

In Case You Missed It: An Unofficial Recap of the September 12, 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

September 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Chair Hambright. Chair-elect Heyeck read the [Land Acknowledgement](#). The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of May 9, 2022 was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Hambright):

- Introduced and welcomed new members of the Faculty Senate.
- The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for 2022-23 will be held at 3:30 p.m. on the following Mondays: September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12, January 23 (reception), February 13, March 20, April 10, and May 8.
- The Senate Executive Committee elected Amy Pepper (Law) as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate and Regular Faculty for 2022-23.
- The summary record of the disposition by the administration of Faculty Senate actions for September 2021 to August 2022 is [available online](#).
- The compilation of the 2021-22 annual reports of University councils was distributed via email on September 2, 2022, to Faculty Senate members and university administrators to be made available to the general faculty. The reports are available at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/cncprep22.pdf>.
- The 2022-23 list of faculty appointments to committees is available on the Faculty Senate website at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/commem22.html>.
- The Athletics Department is offering the Faculty & Staff Sports Pass which for \$100 provides entrance for two (2) adults to all volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, women's basketball, wrestling, baseball, and select men's basketball non-conference and select softball games. Contact the Athletics Ticket Office at 405-325-2424 or outickets@ou.edu.
- The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty members Courtney Vaughn (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) on May 7, 2022 and Richard Pailes (Anthropology) on August 27, 2022.
- Chair Hambright introduced Ombudsperson Jeff Harp and Faculty Senate Student Worker Taylor Flemming.

Senate Chair's Report (via Chair Hambright). Distributed via email. There was no discussion.

Pre-Finals Week Policy (Presented by Vice Provost Mark Morvant)

Proposed changes were distributed via email. The Academic Programs Council refers to the policy when reviewing syllabi, and there has been confusion about how the policy is written. Student Affairs intended the policy to be the last two days of class as Thursday and Friday, though the council has been interpreting it to be Saturday and Sunday. What was distributed reflects the council's interpretation but would be considered a

change to Student Affairs. Overall, the language has been clarified but the intent has not been to change the policy. Prof. Burns discussed that quizzes on the last couple of days of class are not uncommon to ascertain student learning to date. Prof. Cavazos expressed concerns that students may be confused if we say the last two days of class to mean the last two days of the given course rather than Thursday and Friday. Prof. Muraleetharan questioned the need for a rewrite. Chair-elect Heyck suggested consistency in how we refer to the numbering of days within the policy and asked for clarification on when final projects are due. Prof. Lamothe indicated how to interpret some of the changes because they seem in conflict with one another. Prof. Busselle asked questions about changes to deadlines at the student request. Prof. Weaver indicated that he has routinely had to ask for permission to override the policy to allow for team presentations. Prof. Heyck and Prof. Burnes raised questions about small, routine assignments/quizzes that are worth low percentage points. VP Morvant will make suggested edits for clarification and provide a revision to Chair Hambright for distribution to the Senate. There will be a final discussion and vote at the October meeting.

Proposal for 4.0 and Distinction (Presented by Vice Provost Mark Morvant)

Proposed changes were distributed via email. VP Morvant discussed the need for changes to how colleges acknowledge distinctions to standardize across the university. The proposal standardizes what is done across the university; this should save time for advisors and others. The change can be programmed with reports pulled each semester. Chair Hambright asked if he had a sense of how this would change the final recognitions; VP Morvant indicated that he thinks the numbers could go down some but it depends on the college. Chair-elect Heyck indicated that some of the writing is unclear. Prof. Bolino asked if we had the data on how the criteria would impact the numbers from last year; VP Morvant indicated that he might be able to run those numbers for us. Prof. Miller asked if we could strike a sentence that is untrue; we will strike it. Prof. Burns supports the standardization across the campus and encourages us to count online classes as the proposal suggests. Prof. Muraleetharan questioned if the deans were on-board if the Faculty Senate approves. VP Morvant indicated that the Faculty Senate does not need to approve it, but if there were a lot of concerns then changes might be made. This may not be policy but rather practice within the colleges; if we move forward, it will become policy. VP Morvant explained State Regent policy on grade replacement in hopes of clarifying language used in the proposed policy. VP Morvant will make suggested edits for clarification and provide a revision to Chair Hambright for distribution to the Senate. There will be a final discussion and vote at the October meeting.

