

FACULTY SENATE
September 10, 2008
UC-215

Attendance: Mike Morris, Dennis Miles, Kenneth Chinn, Debra Haley, David Romer, Michael Kallam, Virginia Parrish, John Hendricks, William Fridley, Jane Elder, John Van Bebber, Diane Dixon, Ken Elder, Muhammad Betz, Judy Williams, Karl Frinkle, Chris Morett, Patrick Reardon, Rozanna May, Gleny Beach, Jennifer Hicks

Bruce Johnson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm.

Approval of the Minutes: Move to approve John Hendricks, 2nd Debra Hayley, approved unanimously

Introduction of new senators: New senators were welcomed; Lucretia Scoufos submitted a letter voluntarily resigning as chair-elect; a new nomination and ballot for chair elect will be done as soon as possible

Election of new officers:

Recorder: Gleny Beach, by acclamation

Treasurer: Bruce Johnson, nominated by Diane Dixon, 2nd Debra Haley, passed unanimously

Parliamentarian: Shannon McCraw, nominated by Ken Elder, 2nd by ___, passed unanimously

Historian: Diane Dixon agreed to serve another year

Survey of committee preference: handed out to each senator and each committee's description read by Wayne Jones

Old Business:

- Diane Dixon noted from the May meeting that administrative changes had been made to two science programs last spring (2007) without consulting faculty. Karl Frinkle asked how two programs could be eliminated without faculty knowledge, why, and what could be done. Are deletions/additions/changes going through appropriate committees. Muhammad Betz noted that this goes back to the previous administration. Dr. Frinkle motioned, 2nd by Chris Moretti, that the senate inquire as to why Physical and Environmental science programs were deleted without consent of faculty and to how the curriculum change process occurs. Motion passed: 20 in favor, 1 opposed.
- Committee on Committees September 10, 2008 Report, Diane Dixon: Jane Hicks declined nomination to Honors. Committee on Committees nominated David Romer to fill her slot. Kyle Thomas requested to be taken off ORPRC. Committee on Committees nominated Debra Haley to finish his term.

New Business:

- Linda Kallam, Director of Online Learning submitted a Proposal (handed out to each senator) for Name and Function Change of the Distance Learning Council (DLC). The DLC was created "to provide leadership in evaluating, reviewing, assessing, and developing the distance learning philosophy and curriculum." Distance learning, however, was not defined. The State of Oklahoma included IETV in "distance learning" and DLC's function includes only online and hybrid (blended) courses only. To clarify the function of the DLC and eliminate confusion, the proposal was made and approved by DLC members (9-8-08) to change the name of the DLC to Online Learning Council (OLC). The function was also rewritten "to provide leadership in evaluating, reviewing, assessing, and developing the online learning philosophy and curriculum." The OLC will work with academic departments and/or administrative offices to ensure the continuation, assessment, quality, and evolution of the online learning program and submit all policy and philosophy recommendations by the OLC to the Academic Council. The OLC will review online assessment and recommend modifications to appropriate departments/faculty as well as recommend technology and training to implement online courses and programs (refer to proposal handout for entire function statement) Motion to approve John Hendricks, 2nd Muhammad Betz: unanimously approved.

- Aaron Adair addressed the Senate concerning the 13.6 % health insurance premium increase. He provided a well-researched packet that included a summary of 2009 plan year changes and the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) mission, history, administration and function. There was very little notice to be prepared to pay this high increase beginning in January 2009. He pointed out

that he could see little increase in benefits except for five increased visits for chiropractor and occupational and speech therapy. However, for employees who have dependents on this health plan, the cost is prohibitive. He is searching for an alternative health plan for his dependants and ask the Faculty Senate to investigate and to advocate for a better coverage and cost. The Faculty Senate voiced strong support for Dr. Adair's concern. Not only is it individual policy holder's expense issue—it is also a major budget issue for the university.

The comment was made that the Board of Regents for RUSSO is shopping around. Wayne has communicated with other university faculty senates as well as other entities about this problem. