

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
250 Student Union
March 14, 2000

President Halligan called the meeting to order with the following members present: Arquitt, Bost, Breazile, Dickman, Eastman, Fletcher, Fournier, Gedra, Hsu, Hyle, Johannes, Masters, Mayer, Miller, Montgomery, Perry, Rhoten, Sanders, and Weeks. Also present: Birdwell, Dahl, Harp, Magness, Matoy, McCann, Mitchell, Myers, Oaks, Ryburn, Watkins, and Weaver. Absent: Edgley, Gregson, Hallgren, Hoffer, Kimbrell, Locy, Martin, Peck, Sisson, Tilley, and Warde

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Ken Eastman moved acceptance of the February 8, 2000, Minutes. James Breazile seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved. Brenda Masters moved acceptance of the March 14, 2000, Agenda. Jacque Fletcher seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved.

SPECIAL REPORT: BUDGET UPDATE — Harry Birdwell

This 10-minute report began with a reminder that last year OSU lost ground with other Big 12 peers and received the smallest raises in the Big 12 Conference. This year, good national overtones lead us to be hopeful. We do know, however, that the Oklahoma Legislature has already committed to \$3000 salary increases for common school teachers (grades preK through 12) and \$2000 salary increases for state personnel. Clearly two-thirds of the revenues available for allocation have already been promised. Our strategy is to ask for a \$4000 average increase in faculty salaries and \$2,500 average increase for professional staff. We also need operating dollars if we are to keep pace with our Big 12 peers. It is hoped money from two of the oil funds will be used to help meet our needs. Additionally, if revenues are thought to be higher than the Board of Equalization noted in February, it is possible budget increases could also be made. OSU is also trying to increase the fee for the Colvin Center and Student Health. The increases have passed the Senate but are sitting in the House.

REPORT OF STATUS OF FACULTY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

President Halligan, Executive Vice President and Vice Presidents

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- 99-05-03-BUDG ***OSU-Tulsa Commuting Faculty Compensation:***
Recommendation is under review by Marvin Keener, Gary Trennepohl, President of OSU-Tulsa, and Tony Brown. They will meet March 20 to discuss the proposal.
- 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 has reaffirmed that payment of a third month of summer salary should be from extramural sources. The modification recommended by Research Directors to seek faculty counsel on additional guidelines was approved by deans. Version approved by Deans Council will be provided to Faculty Council for review.
- 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 this Spring.
- 99-12-01-ASP ***Proposed Modification of the OSU Policy for Priority Grade Appeals (Academic Affairs Policy #2-0821):*** Under review. The ad hoc committee, chaired by Jack Vitek and composed of current/past board chairs and Vet Med representatives, has met twice to review proposed modifications. Discussions continue; however, Vet Med has been granted approval to do emergency appeals between semesters if needed.
- 99-12-02-SALR ***Support of GPSA Recommendation Regarding Health Care Benefits:***
Under review. The Faculty Council vote would raise the University's obligation for health insurance from the \$0.4M suggested by the administration task force, which included GPSA, by an additional \$1.5M per year. This recommendation will be shared with members of the University Budget Committee for consideration with other FY 2001 budget needs.
- 00-03-01-ASP ***Student Assessment of Instruction Task Force:*** To President Halligan.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES — Diane Montgomery

Diane Montgomery presented two recommendations to Council for a vote. The first recommended that the administration support the appointment of an ad hoc task force to study the current evaluation of instruction at OSU and make recommendations. The task force was to have membership from the Faculty Committee, Academic Standards and Policies Committee and students. Discussion focused on the need to "fix" the 1979 Student Survey of Instruction, the notion that one survey model may not fit all instructional situations/courses, information about how the current survey data was collected and used was needed as well. After lively discussion, the recommendation passed unanimously. The second recommendation was to change "urged"

to “required” in Policy 1.04 of University Academic Format 2-0207 of the Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures. This change would require faculty members to provide students with a semester course plan showing the schedule of examinations and other course requirements, as well as details of the grading system, which will be used in the determination of final grades. Discussion was even livelier than for the first recommendation. Councilors were adamant that this change be made on the one hand because it was the appropriate ethic of teaching and message to send to students. Councilors were equally adamant that this change not be made because requiring syllabi was not the business of administration, academic freedom might be infringed upon and students needed to be responsible to seek this information on their own. Some Councilors noted that Academic Grade Appeals would be reduced if “urged” were replaced with “required” while others rationalized that this act would tie the hands of faculty trying to do their jobs. After some confusion about voting, President Halligan decided that the recommendation had not passed and therefore failed.

