

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
250 Student Union  
February 8, 2000

Marcia Tilley called the meeting to order with the following members present: Arquitt, Bost, Breazile, Dickman, Eastman, Edgley, Fletcher, Gedra, Gregson, Hallgren, Hsu, Hyle, Johannes, Kimbrell, Locy, Martin, Masters, Mayer, Miller, Montgomery, Peck, Perry, Rhoten, Sisson, Warde, and Weeks. Also present: Birdwell, Broberg, Buchanan, Calhoun, Collins, Harp, Jordan, Jones, Keener, Magness, Malaska, McCann, Murphy, Oaks, Suedkamp, and Watkins. Absent: Fournier, Hoffer, and Sanders

Laura Peck, Faculty Council representative from OSU/OKC, introduced some colleagues of hers from OSU/Oklahoma City. They were: Russ Calhoun, Faculty Council Chair, Mary Malaska, Vice Chair, and Debbie Broberg, Secretary.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

---

Academic Appeals Board .....	1
OU/OSU Research and Graduate Education Center in Tulsa.....	2
Report of Status of Faculty Council Recommendations.....	2
Reports of Standing Committees .....	3
Campus Facilities, Safety and Security .....	3
Faculty .....	4
Retirement and Fringe Benefits .....	4
Rules and Procedures.....	4
Reports of Liaison Representatives .....	5
Athletic Council.....	5
Staff Advisory Council .....	5
Graduate Student Association.....	5
Task Force on Scholarship Committee.....	6
New Business.....	6

---

James Breazile moved acceptance of the January 11, 2000, Minutes. Jacque Fletcher seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved. Brenda Masters moved acceptance of the February 8, 2000, Agenda. James Breazile seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved.

**SPECIAL REPORT: ACADEMIC APPEALS BOARD — Deb Jordan**

The AAB has two co-chairs, Drs. Alan Tree and Deb Jordan. They generally chair two committees per week (which consist of faculty as well as undergraduate and graduate student representatives) to work through the various appeals. The AAB hears grade appeals as well as academic misconduct and academic dishonesty cases. They examine the facts of the case hearing from both the student and the faculty involved and make a determination relative to issues of equity and fairness in the way the syllabus was followed and how grades were

## FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2000

Page 2

determined. They also check for mathematical errors in grading, but do not re-grade any student work.

Grade appeals are based on a variety of factors—poorly written syllabi, confusing grading systems, changes in the written syllabus that were not communicated to students, and disagreement in attendance records (as related to attendance policies associated with grades). Faculty are urged to review their syllabi for completeness, clarity and specificity in grading and weighting of grades, due dates, and policies that affect grading (such as attendance).

Academic misconduct and academic dishonesty include things such as plagiarism, cheating on exams and homework, unauthorized use of materials, etc. The burden of proof for these accusations rests with the faculty member and evidence is required. Anecdotally, it seems as though many of these cases involve international and/or first year students. Faculty should be alerted to be very explicit in expectations of shared versus individual work, and in expected behaviors during exams.

A variety of questions were fielded by Deb following this report. Jacque Fletcher asked if there was an update on the priority appeals wording change and Deb reported that there was not yet. Steve Locy wondered about the timelines for appeals. Deb indicated that typically four cases were heard a week and that the first three to four weeks of the semester were very busy. She also noted that she had seen a drop in numbers of appeals from last year to this year. Ron Rhoten reminded the group that this committee was the only one with the ability to make decisions that could not be appealed to other than the Regents.

### **SPECIAL REPORT: OU/OSU RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION CENTER IN TULSA — Kathryn A. Jones**

The purpose of the Center is to provide information to individuals in the Tulsa area specifically, promote graduate programs offered at OSU-Tulsa and recruit students to these programs. All OSU specific policies and programs administered through the Center are those generated by OSU Stillwater. Last year, 29,472 graduate program credit hours were generated, 27.6% of all the credit hours generated by OSU-Tulsa.

The research arm of the Center has yet to have funding allocated for its activities. At the same time, a Research Planning Committee comprised of businesses in the Tulsa area has identified one major area for future research - telecommunications, Internet and communications links. Faculty will be asked to provide input in the near future.

### **REPORT OF STATUS OF FACULTY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

President Halligan, Executive Vice President and Vice Presidents

99-05-03-BUDG      *OSU-Tulsa Commuting Faculty Compensation:* Under review. Recommendation under discussion with Gary Trennepohl, President of OSU-Tulsa and Tony Brown.

