

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
250 Student Union
May 9, 2000

President Halligan called the meeting to order with the following members present: Arquitt, Bost, Breazile, Edgley, Fletcher, Fournier, Gedra, Gregson, Hallgren, Hsu, Hyle, Johannes, Kimbrell, Locy, Martin, Masters, Mayer, Miller, Montgomery, Peck, Perry, Sanders, Sisson, Tilley, Warde, and Weeks. Also present: Achemire, Binegar, Birdwell, Buchanan, Conway, du Bois, Gonzales, Harp, Holcombe, Keener, McCann, Mitchell, Oaks, Patil, Payne, Ryburn, Schestokat, Weaver, Wetzell, and Wood. Absent: Dickman, Eastman, Hoffer, and Rhoten

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James Breazile moved acceptance of the April 11, 2000, Minutes with two typographical changes in the report on the Emeriti Association. On page 5, third sentence should read: "Russell Conway, who served in the Office of High School and College Relations, was asked to coordinate a group of retirees who would be willing to serve at various events during the Centennial year. Of the 25 people in the original group, referred to as the Centennial Ambassadors, 14 are still actively involved as Ambassadors. Of the original Ambassadors, 7 are ~~not~~ now deceased." Steve Hallgren seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved. A. J. Johannes moved acceptance of the May 9, 2000 Agenda. Jacque Fletcher seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved.

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:*** Under review. A draft response to the recommendation is under review by members of the Deans Council. Initial discussion took place during the deans meeting in April and a draft procedures document has been prepared for discussion at the May Deans Council meeting.
- 99-05-04-BUDG ***Guidelines for Third Summer Month Salary for 9- or 11-Month Appointments:*** Under review. Waiting for input from Faculty Council. Deans Council reaffirmed that payment of a third month of summer salary should be from extramural sources, and M. Keener forwarded their recommendation to Pres. Halligan. This recommendation has been 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. Suggestions continue to be made to the proposed policy as issues are covered. Input pending from Legal Counsel and Personnel Services.
- 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, will have a final recommendation on proposed modifications within the next month. Discussion will take place with Diane Montgomery, ASP Chair, about her committee's perspective on the proposed changes. Vet Med has been granted approval to do emergency appeals between semesters if needed.
- 00-03-01-ASP ***Student Assessment of Instruction Task Force:*** Under review by Marvin Keener and Jack Vitek. Discussion continues on how to proceed with review and will include Diane Montgomery, ASP Chair.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET — Janet Kimbrell

The committee is preparing a report on salary comparisons between Big 12 campuses. OSU currently ranks 9th in average salaries among the group. Joe Weaver added that all institutions are chasing The University of Texas and that the differential in average salaries at the low end of the group is quite small. Additionally, the University of Oklahoma was in the process of refiguring their salaries because they reported a 3.5% increase but their figures indicate a 4.8% increase. He also added that, in all likelihood, recalculations would not alter their ranking. The trend in average faculty salaries at OSU continues to be positive although “last year was not a good year for OSU.” We are 93% of the average for the Big 12 faculty salaries, but we dropped a slot from last year.

CAMPUS FACILITIES, SAFETY AND SECURITY — Steve Hallgren

The committee is still looking into issues associated with the accessibility to the new student housing. Suites are handicapped accessible because they have elevators; apartments are not accessible for upper floors because they do not have elevators. The group has met with Harry Birdwell and John Houck and plan a visit to the new facilities in the near future. A report will be forthcoming.

FACULTY — Chuck Edgley

The committee plans one more meeting for the year in May. They are talking with people to formulate strategies associated with features of the Drake Report concerning intercollegiate athletics and its role in higher education. They are looking into what can be done at OSU to insure that intercollegiate athletics does not interfere with academics. They have reviewed a report from Francis Epplin who headed up a Blue Ribbon Committee following the Dexter Manley uproar. In addition, the committee is planning to forward their review of the move of the Speech Communication program to Psychology to the Chair of Faculty Council. They believe rules in the Faculty Handbook were violated. Even though Speech Communication prefixes remain on the books, their program was terminated. They believe that constitutes program closure.

RETIREMENT AND FRINGE BENEFITS — Ed Arquitt

At the last meeting, Ron du Bois presented his press release titled, "Diminished Standard of Living for Retired Educators." The committee has studied this press release and provided a summary indicating that in January of 1987, the cost of living allowance for retirees was changed by the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System. That change failed to increase benefits of over 2000 retirees - faculty, teachers and other state employees. The committee strongly supports efforts to review this decision in an effort to reduce the inequities for those individuals who retired prior to January 1987. In an aside, Dr. Halligan said that he "was pleased with the discussion" he had with Senator Mike Morgan on the subject. Dr. Halligan believed Senator Morgan was sensitive to the issue. The committee is also pursuing an Emeriti Faculty Bill of Rights. A recommendation for same is expected by next year.

