

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 Chair-Elect Keri Kornelson and Chair Amy Bradshaw.

October 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair Bradshaw. The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of 14 September 2020 was approved without revisions.

Announcements:

Chair Bradshaw:

- Announced to the Senate that the 2019-20 annual reports of the various university councils were now available at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/cnclrep20.pdf>.
- Reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved the appointment of a replacement member on the Senate’s Committee on Committees to complete the term of a resigned committee member.
- Reminded the Senate that the call for proposals for the Ed Cline Faculty Development awards is out, with proposals due by 14 December.
- Reported the deaths of former OU Faculty members Larry Canter (CEES, 9 July), William Huseman (MLLL, 14 September), James Fife (MLLL, 20 September, and Albert Schwarzkopf (MIS, 6 October)

Chair Bradshaw turned to the monthly Chair’s Report and asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced the speaker for the day’s meeting, Karen Rupp-Serrano (Interim Dean, University Libraries), who discussed the rationale and process used for upcoming journal cancellations, scheduled for 1 Jan 2021, following ongoing negotiations with Wiley and Elsevier. In brief, the library uses the application *Unsub* to weigh the number of downloads of each journal (as a proxy for journal use), how journals are being used, which journals are available free, cost of inter-library loan, OU citations and authorship, and OU faculty input. Following the presentation, several questions from Senators relating to size of the upcoming cut, the status of databases, and use of funds freed by cuts, were fielded by Dean Rupp-Serrano. Chair Bradshaw thanked Dean Rupp-Serrano for sharing this information to the Faculty Senate.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced OU student Crispin South to present a student recommendation for pass/no-pass grading for the 2020-21 academic year, following a request from Assoc. Provost Morvant that the students should involve the faculty in a broader discussion. The student proposal is similar to the grading policy that was adopted for the spring 2020 semester, with the exception that D letter grades would translate into No Pass grades, rather than Pass grades as in the spring (i.e., only A-C grades would equate to a passing grade). Mr. South explained that the proposal would be taken up by the Student Government Association on Wednesday (14 October). A discussion of the rationale behind the proposal ensued and included Senators, several student representatives, and administrators representing the Office of the Provost. Generally, Senate appeared to be supportive of the student proposal, but requested that the final SGA-approved proposal be provided before any formal action could be considered. Chair Bradshaw thanked the students for bringing this issue to the faculty. A motion was made, and seconded, to continue the discussion with Senators getting feedback from their constituents and coming back to the full Senate for a vote in the November meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Further discussion on the student proposal was initiated after New Business (but included here for continuity). After a point of clarification, there was concern voiced that the motion to defer formal action until November would result in too much of a delay. A motion was made, and seconded, to authorize the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to contact Senators by email for a vote before the November meeting, but after the SGA resolution becomes formalized, in order to make a decision as to whether to endorse the SGA resolution or not. The motion passed 33Y-1N-1A.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced proposed changes to the Senate Bylaws for discussion. The first change was to rename the Faculty Senate Committee of Faculty Compensation to the Faculty Senate Committee of Faculty Compensation and Benefits. The second change was to alter the Faculty Senate officer election timeline.

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

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form prior to the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting (9 November 2020), for approval during that meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Hambricht", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hambricht
Faculty Senate Secretary