

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
250 Student Union  
December 12, 2000

President Halligan called the meeting to order with the following members present: Achemire, Binegar, Bost, Breazile, Comer, Dickman, Dohoney, Eastman, Edgley, Fletcher, Fournier, Gregson, Hallgren, Hoffer, Holcombe, Hsu, Hyle, Johannes, Kimbrell, Masters, Mayer, Peeper, Sanders, Schestokat, Veenstra, Warde, Weeks, and Wetzel. Also present: H. Birdwell, R. Dahl, E. Eaton, S. Harp, E. Hufnagel, J. Hodgson, A. Matoy, E. Mitchell, V. Mitchell, G. Robinson, and J. Van Delinder. Absent: Peck

**HIGHLIGHTS**

---

Review of Walker Report .....	1
Report of Status of Faculty Council Recommendations.....	3
Reports of Standing Committees .....	4
Academic Standards and Policies .....	4
Budget.....	5
Faculty.....	5
Improving Performance of Students Participating in OSU Athletics .....	5
Sabbatical Leave Recommendation.....	5
Retirement and Fringe Benefits .....	5
Changes to Current Restrictions on Lump Sum Distributions from TIAA/CREF .....	5
Change in Flex Benefits to Cover Changes in Family Status.....	6
Reports of Liaison Representatives .....	6
Library Committee.....	6
Graduate Faculty Council .....	6
A&S Faculty Council.....	6
Old Business .....	6
New Business.....	6

---

James Breazile moved acceptance of the November 7, 2000, Minutes. Brenda Masters seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved. Brenda Masters moved acceptance of the December 12, 2000 Agenda. James Breazile seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved.

**SPECIAL REPORT: Review of Walker Report — Geary Robinson, Parking Manager**

After being introduced by Everett Eaton, Geary Robinson presented an overview of the Executive Summary of the Walker Parking Consultants Report. He touched on the following bulleted statements:

- Develop park and ride lots in the peripheral areas of the campus and remotely off campus.

- Expand shuttle operations to include off-campus housing areas with high concentrations of students, faculty, and staff. Create a transit fee paid by all students. Fund transit as benefit for faculty and staff to reduce parking demand. Create a separate transit budget.
- Purposefully increase parking permit rates to pay for new facilities and programs required. Creating a preferred, standard, and remote zones to allow price differentiation. New rates of \$360 - preferred, \$108 - standard and residential, and \$54 for remote are suggested. (These would be phased in. Preferred parking would be inside the square made by Knoblock, University, Hall of Fame and Monroe; standard parking would be outside that square; and remote parking far removed from campus.)
- Reorganize the parking operation. Create separate budgets for Parking, Transit, and the Police Department. Revise the visitor and event parking components to balance the burden of funding among all parking user groups. Stop subsidizing transit and police department operations with parking funds.
- Restrict all campus housing residents to parking in the housing of residence. Require all residents to obtain a university permit. Charge a rate commensurate with the greater amount of time actually spent parked on campus. Price residential areas as premium and preferred parking areas and even more for individually reserved spaces.
- Visibly demonstrate the increased funding from parking and transportation fees is being invested in improving the parking facilities and transit programs.
- Maximize the use of existing parking space through reconfiguration and re-striping.
- Add new remote parking spaces to meet customer growth demands and provide expansion spaces on the old driving range property and on the recreational field space identified.
- Reducing traffic congestion and vehicle/pedestrian conflict by enhancing the shuttle and restricting central campus vehicle use.
- Reduce bicycle and vehicle/pedestrian conflicts by restricting some areas of the campus core. Educate, regulate, and enforce bicycle safety rules. Provide the necessary amenities to promote bicycle use from building to building, as well as to and from the campus.
- Move parking from surface lots to parking structures in the central campus as immediately as funding streams will support.

In sum, Geary Robinson noted that his office was trying to figure out how to make parking work better recognizing that many require easily accessible and affordable parking.