RULES AND PROCEDURES — Alexandria Miller

The committee recommended an amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of the OSU Faculty Council: Article II Sec 1 Composition. This recommendation would alter the original 1953 composition of membership to Faculty Council. The proposed changes, in boldface type, are as follows: "The Faculty Council shall consist of **27** elected members of the General Faculty; the President of the University; the Chair of the General Faculty; the Vice-Chair of the General Faculty; and the Secretary of the General Faculty **who shall be non-voting.....**

The elected members of the Faculty Council shall be chosen as follows: one from the Technical Branches at Oklahoma City and Okmulgee, one from the Library, one from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, one from OSU-Tulsa, and one Multicultural representative. The remaining 21 positions shall be allocated to the undergraduate colleges or divisions in a representative manner based on the number of faculty with a minimum of one seat per college." Group memberships would cease thereby cutting down on administrative processes, paperwork and ballots, and colleges would have more direct representation. The recommendation passed and the matter will now go before the faculty for a vote.

REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:

Emeriti Association — Audrey Oaks

Membership currently stands at 492 members, the greatest number in the history of the Association. Although 8 annual dues paying members have been lost since the year 1998-99, 14 new life members have been gained. By the end of the current year, June 30th, they hope to top the 500 mark. The First Friday Dinners have attracted 743 members from July 1999 through May 2000. Over the same period of time, visitors to the Emeriti Center in East Bennett Hall have numbered 719, and that only includes those who have signed the register. Dr. Esther Winterfeldt, Chair of the Creative Retirement Committee, recently reported that Vice President Birdwell and Executive Vice President Keener indicated that they and President Halligan have agreed to make available 20 acres of land north of the campus for a CREATIVE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, a top priority of the Association for the past ten years. The land is adjacent to the present Equine Center and abuts on Lakeview Road. Since this piece of property already has utilities on it, it is ready to develop. The Creative Retirement Committee has already met with Mark Galliard, Vice President at the Stillwater Medical Center, in order to discuss contacting builder-developers. The hospital Board of Directors has been apprised that this project is a top priority objective of the hospital and they have approved proceeding. SENIOR STAR LIVING of Tulsa has not only expressed a desire to be involved with the project as consultants, but may also agree to assist with financing. Galliard is making contacts with several developers in Texas, Florida and other locations. The next step will be to commission a comprehensive feasibility study which they will finance. President Halligan added that making the land available would have to be with the Board of Regents approval.

Staff Advisory Council — Louisa Payne

They held elections last month and the winners of those elections will be announced May 10, 2000. Fundraising for staff scholarships has been a top priority with flower sales and baseball concessions topping the list. New on the horizon is a basketball concession in the new arena. Their work on the Family Medical Leave Act will be reported at their next meeting.

Graduate and Professional Student Association — Adam Ryburn

New officers were introduced. Council was thanked for its support of health care coverage for graduate students and were reminded of the benefits of this coverage to both graduate and undergraduate students. Contact information for the group is available on the OSU home page under student organizations and Councilors were encouraged to visit their website for information and updates on GPSA activities.

Graduate Faculty — Bill Warde

Masters degree changes were discussed at their last regular meeting. The College of Education is proposing a consolidation of multiple degrees and a new HES degree was approved.

Task Force on Scholarship — Dave Buchanan

A final report from the committee is planned for the June Faculty Council meeting. The group has met with general, College of Education and College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty. In sum, faculty do many diverse things and this needs to be recognized. On a different topic,

Dave Buchanan thanked President Halligan and OSU for once again supporting Special Olympics and reminded all that opening ceremonies are Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Russell Conway and Ron du Bois — As former Director of High School and College Relations, Russell Conway wanted to clarify to Council the importance of support for benefit increases for pre-January 1987 retirees. He noted millions of dollars of benefit differentials since 1987. He also detailed efforts at a class action suit based on the reapplication of 306 individuals for new benefit allocations. Currently no bill is pending before the Legislature. Support for this redress of inequities is needed. Everyone was also reminded that, unfortunately, OTRS is one of the worst funded state retirement systems.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marcia Tilley — Outgoing councilors were awarded citations for their work. They included: Alexandria Miller, Tom Gedra, Bjorn Martin, Ed Arquitt, Katye Perry, Ron Rhoten, Steve Locy, Chuck Edgley, Diane Montgomery and Mark Sisson. New members in attendance were introduced.

Bill Warde — Marcia Tilley was thanked for all her work with Council over the years and awarded a citation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is June 13, 2000.

Adrienne E. Hyle, Secretary