RESEARCH — Richard Bost

The Research Committee has been looking into recommendations to facilitate research at OSU. They are focusing on recommendations to increase resources for research, and enhance the research skills of all involved in research as well as research facilities. In May or June they plan to bring these recommendations to Council.

RULES AND PROCEDURES — Alexandria Miller

For the first time in the past seven years, since Diane LaFollette has been working with Faculty Council elections, the slate of representatives was incomplete. If current representatives are unable to locate individuals willing to run, the Nominating Committee (consisting of the Faculty Council elected officers, plus the Rules and Procedures Committee) will complete the ballots.

REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:

Emeriti Association — Audrey Oaks

Audrey Oaks reported two items. First, the OSU Emeriti Association 90+ Club. This newly established club is designed to recognize members who have reached the age of 90 years or older during the year 2000 or earlier. They began in December 1999 by recognizing Dr. Idella Lohmann, the first Past President of the Association, who turned 90 on December 15, 1999. Since then they have discovered 11 members in and around Stillwater who are 90 years of age or older as of the year 2000. In their Spring Newsletter, they plan to ask all of their 400+ members to let them know if they too are 90 or 90+ as of the year 2000. The second item was an update on the work of the Creative Living Committee, chaired by Esther Winterfeldt. Senior Star Living of Tulsa has completed their study of Stillwater and the retirement facilities within the community and have shown an interest in helping with the funding of a “Retirement Community.” Mark Galliant, with the Stillwater Medical Center, has also shown interest in their “Retirement Community” and has asked the Stillwater Medical Center Board of Directors to put this item on their agenda. Negotiations continue with the University concerning land on which this facility might be developed. March 24th the Emeriti Association will meet with the Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee in the Emeriti Hall in Bennett Hall.

Staff Advisory Council — Tonya Magness

The Staff Advisory Council is concerned about the budget outlook regarding staff salaries and Tonya Magness was pleased that this is an issue with Faculty Council as well. SAC has identified specific building keys held by individuals and corresponded with the administration about their concern regarding the generalization of building master keys being considered for criminal background checks. The SAC is currently drafting a recommendation regarding the OSU Family Medical Leave Act policy. Concerns identified by the committee are that the policy is too vague in its interpretation or definition of a serious health condition and how the policy relates to in-laws and the OSU Sick Leave Policy. They are also recruiting volunteers to work concession stands for the OSU Baseball games. If you would like to volunteer call x46275.

Graduate and Professional Student Association — Adam Ryburn & Christina Myers

Adam Ryburn, GPSA Parliamentarian, updated Council by handing out a GPSA information sheet. The sheet included the GPSA office and officers contact information, GPSA representation, the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS), GPSA meeting dates and locations, services and benefits as well as GPSA internal committees and university committees upon which GPSA has a representative. Additionally, Adam noted that for the first time GPSA held on-line nominations for elections. Absentee voting is possible by e-mail through the website or students can attend the March 21 meeting in 114 Classroom Building. April 11 is the date for the Phoenix Awards. Last, but not least, was announcement that representatives of graduate student organizations must attend 80 percent of GPSA meetings to be funded in future years. Bill Weeks asked why and Adam indicated that this should enhance participation in GPSA, which was important. Christina Myers provided an initial review of the Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey. There was a 29 percent response rate, up from previous 15 percent rates. Of the students responding, approximately 22 percent of traditional graduate student types and 46 percent of international students responded. Initial findings related to GPSA issues included 90.2% of the students agreed “somewhat” to “very much” that they were satisfied with their program and 88 percent agreed “somewhat” to “very much” that they liked their graduate experience. They saw as issues to explore in the future increasing awareness of GPSA and GPSA participation, interdisciplinary research projects, daycare options, compensation packages and parking.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is April 11, 2000. The Spring General Faculty Meeting April 18, 2000.