Much discussion followed. Many reminded the group that the parking fee structure seemed an unreasonable burden for staff given their low pay. It was also noted that little in the Walker report addressed walkers, bicyclers and parking meters. In addition, a plea was made to not close Monroe as a solution to vehicular traffic problems. Harry Birdwell noted that three-, five-, seven- and 10-year implementation plans are to be designed by Chief Eaton and Mr. Robinson. These plans will then go to the OSU Parking Committee for discussion and debate prior to implementation.

The group was reminded, again, to review how the data was gathered and to get more additional information/data before decisions are made. The site visit was August 25, 1999 (the first week of school) and the return visit was mid-September. It was also noted that it does not make sense, from a business point of view, to ask people to work for you and then ask them to pay for a spot to park. One last point was the reminder to safeguard children who might live near remote parking.

The most likely immediate changes would be improvements in the transit system - move more people around on campus and bring and get people off of campus. This would be done with the City of Stillwater through the City Commission. They plan to design a joint system to serve OSU and Stillwater.

Copies of the report are available to check out from Geary Robinson's office (104F USDA). Please e-mail suggestions, recommendations or concerns directly to him at [rgeary@okstate.edu](mailto:rgeary@okstate.edu).

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

President Halligan, Executive Vice President and Vice Presidents

- 00-11-01-BUDG      ***Guidelines for Third Summer Month Salary for 9- or 11-Month Appointments (Response from Faculty Council):*** Under review. Faculty Council has responded to the recommendation sent forward from Dr. Keener and the deans. The Council endorses the view that payment could be for research, service or teaching activities and could be from state funds.
- 99-09-01-FAC      ***Criminal and Credit Background Checks for Potential Staff Employees:*** Under review. Suggestions continue to be made to the proposed procedure as issues are reviewed. Another meeting with Faculty and Staff Advisory Council representatives has been scheduled for January 18. Revisions have been made to the proposed employment checking procedures. Discussion continues.
- 00-03-01-ASP      ***Student Assessment of Instruction Task Force:*** Under review. Committee members have been identified and organizational meetings held. Dr. Kay Bull has agreed to serve as chair.
- 00-11-02-RES/FAC      ***Development of Research Funds:*** Accepted (Dec. 2000). Administration is working closely with OSU Foundation officials to develop a

comprehensive fundraising plan, with an emphasis on research initiatives and other scholarly pursuits.

- 00-12-01-FAC      ***Improving Performance of Students Participating in OSU Athletics:***  
To President Halligan.
- 00-12-02-FAC      ***Sabbatical Leave Recommendation:*** To President Halligan.
- 00-12-03-RFB      ***Changes to Current Restrictions on Lump Sum Distributions from TIAA/CREF:*** To President Halligan.
- 00-12-04-RFB      ***Change in Flex Benefits to Cover Changes in Family Status:***  
To President Halligan.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

##### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES — Jacqueline Fletcher**

An update of committee activities was presented. The committee is reviewing the following:

- Contact hours and drop policy for condensed courses - The committee has reviewed courses that do not meet for the prescribed number of hours per semester, meet more than 4 hours a day, have more credit hours than weeks of class, or for which the expected “two hours of outside-class work per hour of in-class work” is not possible due to condensed timing.
- Student-faculty responsibilities - With the conversion of universities’ registrar records to computer files and the increase in student computer use, a nationwide trend finds students taking a more active and responsible role in planning, tracking and managing their academic progress. The committee will be looking at expectations and responsibilities of students and faculty that may need re-evaluation as such changes occur.
- OSU-Tulsa - The committee is interested in academic standards and policy developments at OSU-Tulsa as programs evolve and expand. OSU-Tulsa President Gary Trennepohl and Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs Tony Brown visited with the committee about recent progress at the Tulsa campus. Searches are underway to hire an Associate Graduate Dean and a permanent Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Academic Integrity - This is an ongoing project. Jacque is a member of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee of the Athletic Council. The Subcommittee has initiated a focused study of athletes’ academic performance and retention and currently the academic performance of these groups does not meet the criteria established by the NCAA.

