

## **In Case You Missed It: Unofficial Recap of the 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 notes and highlights from the perspective of FS Secretary Dave Hambright, with input from Stacey Bedgood (Administrative Coordinator), Chair-Elect Keri Kornelson and Chair Amy Bradshaw.*

### **February 08, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Bradshaw. The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of 14 December 2020 was approved without revisions.

#### **Announcements:**

Chair Bradshaw:

- Called for nominations for faculty volunteers for University and Faculty Senate councils, committees, and boards. Details were provided earlier in an email on February 03, 2021, with a nomination deadline of March 05, 2021.
- Called for volunteers among previous Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) members to run for 2021-2022 Faculty Senate Chair-Elect and Secretary positions. Interested faculty should contact Chair-Elect and Chair, Committee on Committees Keri Kornelson (kkornelson@ou.edu) and submit brief bios by February 26, 2021.
- Called for volunteers for faculty interested in running for an At-Large Member role on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Interested faculty should contact Chair-Elect and Chair, Committee on Committees Keri Kornelson (kkornelson@ou.edu) and submit brief bios by April 02, 2021.
- Announced recipients of the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards for 2020-21:  
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)  
Jon Young (Drama)
- Announced that as a 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 now available online, [https://mymedia.ou.edu/media/Finding+The+BalanceA+Creating+an+Open%2C+Sustainable+Future+for+OU/1\\_ajj26t8g](https://mymedia.ou.edu/media/Finding+The+BalanceA+Creating+an+Open%2C+Sustainable+Future+for+OU/1_ajj26t8g), as is the Taskforce’s website: <https://libraries.ou.edu/content/university-libraries-committee-%E2%80%93-scholarly-communication-taskforce>.
- Reported the death of retired faculty member Rennard Strickland (Law) on January 5, 2021.
- Asked if there were any other announcements. There were none.

Chair Bradshaw turned to the monthly Chair’s Report and asked for any questions or comments.

Senator Riggs inquired about the February 07, 2021 request from the Provost for FSEC feedback on the proposed Academic Analytics Use Policy. Chair Bradshaw reported that the FSEC was aware of

the company and had the opportunity to suggest faculty to be on a task force regarding use guidelines. There were no additional questions.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced OU's new Institutional Equity Officer, Shaniqua Crawford. Ms. Crawford led faculty through a review of the information on Equity Office website at <https://www.ou.edu/eoo>. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Crawford offered to visit and speak at departmental meetings or other venues about institutional equity.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced a motion to the floor requesting the Faculty Senate to vote on an update to a resolution regarding the current law banning firearms from campus. The motion was seconded and the floor was open for discussion. There were several friendly amendments (e.g., standardizing referral to guns, weapons, and firearms) accepted and some discussion regarding ROTC firearms associated with coursework and the faux-firearms used by the Rufnecks at football games, both of which are currently allowed on campus at the discretion of the President. The resolution was approved.

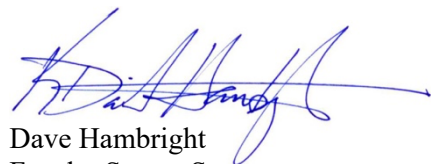
Chair Bradshaw then turned focus to the recent email sent to all faculty from OU Physicians requesting faculty support in the negotiations between OU Physicians and BlueCross/BlueShield (BCBS). A great deal of discussion ensued, particularly reflecting concern with the recent shift to BCBS at the beginning of 2021 and the fact that the BCBS-OU Physicians negotiations could potentially fail and leave many faculty, staff, and students having to deal with out-of-network coverage for treatment through OU Physicians. Chair Bradshaw proposed that the FSEC discuss the issue directly with Pres. Harroz at the upcoming meeting scheduled for February 10, 2021.

Finally, Chair Bradshaw opened discussion at the request of Senator Jervis, on the replacement of the current Sponsored Research Incentive (SRI) Program with the Facilities and Administrative Return (FAR) program, in which "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." There was voluminous concern expressed regarding the apparent lack of transparency, open communication, and faculty involvement in this decision by the VPRP's office, with general agreement that a great deal more discussion should be had regarding the impact that this program change would have in different colleges and on different programs and faculty. Chair Bradshaw suggested that the FSEC would look into the matter more deeply, perhaps in discussion with the Research Council, as concerns regarding transparency and potential negative impacts were legitimate, even if the program change was based on good intentions.

Chair Bradshaw then moved to New Business, for which there was none.

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form prior to the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting (8 March 2021), for approval during that meeting.



Dave Hambright  
Faculty Senate Secretary