In Case You Missed It: An Unofficial Recap of the February 14, 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 FS Secretary Kalenda Eaton, based on general meeting notes from Stacey Bedgood (Administrative Coordinator).

February 14, 2022 (Valentine’s Day ❤️)
The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Chair Kornelson. Chair Kornelson read the Land Acknowledgement. The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of December 13, 2021, was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Kornelson):
• On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee approved the nomination of:
  1. Michael Winston (Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics) to complete a 2022-24 term on the Academic Regulations Committee.
  2. Jeremy Ross (Oklahoma Biological Survey) to complete a 2022-24 term on the Tobacco and Parking Violations Committee.
  3. Samuel Huskey (Classics and Letters) and Jonathan Nicol (Music) to Faculty Evaluation Working Group (FEWG).
• The FSEC also made recommendations to the Provost of faculty willing to serve on the Teaching and Learning Technology Advisory Committee (TLTAC).
• The call for nominations of faculty interested in serving on University and Faculty Senate councils, committee, and boards went out by email on February 11, 2022. Nominations are due to the Faculty Senate office by Friday, March 4, 2022, via: https://ousurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dpzCkp7H8feddAi.
• Former and current Faculty Senate Executive Committee members interested in running for Faculty Senate Chair-elect or Secretary for 2022-23 should contact Chair-elect Dave Hambright, dhambright@ou.edu, with brief bios due by March 4. Past Examples of Officer Candidate statements can be found here: https://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2021_04jrn.pdf (pp. 9--11)
• Faculty interested in running for an At-Large Member role on the FS Executive Committee should contact Chair-elect Dave Hambright, dhambright@ou.edu, with brief bios due by April 1. Past Examples of At-Large Member Statements: https://facultysenate.ou.edu/minutes/2021_04jrn.pdf (pp. 12--13)
• The recipients of the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards for 2021-22 are: Christina Bourne (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Cian Loren Brown (Educational Psychology), Marjorie Callahan (Architecture), Julia Ehrhardt (Honors College), Kelly Feille (Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum), Scott Gronlund (Psychology), Kianoosh Hatami (Civil Engineering and Environmental Science), Jill Hicks-Keeton (Religious Studies), Misha Klein (Anthropology), Aparna Nair (History of Science, Technology, and Medicine), Sang Ryu (Visual Arts), Jenny Sperling (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), and Robert White (Chemistry and Biochemistry). Congratulations to all!
• The University Libraries’ Alternative Textbook Grant application period is open, now through March 7. The grant program incentivizes instructors to adopt, modify, or create open educational resources (OER) in place of using costly course materials. The Libraries awards up to
$3,500 for successful applications. Please contact open.education@ou.edu if you have questions or want more information.

- The Provost’s Office has announced the creation of a new faculty honor to recognize the service work of Norman faculty. *The Provost’s Award for Outstanding Service* has been established to honor a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in and commitment to OU-related service and public outreach. This new award will be given annually and conferred at the spring faculty awards ceremony. Information can be found here: [https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/provost/documents/Provost-Outstanding-Service-Award.pdf](https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/provost/documents/Provost-Outstanding-Service-Award.pdf)

Chair Kornelson asked if there were questions or comments about any of the items in the Chair’s report. There were none.

Chair Kornelson introduced Joe Castiglione, OU’s Athletics Director. AD Castiglione spoke to the Senate about OU’s Athletics Program and provided insight and new developments. In terms of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) the Champions for Unity program has four pillars of Civic Responsibility, Social Intelligence, Education and Accountability, and Advocacy. Athletics offers monthly education to both their staff and student-athletes. AD Castiglione noted Athletics has its own DEI officer that reports to VP Hyppolite. In terms of community-based diversity initiatives, there is now a Black-owned business in Headington Hall.

Regarding overall student development, AD Castiglione said OU is a leader in providing psychological resources for students with the PROS (Psychological Resources for OU Student-Athletes) program. He described the resources that are provided to student-athletes to support their success both academically and personally. He noted that OU was one of the first schools to hire a psychologist to support the mental health needs of their student-athletes.

In terms of student-athlete academic achievement, this will be the twentieth consecutive semester where OU’s student-athletes have a cumulative GPA above 3.0. The exact average is 3.19. The NCAA has developed a graduation success rate (GSR) metric. OU’s GSR graduation rate was 89% and we have seen significant improvement in GSR in the last 11 years, climbing from 71% to the record 89%.

After the presentation, there were questions from Senators about talk of a taxpayer-funded arena in Norman, suggestions of additional ways to support mental health initiatives within Athletics, the future of NIL at OU, and renovations to the swim complex.

Chair Kornelson introduced Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance Stewart Berkinshaw. AVP Berkinshaw said that he has received questions about one of the Strategic Plan funding slides he presented at our October 2021 meeting and wanted to provide clarification. He noted that there was one slide with a line item focused on summer pay actions. Originally, he referred to that wording in his presentation and potential changes to defined contribution plan payments on summer pay actions. However, to clarify, nothing is happening to the research funding people receive over the summer if they are on a grant. Also, he wanted to note that OU cannot change fringe rates as those grants are approved by the federal government each year and that approval is aligned with certain rules and restrictions.
Chair Kornelson explained that the Faculty Senate goes through a process every three years to apportion its 50 seats and referenced the requirements for apportionment from the Faculty Handbook and the Senate’s Charter & Bylaws. An ad hoc committee on reapportionment consisting of Michael Crespin, Hunter Heyck, and Kate Raymond was formed in the Fall of 2021 by the FSEC. Prof. Crespin explained the reapportionment committee’s process to allocate seats. Under the proposed reapportionment, the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Fine Arts would each lose one seat and the Colleges of Architecture and Engineering would each gain one seat.

After the presentation, there were no questions. Chair Kornelson asked the senators to discuss the recommendations with their colleagues and to send any questions or comments to her. The Senate will vote on the recommended apportionment at the March meeting.

There have been changes proposed to the charter for the University Council on Faculty Awards and Honors. These proposed changes were reviewed and approved by Provost André Wright (Norman Campus) and Interim Provost Gary Raskob (HSC) on January 27, 2022. We will vote on these changes at our March meeting.

Chair Kornelson called for new business. There was a question about the Match program for graduate students mentioned in the December meeting. Chair Kornelson said she would get more information and share it with the Senate.

A motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form prior to the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting (March 21, 2022 @ 3:30 p.m. via Zoom) for approval during that meeting.

Kalenda Eaton
Faculty Senate Secretary