

In Case You Missed It: An Unofficial Recap of the October 10, 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting

These ICYMI meeting update notes do not replace the formal Journal of the Faculty Senate that will be distributed later, and that will be approved at the next monthly meeting. Rather, these are highlights interpreted and presented by the FS Secretary Sarah Robbins

October 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Chair Hambright. Chair-elect Heyck read the [Land Acknowledgement](#). The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of September 12, 2022 was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Hambright):

- The Faculty Senate sent out the call for proposals for the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards on September 28, 2022. Up to \$2,500 may be awarded per proposal. In order to provide funding earlier to better support summer projects, proposals are due to the Faculty Senate by Monday, December 12, 2021. and further information is available at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/facdev.html>.
- “Retain Your Rights to Make Your Work Openly Accessible,” a workshop featuring Harvard University Copyright Advisor Kyle Courtney will be held Thursday, October 27 from 11:30-noon in Bizzell Memorial Library, LL118 Community Room or via Zoom. The workshop is designed for OU faculty and other campus researchers to empower them to better understand and advocate for their rights as authors, and to dispel potential misunderstandings about author rights and open access.
- The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty member Helga Madland (Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics) on September 9, 2022.

Senate Chair's Report (via Chair Hambright). Distributed via email. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Lifset asked if the meeting with the president included discussion of the faculty raise program; he expressed a desire for the faculty senate to discuss a raise program tied to evaluations before it is implemented. Chair Hambright indicated that future raise programs will be tied to merit as required by the Regents. Sen. Muraleetharan asked about the Faculty Senate staff position and attracting qualified candidates to apply. Chair Hambright indicated we do have a number of qualified applicants.

Vote on Pre-Finals Week Policy

The policy was distributed by email. The changes were requested by the Academic Programs Council. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Cuccia noted that there are more changes to the policy than clarification of the “last two days of pre-finals week.” The previous policy specifically mentioned examinations and this version does not. Under the previous policy any assignment worth more than 10% of the final grade also could not be due during this period. Vice Provost Mark Morvant responded that broadening the language was not meant to exclude exams but to also include final projects and presentations as was the intent of the Student Government Association. Sen. Busselle asked about participation grades that occur during the final two days of class. VP Morvant indicated that we cannot do anything that would indicate students do not need to attend or participate those final days because it could violate policy related to instruction hours. Sen. Stalling inquired about courses that are oriented towards final papers instead of final exams, does this preclude final papers being due during finals week? VP Morvant indicated that the

appropriate due dates would either be Wednesday of the final week of classes or during the final exam period. If the student asks for an extension and it is an agreement between you and the student, then it does not need to follow the policy. Sen. Busselle asked about how classes that meet just MW are impacted by this policy. VP Morvant indicated that it was a point of discussion but that Student Affairs and the Student Government Association did not interpret it that way; this is why we are clarifying the language to remove ambiguity on what days are intended. Sen. Schmeltzer asked about what happened to the statement requiring deviations from the policy being included in the syllabus with approval of the chair. VP Morvant responded that part D should cover the exceptions.

The policy passed; 38 senators voted in favor, four opposed.

Vote on Proposal for 4.0 and Distinction

The proposal was distributed by email. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

The proposal passed; 42 senators voted in favor, none opposed.

Remarks by Lee Camargo-Quinn, Benefits Director, Office of Human Resources

Director of Benefits (Norman and HCS campuses) Lee Carmargo-Quinn provided an overview of the Open Enrollment 2023 for benefits. There are no changes to vendors though there is a 3% increase to the cost for medical premium rates. She directed people to the benefitsenrollment.ou.edu for more information. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Burns asked about individuals who leave the University but have participated in the health saving account. Carmargo-Quinn indicated any money in the savings account is yours. For those who participate in the flexible spending account, the account stops at the end of the month in which you terminate employment; you lose your ability to spend from the account when your employment ceases. Sen. Ge asked about the availability of the slides; all information is available on the website. Sen. Miller asked about the health savings account and if it rolled over from year to year; if you are here the full calendar year, you will get \$500 and it will accrue over time.

Remarks by Tomas Diaz de la Rubia, Vice President for Research & Partnerships

VP Diaz de la Rubia indicated a willingness to talk about whatever was of interest to the senators. Chair Hambright indicated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was interested in learning more about new mandates from the Biden Administration requiring data from funding research be made openly available. VP Diaz de la Rubia indicated that his office is in conversation with OU IT and University Libraries about how to support this across campus. Chair Hambright asked if there would be complications with not allowing an embargo period; we will be required to comply if they receive federal funding. Federal level of scrutiny is becoming more onerous, especially collaborations with foreign entities. We will be hiring a research integrity officer. VP Diaz de la Rubia shared the highlights of sponsored research on campus. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Sharma asked if the VPRP's office was tracking the increased cost of lab materials due to inflation and if that is driving research expenditure increases; we are not currently collecting that data, but the majority of research expenditures is personnel costs, which have not increased due to historic lack of salary programs. Sen. Sharma asked about the processing time for establishing new awards and inefficiencies; VP Diaz de la Rubia indicated this is an area he cannot control but knows it is an issue being worked on by new personnel in the post-award financial services team. The goal is to reduce new contract starts from 60-90 days down to 7 days. Sen. Sharma also commented about the pay of researchers as

a retention issue. VP Diaz de la Rubia indicated that the university is committed to looking for resources to provide a regular raise program for faculty to assist with retention.

Presentation on the OU Elevate Advance Project, Megan Elwood Madden, Director, CFE & Lori Snyder, Director, OU Elevate

Prof. Snyder presented about the new \$3 million National Science Foundation Advance project, OU Elevate and potential impact on faculty. The purpose of the grant is to look at how to make faculty evaluations more purposeful and fully representative of the work faculty do. Prof. Elwood Madden reiterated the motivation of the project is to respond to feedback from faculty over the past decade to improve in this area. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Bolino asked a question about the student experience survey that was created by the Teacher Evaluation Working Group; Prof. Snyder indicated that this grant is not tied to that survey but is rather looking at evaluations more broadly, not just teaching. Sen. Bolino applauded the team's effort but indicated there was no objective question to measure the effectiveness of teaching in the classroom. Prof. Snyder responded that she would question if there was anything objective in the previous system either. We must be clear about what feedback students can meaningfully provide. Prof. Elwood Madden mentioned that there are two workshops for chairs and others that will talk about how to use the student feedback in a meaningful way. Sen. Miller asked about the timing of the pilot and criteria for a department to be included in the pilot phase. Prof. Snyder indicated pilots would begin next fall and those interested should contact her. Sen. Raymond asked about what guidance would be provided to departments and if it would include how to address faculty who have been on leave. Prof. Snyder indicated that it is important for it to be addressed.

New Business

Chair Hambright opened the floor for new business. There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form before the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting (November 14, 2022 at 3:30 pm).

Sarah Robbins
Faculty Senate Secretary