

FACULTY SENATE
November 14, 2007
UC — 215

Attendance: Dennis Miles, Jane Elder, Dell McLain, John Allen Hendricks, Paula Allen, Lucretia Scoufos, Shannon McCraw, William Fridley, Muhammad Betz, Margaret Avard, Mike Morris, Lawrence Silver, Diane Dixon, Bruce Johnson, Charles Matthews, Chris Moretti, Michael Kallam, Ed Hobbs, Judy Williams, and Ken Elder (presiding officer).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the October 10, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Ken Elder reported that the Executive Committee did not meet. He went on to say that Dr. Turner would meet with the Executive Committee on November 28, 2007 and with the Faculty Senate in December.

Committee on Committees:

Diane Dixon reported that the Committee on Committees did not meet. Diane explained that Jon Reid had been nominated to replace Susan Morrison on the Institutional Assessment Committee, but Jon Reid declined the nomination. No additional nominations were immediately offered.

Planning:

Margaret Avard reported that the planning committee had established a timeline of activity for the Faculty Senate Teaching, Research, and Service nominations. Margaret informed the Senate that voting would take place during the week of March 3 — 9, 2008.

Personnel:

Margaret reported that the personnel committee was actively addressing their charge noting considerable discussion concerning the composition of tenure and promotion committees and the role of the departmental guidelines. Margaret announced the personnel committee would bring an actionable item to the December meeting.

University Affairs:

Patrick Reardon resigned as chair of University Affairs. Reardon resigned because he was serving as chair for two separate committees. Paula Allen noted discussions to connect retired faculty to the university and finding a location for a faculty lounge.

Ken Elder announced the Student Government Association was exploring issues surrounding academic honesty. Ken suggested that someone from University Affairs might volunteer to assist SGA in their work. Paula Allen volunteered.

Budget:

The budget committee did not meet and had no report.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Lucretia Scoufos explained she had recently attended an Oklahoma higher education conference and reported that an Assistant Chancellor explained that enrollment is down, student retention is crucial, and the financial future for Oklahoma higher education is not bright. Lucretia also noted discussion of "tuition locks," or caps placed on the amount a university or college might raise tuition. Ken Elder noted there has been movement by the legislature to take back legislative authority for tuition.

Shannon McCraw disseminated an overview handbook of the Higher Learning Commission Institutional Accreditation and explained that HLC/NCA recently implemented a new criterion: service and engagement. The Council on Civic Engagement is seeking a Faculty Senate endorsement of Civic Engagement Learning Outcomes. Charles Matthews raised concerns about the "civic values" section, specifically the call for students to value democratic principles and asked whether this unnecessarily excludes competing political philosophies. Paula Allen announced a concern about the use of the term commitment as a measure of what students should know, believe, and act on. John Allen Hendricks asked who was on the Council on Civic Engagement. Shannon replied that there were over twenty members from across the university that spent a year considering the proposal. Michael Kallam expressed concerns about the document as an "actual evaluation document" and offered that the document should be retitled, "Civic Engagement *Proposed* Learning Outcomes" and include a preamble noting the outcomes should operate as topical guides. Michael offered that many statements, as currently constructed, are not easily measured, if at all. Michael further noted that assessment specialist could assist in identifying the outcomes. Shannon accepted the recommendation that the document's title include the word "proposed" and that a preamble be included. Shannon asked that the Faculty Senate support the document and endorse with changes. (Lawrence Silver — John Allen Hendricks; 16 Ayes 2 Nays / 1 Abstaining).

Ed Hobbs read an email that was sent to him by Theresa Hrcir in the John Massey School of Business. The email concerned business faculty representation and called for an examination of the composition of university committees. K. Elder expressed frustration noting the history of this issue. He noted that an Ad Hoc committee was given the charge of exploring the issue of representation but the committee never made forward movement. Paula Smith asked what the operative principle is in "representation?" Muhammad Betz explained there have been times when it was difficult to get business faculty to serve on committees. Discussion of the ratios for representation emerged. Dell McLain asked whether the ratio system invited a history of overturning decisions. Ed stated there has been a "perceived" problem on the curriculum committee. Ed asked that the Faculty Senate consider this issue and that he would report back to the John Massey School of Business. Charles Matthews moved that the committee composition for Academic Appeals and Human Subjects be changed to the following: Arts and Sciences (4), Education and Behavioral Sciences (2), and Business (2). (Matthews — Kallum; 2 Ayes / 16 Nays / 1 Abstaining).

Bruce Johnson asked whether the Faculty Senate would be presenting a case on the salary card? He noted that faculty have not fared well under the present salary card structure. John Allen Hendricks argued that the Faculty Senate needed to make "an aggressive and strong statement " concerning faculty salaries. Bruce moved that the Faculty Senate consider the following: Resolved: The Faculty Senate should request the University Administration to place a higher priority on faculty with regard to faculty salaries. (Johnson — Hobbs; unanimous).

Respectfully submitted.- Dr. Shannon McCraw, Faculty Senate Recorder