As an employee at the University of Oklahoma, you may be participating in our Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) medical insurance plan and using OU Physicians providers and services. If you are, I want to share information that may affect the physicians and services available to you in-network from BCBSOK.

OU Physicians has been attempting to negotiate a new contract with BCBSOK for over a year. The deadline for reaching an agreement is quickly approaching. If an agreement is not reached by February 28, 2021, you or members of your family’s in-network access to care from your OU Physicians provider could potentially be affected upon expiration of a 120-day transition period described below.

This is a very stressful time with the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting our lives, our health, and the precautions we must all take to stay safe and healthy. OU Physicians is concerned about this more than ever and has been very intent on reaching an agreement with BCBSOK before an out-of-network status is reached. We remain hopeful that negotiations will result in a renewal without any interruption but also are concerned about the impending deadline on the existing contract.

What OU Physicians is asking of BCBSOK is simple — that the best interest of Oklahomans is kept in mind and that BCBSOK agrees to compensate OU Physicians at rates comparable to the value our providers bring to the state and region. Those rates of payment need to be commensurate with the market.

If OU Physicians is unable to reach an agreement with BCBSOK, your continued access to care by your OU Physicians provider will be considered out-of-network. This will likely mean increased out-of-pocket costs for you and your family in order to receive care from OU Physicians.

This may also affect where you receive care, because the OU Physicians providers who serve at the following entities would be considered out-of-network by BCBSOK:
- OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center – Oklahoma’s only Level I trauma center
- Oklahoma Children’s Hospital OU Health – the highest-level pediatric care provider in our state
- OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center – the state’s only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center
- OU Health Edmond Medical Center

The above OU Health hospital facilities and services remain in network. However, care from an OU Physicians provider will be out-of-network whether or not you receive the care in one of these hospital facilities or in a clinic.
It is important to know that for now, nothing changes for patients with Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance. You can still access OU Physicians as you always have. Your in-network access will only change if an agreement is not reached by February 28, 2021. If so, then beginning March 1, 2021, we will enter a 120-day transition period, wherein you would be able to complete care with your OU Physicians providers while still receiving in-network benefits. However, unless an agreement is reached, your access to OU Physicians on an in-network basis would end when the transition period expires on June 28, 2021.

We understand that this situation can be stressful, and we share your concern. There are some things you can do to maintain your in-network access to OU Physicians providers:

- **Call OU Physicians.** Contact your OU Physicians at (405) 271-5258 if you have questions or concerns, need a referral, prescription refill, or to reschedule your appointment or procedure to a date before March 1, 2021, or during the 120-day transition period, to receive in-network care.
- **Call BCBSOK.** Contact the Tulsa headquarters at (918) 551-3500 or the BCBSOK toll-free phone number at (866) 520-2507 and urge them to reach a contract resolution with OU Health Physicians that will protect in-network access to your provider(s).
- **Ask for Continuity of Care Benefits from BCBSOK.** For specific patient treatments and conditions, you may qualify for continuity of care benefits. As determined by BCBSOK, patients may be able to receive in-network coverage for treatment of specific conditions. We encourage you to call BCBSOK at (918) 551-3500 or (866) 520-2507 to see if you qualify.

OU Physicians is committed to working with BCBSOK toward an agreement that benefits our patients, including our OU family. We will keep you notified as this situation continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Zubialde, M.D.
President, OU Physicians
Executive Dean, OU College of Medicine
Family Medicine Provider, OU Physicians Family Medicine

JPZ/gpr
Deans will have discretion to distribute FAR funds in a way that best serves the research mission of their college, in alignment with the "Lead On, University" Strategic Plan (explicitly Pillar 1: "Become a Top-Tier Public Research University" and Pillar 5: "Enrich and Positively Impact Oklahoma, the Nation, and the World through Research and Creative Activity"), and with the Vice President for Research and Partnerships’ Research Strategic Framework.

The objective is to balance the grant revenue generation of each individual department and/or research group within a department with furthering the research goals and aspirations of the colleges and the University. Deans may wish to consider utilizing some portion of the FAR funds to promote transdisciplinary research initiatives and convergence among and across disciplines, and across colleges. Deans may wish to return a portion of the FAR funds directly to each department proportional to its grant revenue generation, but they should only do so with guidance to department chairs regarding appropriate uses of FAR funds.

FAR funds need to be used directly to facilitate and augment research productivity. Among examples of logical uses of these funds are the following scenarios:

- an exceptionally productive research team has an opportunity to compete for even larger external grants but needs to demonstrate the availability of cost-sharing funds;
- an emerging research team has the opportunity to compete for the first time for funding on a very large scale, but requires an additional investment of funds for PIs to buy out teaching time, to enable fuller focus on the grant application, and to purchase necessary equipment to be competitive in seeking this award;
- two or more departments in the college or across colleges include a group of faculty whose research interests intersect and have the potential for the kind of convergence that will make them competitive for a major funding award, but need time to work with program officers to develop a competitive grant narrative.

Further applications of FAR funds may include the following:

- in order to encourage faculty to seek external funding and opt for a full year rather than a half-year sabbatical, as at peer aspirational institutions, a portion of FAR could be applied to top up salaries to the full amount;
- faculty may benefit from augmented summer faculty development awards in colleges without this tradition;
- competitively awarded course releases may assist faculty toward the completion of major book and article projects.

FAR funds may not be used for academic-program-oriented Maintenance and Operations (M&O) costs*, either at the college or department level. However, it is important to note that FAR funds should continue to be used for the following applications, as examples, since they directly impact individual faculty research and creative endeavors and are often excluded as allowable expenditures directly on grant funds (e.g., State of Oklahoma research grant policy stipulations):

- travel to conferences;
- foreign travel outside the U.S.;
- purchase of computer or electronic equipment of any kind;
- purchase of data storage, software, or software licenses;
- purchase of maintenance-type supplies, replacement parts, or equipment repairs;
- publication costs;
- research associate, technician, faculty summer, sabbatical or course release and/or graduate student salary;
- any other research needs faculty identify.

*While we request these funds not be used for M&O purposes, we understand that FY21 spending in this way may have already occurred (or must continue throughout the year to pay on already committed costs). Leniency will be granted for this year’s spending; however, each college will be required to submit an annual report and provide justification for their spending. A team will review these reports in detail, and the findings could have the potential to affect future funding.