- 99-05-04-BUDG      ***Guidelines for Third Summer Month Salary for 9- or 11-Month Appointments:*** Under review. Research Directors approved the recommendation on 10/17/99 with modification of the original Faculty Council recommendation. Deans Council reaffirmed previous guideline for third month payment from extramural sources and modification recommended by Research Directors. A recommendation will be finalized at their February meeting.
- 99-09-01-FAC      ***Criminal and Credit Background Checks for Potential Staff Employees:*** Under review. Additional meetings were held in January with Faculty Council and Staff Advisory Council representatives. Changes continue to be made to the proposed policy as issues are covered. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled for later in February.
- 99-12-01-ASP      ***Proposed Modification of the OSU Policy for Priority Grade Appeals (Academic Affairs Policy #2-0821):*** Under review. An ad hoc committee, chaired by Jack Vitek and composed of current/past board chairs and Vet Med representatives, has been appointed to review proposed modifications.
- 99-12-02-SALR      ***Support of GSA Recommendation Regarding Health Care Benefits:*** Under review. The vote of Faculty Council would raise the University's obligation for graduate student health insurance from the \$0.4M suggested by GSA to approximately \$1.5M per year. This recommendation will be shared with members of the University Budget Committee for consideration with other FY 2001 budget needs.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

### CAMPUS FACILITIES SAFETY, AND SECURITY — Steve Hallgren

In their efforts to understand planning on campus, the committee met with Jerry Gill, Alumni Association Executive Director, about the plans for the new Alumni Center on Hester. He indicated that this central site on campus will not obstruct Old Central. The lease for the site is 50 years. The facility will house the Emeriti Association as well as Alumni Association offices, libraries and lounges. The facility will be supported through contributions. Once they have achieved \$6,000,000 in pledges for funding, they will openly advertise the Center. The goal is to reach out to the entire campus and be in contact with current students as well as those who have graduated.

### FACULTY — Chuck Edgley

## FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2000

Page 4

Four items comprised this update. The first was a report of the Criminal Background Checks meetings with Harry Birdwell and others. These are going well and Chuck believes they are close to an agreement on a policy to cover this matter.

The second was a request from Marvin Keener to consider whether it would be appropriate to have some rule about faculty members needing to provide a current address when they are under consideration for reappointment or tenure. There recently was a situation where a faculty member was denied reappointment, but was gone for the summer without a valid address, so was not notified officially until September. This delays the grievance process and creates more uncertainty for departments who do not know how the grievance will go and do not know if they can proceed to rehire. This is something of a problem if a search takes a long time. The Faculty Committee decided that no policy was needed. Department/school heads should know how to contact their faculty and a check with these individuals should yield current addresses.

The use of Social Security numbers as identifiers for faculty and staff is also under review. Given that an alternative numbering system is available for driver's licenses, one of the typical users of Social Security numbers, it seems reasonable to assume that OSU could devise a system that would eliminate social security numbers as identifiers as well. A. J. Johannes noted that this concern should probably be broadened to include students as well as faculty and staff.

The last update was the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Summary Decisions Report. A total of 101 personnel decisions were made in 1998-99. Thirteen cases contained some disagreement and were reviewed by the committee. In nine of these cases, the committee agreed with the consensus developed along the line. In four of these cases, the committee disagreed with the ultimate decision made.

### **RETIREMENT AND FRINGE BENEFITS — Ed Arquitt**

The committee is continuing to work on a document to clearly identify fringe benefits for Emeriti faculty. One of the main goals of this "Rights of Emeriti Faculty" is to increase the chances that retired faculty will continue to be an active part of the university community. The committee is presently soliciting ideas for benefits that could and should be included in such a document. They are meeting with representatives of the Emeriti group this month to help in the development of this document and are looking at what other Big 12 schools are doing. The committee calls upon all faculty to provide ideas/recommendations relating to this issue to the committee.

### **RULES AND PROCEDURES — Alexandria Miller**

Alexandria read the charge that the Faculty Council at its regular February meeting shall nominate two members of the faculty for the position of Vice Chair of the General Faculty for the ensuing year. Each member shall submit in writing one candidate for the position. She ask that only faculty that had been contacted and agreed to serve be nominated. Six names were submitted; Carol Moder, Chuck Edgley, Dennis Bertholf, Diane Montgomery, Tom Gedra, and

Bruce Ackerson. Moder and Edgley were nominated by receiving 75% of the votes cast. Members were reminded that other candidates can be nominated by submitting a petition containing 50 signatures. This material will be included in the election information that will be in the mail by February 15.

