

In Case You Missed It: An Unofficial Recap of the May 9, 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, based on the general meetings notes from Stacey Bedgood.

May 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Chair Kornelson. Chair Kornelson read the [Land Acknowledgement](#). The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of April 11, 2022 was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Kornelson)

- The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for Fall 2022 will be held at 3:30 p.m. on the following Mondays: September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.
- The Faculty Senate thanked the faculty members who retired during the past academic year for their dedication and contribution to our community.
- The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty member Susan Shaughnessy (Drama) on April 1, 2022.

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Chair Kornelson introduced Belinda Hyppolite, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. VP Hyppolite said that OU and the State of Oklahoma are in the spotlight in terms of DEI efforts. She said that her office recently held listening sessions regarding belonging that included more than 450 faculty, staff, and students. The undergraduates are expressing concerns about their onboarding during Covid. VP Hyppolite said that they have taken down their UnLearning series for a reboot and the new training will pilot over the summer and then the series will be relaunched in the Fall. They just had their awards ceremony, and you can see all of the award recipients on their [website](#). VP Hyppolite said that there have been memos and news about our Board of Regents and more information about that will be shared in the future. Her office is also rebooting the Inclusion Council to include more individuals that communicate directly with their deans.

Chair Kornelson opened the floor to questions. There was a discussion about the UnLearning series pilot this summer, assessment of DEI office activities, and the Gateway to Belonging course offerings.

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Chair Kornelson introduced Christine Taylor, Institutional Equity Officer who joined OU on Dec. 6, 2021. Ms Taylor said that her office has filled all their staff vacancies and added additional investigators at both the Norman Campus and HSC. She highlighted the new training and training that is under development and will be released in the Fall. She said that within 24 hours of receiving a report, they start the process and to offer the impacted party supportive measures. However, they only act in

collaboration with the impacted party, and they do have control of the process. Ms. Taylor said they are waiting on the Biden administration to release their new rules.

Chair Kornelson opened the floor to questions. There was a discussion about the number and types of reports her office receives, the availability of personnel from the office to attend departmental meetings or conduct trainings, and faculty serving as advisors to students filing complaints if asked.

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Election for FSEC At-Large Members: There were no additional nominations from the floor. Using an electronic ballot in Zoom™ polls during the meeting, Prof. Lee Fithian was elected as FSEC At-large Member to replace Prof. Beliveau and Prof. Amy McGovern was elected as FSEC At-large Member to replace Prof. Trytten. They assume office immediately after the election.

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The Faculty Senate approved the Committee on Committees' nominations for end-of-the-year vacancies on university and campus councils, committees, and boards, and Faculty Senate standing committees. The names of the remaining faculty volunteers will be forwarded to the administration to consider for their appointments.

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Chair Kornelson asked Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (FDEIC) Chair Heather Shotton to lead a discussion about academic freedom concerns. FDEIC Chair Shotton said that there has been some recent state legislation that would impact free speech and academic freedom especially about teaching related to DEI. She said that the FDEIC is seeking feedback from faculty about their concerns related to academic freedom and the types of responses they would like to see from the Faculty Senate.

Discussion topics:

- Bills seemed targeted towards K-12 education, but that this is often seen as a testing ground before introducing similar legislation at the college level; how can we be supportive of K-12 educators since many of their students will eventually become our students?
- “What do we know about how the Academic Freedom committee and how it would operate?”. FDEIC Chair Shotton said that this is addressed in the recent *Inside Higher Education* article [“Monitoring Free Speech on Oklahoma’s Campuses.”](#) Chair Kornelson said that the committee is supposed to be advisory only, at least right now. FDEIC Chair Shotton said that Chair Kornelson the FSEC has been in conversation with Vice President for Government Relations Hollye Hunt about this type of legislation and that those conversations need to continue.

Chair Kornelson encouraged senators to send any additional thoughts to send them to FDEIC Chair Shotton or other members of the FDEIC. FDEIC Chair Shotton said that the committee would appreciate any input from senators as representatives of the faculty.

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Chair Kornelson introduced thanked the outgoing senators for their contributions. They will receive certificates of appreciation for their service. The following outgoing senators were recognized for completing full three-year terms (2019-22): Amanda Jiran, Deborah Moore-Russo, Greg Muller, Matthias "Ulli" Nollert, Asa Randall, Christian Remling, Wayne Riggs, Ellen Rubenstein, John Schmeltzer, Vassilios Sikavitsas, Beth Stetson, and Catalin Teodoriu. Certificates will also be sent to the outgoing members of the Senate Executive Committee.

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Chair Kornelson passed the gavel to Chair-Elect Hambright. As chair, Chair Hambright shared a resolution in honor of Stacey Bedgood for her years of service keeping the Faculty Senate operational and a resolution for Chair Kornelson in recognition of her accomplishments as chair of the senate.

Having no new business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form before the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting (September 12, 2022 at 3:30 pm)

Sarah Robbins
Faculty Senate Secretary