In Case You Missed It: An Unofficial Recap of the December 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.

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chair Hambright. Chair-Elect Heyck read the Land Acknowledgement. The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of November 14, 2022 was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Hambright):

- Ann Seely is joining us for her first meeting as our new Faculty Senate Administrative Manager.
- Xinyu Dai (Physics and Astronomy) will replace Amy McGovern (Computer Science) as a member-at-large on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of faculty member Carl Sondergeld (Petroleum Engineering), retired faculty member Tom Love, Jr. (Mechanical Engineering & 1984-85 FS Chair), retired faculty member Clara C. Stanley (Dance), and retired faculty member Robert St. John (Physics).
- In lieu of a January faculty senate meeting, the senate will be hosting a reception on Monday, January 23 from 3:30p – 5:00p in the Scholars Lounge of Bizzell Memorial Library (Lower Level 2).
- Faculty Senate will return to in-person meetings in the Spring semester, beginning with our 13 February 2023 meeting. We will meet in the Thurman J. White Forum central auditorium, which will allow social distancing and access by all senators and visitors.

Senate Chair's Report (via Chair Hambright). The report was distributed via email. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

Hosting Non-Citizen Visitors Policy
The policy was distributed via email. This policy is for information only. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Stallings indicated his college has a lot of international visitors; he indicated the language could deter hosts if they did not read the fine print. He asked about the intended target of the policy or examples of how it applies; the exclusions helped alleviate initial concerns. Chair Hambright indicated we can put this on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting or we can forward questions via email. Sen. Apanasov asked about visitors from American universities; we do not necessarily know their citizenship when we invite them to campus. Sen. Hougen noted in the chat that a link in VI.B. links to a non-existent resource. Chair-Elect Heyck noted a number of high-profile cases where individuals had access to information they should not have had access to but your traditional campus visits are fine.

Remarks by Stewart Berkinshaw, Associate Vice President and Chief Budget Officer (Norman Campus)
AVP Berkinshaw provided a brief overview of the work of the departments that report to him. A recent audit indicated we needed to improve our time and effort reporting for grant compliance; we will be demoing new reporting software during spring 2023. They have a new director in Research Financial Services. Working to improve information on whom to go to with which request in Shared Services.
Chair Hambright asked about the role of Risk Management. AVP Berkinshaw talked about the role of risk management in insuring campus equipment, facilities, etc. Chair Hambright asked about a liaison model with financial services. AVP Berkinshaw indicated there are teams that can liaise with a PI and the Research Financial Services; these teams work under the Deans’ offices to support multiple research teams. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. How will the 1, 2, 3% strategic plan tax help us deal with the lack of tuition increase? AVP Berkinshaw indicated that the lack of tuition increase makes it difficult to ensure we are funding the strategic priorities. The tax and tuition increase were designed to work in tandem to fund the strategic plan; the lack of a tuition increase meant that each pillar of the strategic plan saw a budget cut of some sort. If departments would like to invite someone to speak to their department about any of this, they can reach out directly to AVP Berkinshaw.

Remarks by Amy Noah, Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer, OU Foundation

VP Noah provided an overview of how the university advancement operations moved under the OU Foundation in March 2021. The foundation has been able to double their investment in the advancement operation, including hiring a number of advancement officers. On October 14th, OU announced a $2 billion campus campaign to run through June 30, 2027, our first campaign since 2000. The goal is to centrally raise $500M for student support and $300M for faculty support, in addition to what is raised by colleges.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Burns asked about the major sources of funding and the proportion of fundraising is already earmarked. VP Noah indicated that some of the money given will be planned gifts; this counts toward the campaign but is not realized until the death of the donor. We will have foundation gifts, corporate gifts, and individual donors (alumni, community leaders). The highest percentage of the gifts received are earmarked for something specific. Chair-Elect Heyck asked about how campaigns differ from traditional fundraising and about foundation accounts being used as part of annual budgeting with departments. VP Noah indicated that campaigns change the tempo at which you are raising money and should increase our donor counts. We do not always use our endowment funds for a number of reasons. We need to be thoughtful about discretionary spending. Chair Hambright asked about the President’s Associates Program; VP Noah indicated that will be putting together a thoughtful program that will elevate the support provided by the President’s Associates Program. Giving Day is April 13th; the goal is to raise $15M.

Remarks by Gregg Garn, Vice President for Online Learning and Interim Dean, PACS

VP Garn was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. He will be invited to a Spring Faculty Senate meeting.

New Business

Chair Hambright opened the floor for new business.

Sen. Ge asked about providing feedback on the Faculty Activity system. Chair-Elect Heyck indicated that Karen Horne is a great resource to address errors. Sen. Ge clarified that the issue was more about the amount of time we spend in the system, not about known errors. Sen. Burns asked why we do not submit a CV annually with a couple of paragraphs of narrative related to the specific year. Provost Wright will bring this up with AVP Ellis.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form before the next regularly
scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting (February 13, 2023 at 3:30 pm).

Sarah Robbins
Faculty Senate Secretary