Proposed FS Resolution for Parking Services (Presented by Senator Anthony Natale)

Whereas, improperly parked scooters and bikes pose pervasive fire hazards, ADA violations, liability issues, and basic nuisances;

Whereas, other universities such as the University of Maryland (<https://transportation.umd.edu/about-us/updates/veo-parking-enforcement-expands-march-1-2022-02-22>) and at Texas A&M (<https://today.tamu.edu/2020/01/07/transportation-services-announces-rule-changes-for-veoride-bikes/>) have adopted policies to regulate scooter and bike parking,

Be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate call on University of Oklahoma Parking Services to require that VeoRide and similar vendors operating on campus add geofencing to its parking policy, so that

their vehicles must be parked at bike racks or designated parking areas to ensure that sidewalks and building access points are not impeded.

Prof. Bembien indicated that the assumption is that the scooter company is leaving the scooter in inappropriate places, but it is often students. Chair Hambright shared links to policies at Texas A&M and Maryland similar to what we are requesting. Prof. Miller indicated a low tech solution would be signage for students to help educate them. Prof. Bolino asked about additional costs for parking if students start using the traditional bike racks for scooters too. Prof. Deacon indicated that people also leave the scooters around neighborhoods near campus. Chair Hambright indicated that he will take this to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and consider voting by email before our next Faculty Senate Meeting.

Remarks by Tana Fitzpatrick, Associate VP for Tribal Relations

VP Fitzpatrick provided an overview of her educational and professional experience prior to joining OU. The position is now located in the Office of the President and advises the president on tribal partnerships. The position can also work with faculty and provide advice on working with tribes. Currently working with the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Native Nations Center on a series of workshops for faculty wanting to work with tribes.

Remarks by Hollye Hunt, VP for Government Relations and Sean Burrage, VP for Executive Affairs

VP Hunt explained her role for the University and how she approaches the job. During the summer and early September, she has been working on submitting projects for the American Rescue Plan Act funding; we currently have three large health-related projects still being considered for OU. The Legislature will likely go into special session in September and could result in approximately \$110M for the OU enterprise. VP Burrage indicated that as the legislative session gets underway do not hesitate to give them a heads up to make sure any potential new legislation is on their radar. They have vast experience addressing many of the bills we see each year. We expect good revenue for the State of Oklahoma this year. Chair-elect Heyck asked a question about HB 1775 and its effects on teaching and the possibility of revision. VP Burrage does not anticipate a call from the legislature to revise it. They indicated that there are also people doing this work at OSU and with the State Regents, and there is often alignment.

Meetings for 2022-23

Chair Hambright raised the issue of how we wish to meet for the upcoming year - either in-person or via Zoom. Prof. Ge asked about the possibility of meeting hybridly. Prof. Garofalo indicated how important it is to meet in-person. Prof. Muraleetharan asked how online has been for those who have been meeting this way for a while. Prof. Natale indicated that meeting online is better because the current room is problematic for inclusion and exclusivity, the level of dialog depends on the issues more than the mode of meeting, Zoom allows for flexibility for those who have caregiving responsibilities. Chair Hambright did ask VP Morvant about a facility that would allow us to meet in a bigger space that would provide greater accessibility; VP Morvant indicated that there is a larger space where people might feel like they can get around the table but needs to consult with operations. Prof. Lamothe wanted consideration of hybrid; there are still health considerations but many people prefer in-person. Prof. Burns agrees with Prof. Natale but would vote for hybrid because there can be better interpersonal exchanges without masks. Prof. Muraleetharan finds Zoom very efficient but with the in-person you can have conversations before and after the meeting; he would vote for Zoom.

A straw poll was taken and FSEC will consider the tally and Senator comments expressed before making a final decision.

New Business

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form before the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting (October 10, 2022 at 3:30 pm)

Sarah Robbins
Faculty Senate Secretary