## **REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:**

### **Athletic Council — A. J. Johannes**

No formal report from the Athletic Council but A. J. did want to mention two things the Athletic Council is involved with. One is working on schedules and looking at conflicts and the number of class days that are missed and passing on their recommendations to Dr. Keener who makes the ultimate decision. The other thing they do, for example, is in January review all the scholastic records of athletes for the previous semester and certify these. Without giving out any numbers, he was happy to report how good most of the athletes are academically. Not directly related to Athletic Council, A. J. wanted to propose that some of the restrictions placed on Dead Week, over the past, be looked at.

### **Staff Advisory Council — Tonya Magness**

They are also meeting and discussing Criminal Background Checks. There will not be a Valentine fundraiser by SAC this year. However, they will be having the Secretary's Week Flower Sale again and this year and it will be held on April 26. SAC will be recruiting staff around campus to assist with the concession stands at the 10 baseball games they have selected to help with as a fundraiser. The first baseball game they are scheduled to work is Feb. 29. Please encourage your staff to assist. Money raised goes toward the SAC Scholarships awarded annually. Ninety-three T-shirts were sold and part of the proceeds from the sale will go toward staff scholarships. The SAC Policy, Benefits and Budget Committee is currently working on a response to the administration for the need for an Ombudsperson to represent staff. They are concerned with certain wording in the current OSU Family Medical Leave Act, as being discriminatory, and are looking at that policy. Sandy Barth will be giving a presentation entitled "Humor in the Workplace" on Feb. 9 from 12:00-1:00 p.m., in 416 SU-Case Study 3. Plan to stay for the SAC regular meeting starting at 1:15 p.m.

### **Graduate Student Association — Kimberly Suedkamp**

Cihan Cobanoglu, from HES, is the new GSA communications officer and he is working on their newly redesigned web page that will feature on-line discussion rooms and trial electronic meetings. She also announced that the on-line Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey went out via e-mail to all graduates on Feb. 1 and will be open until March 1 and she encouraged everyone to urge students to participate. GSA is also having a Graduate College Research Forum entitled "GSA Mission and Membership" on Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 3:30-5 p.m. in 408 Student Union and all are welcome. Calls for the Phoenix Award nominations are also out and due back in the Graduate College by March 6 at 5 p.m. This year the Graduate College will award the two student winners \$300 fellowships each to be credited to their Bursar's account.

## FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2000

Page 6

Also, they are sponsoring cash awards for the Research Symposium. They will be awarding \$300 each for the best poster, best talk, and best interdisciplinary project and will also be awarding smaller \$50 awards to the best of show in each category. They have obtained \$330 in co-sponsorship funds from SGA to create undergraduate awards also. GSA is also co-sponsoring the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) South Central Regional Conference with the GSA from OU/OSU Tulsa April 7-9 in Tulsa. Member's schools from TX, OK, AR, LA, MS, MO, KS will be attending to discuss graduate education issues. Lastly, Thursday, Feb. 10 is the NAGPS official National Lobby Day and Kim was on her way to Washington D.C. with the other Board of Directors to lobby Congress in support of graduate education and funding support. They had many appointments scheduled including one with Trent Lott.

### **Task Force on Scholarship Committee — Dave Buchanan**

Two forums with faculty were held before Christmas and they are in the process of inviting all additional faculty to forums over the next two months. He encouraged all Faculty Council members to attend a forum since the original recommendation came from FC. The original charge stated the committee should report back to FC by March 1. Due to forums begin held over the next few weeks, this seems unlikely, but Dave is optimistic that some type of formal report will be presented to FC before Council adjourns in May.

Also, Dave has been appointed to the Fiscal Integrity Subcommittee for the NCAA review of the Athletic Department. David Bosserman, Chair, asked Dave to report to Faculty Council that the subcommittee has just started to meet and review the fiscal integrity of the Athletic Department.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Natalea Watkins announced that on Feb. 17-20 OSU is hosting the Big 12 Black Student Government Association. Over 900 student leaders will be on campus. Visit their website for schedules and more information or contact Teresa Newson in the MD&A Center, third floor, Student Union.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is March 14, 2000.