- Academic Appeals Issues - The 1999-2000 Academic Appeals Board report was reviewed by the Committee. In January the committee will consider a proposal by the Board to modify the appeals process.
- Final Exam Scheduling Conflicts - Two conflicts remain to be resolved - evening classes that meet at different times but are scheduled the same day simultaneously for exams and the upper limit of number of exams a student can take on one day.
- Bachelors' of University Studies (BUS) - At the request of academic administrators, the committee will be reviewing the policies and use of the BUS program, an undergraduate degree not linked to a specific department.

**BUDGET — Robert Mayer**

J. L. Albert and Randy Dahl had met with the committee about SIS and abuse of student social security numbers. More next year on this.

**FACULTY — Larry Sanders**

Two recommendations were presented. The first involved improving performance of students participating in OSU athletics. The rationale for this recommendation reflected diverse opinions about athletics on campus. It is obvious that big-time athletics are important but there are concerns as well. The range of salary for the new coach was raised as an issue as well as the hold of the NCAA on the university. Discussion focused on how such a large industry could dictate to the farm club (OSU in this case) how to run their business. The recommendation conceals a spirited discussion about what to do. The recommendation passed unanimously.

In conjunction with the report of the Sabbatical Leave Task Force, the committee made the recommendation that Drs. Halligan and Keener work with the Deans and Department Heads to encourage improved equity for faculty access and consistency in application of sabbatical leave policy among and within colleges; and improved opportunity for alternatives to sabbatical leave in cases that do not meet the prescribe criteria, but would promote professional development (i.e., on-campus or local opportunities, writing books). Discussion focused on the possibility of continued efforts by administration to make possible sabbatical leaves for work that did not require the faculty member to leave Stillwater. As part of this recommendation, the Faculty Committee wanted to have the Rules Committee look into the possibility of changing rules to allow Faculty Council members to go on sabbatical leave without losing their positions. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Work in progress includes looking into the release of faculty for cause. The general question driving this review is: Are we employees of the state or are decisions about employment Appendix D driven decisions? Information will be gathered on this over the coming weeks. The committee might seek legal council to clarify some issues/questions.

**RETIREMENT AND FRINGE BENEFITS — A. J. Johannes**

Two recommendations were presented. The first presented changes to current restrictions on lump sum distributions from TIAA/CREF. The committee had looked into the OSU restriction

that prevented the move of more than 50% of TIAA/CREF over a 10-year period. Group supplemental retirement accounts generally have no such restriction. The recommendation passed unanimously. The second proposed a change in the flex benefits regulations to cover changes in family status. This recommendation passed unanimously as well.

#### **REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:**

##### **Library Committee — William Weeks**

The committee decided to allow the Math Department to have access to journals in their own reading library. Approximately 150 journals will be sent to them on a trial basis.

##### **Graduate Faculty Council — Bill Warde**

Rules changes were passed. The time to complete a degree was extended for masters' students to seven years and for Ph.D. students to nine years. The Council is also enforcing student credit hour requirements for the filing of Plans of Study. These are effective January, 2001. They are also having ongoing discussions about changes in the qualifying exam timelines (not less than 6 months/not more than 4 years old at graduation). They are considering abolishing the four-year limit, but not the six-month.

##### **Arts and Sciences Faculty Council — Jack Hodgson**

The Council has been looking into plus and minus grading systems. They have received mixed reaction from students even though half of other Big 12 schools have some form of plus and minus grading system. The State Board of Regents is opposed to it.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

President Halligan indicated that the PowerPoint presentation from the General Faculty meeting was now available on the web. From the OSU home page, click on Administration, then click on Planning, Budget and Institutional Research, then click on "Fall General Faculty Meeting." If you have problems, contact Bruce Williamson in Planning, Budget and Institutional Research (x46897).

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilors were given Truman Scholarship bookmarks and a brochure presenting the OSU Truman scholars.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is January 9, 2001.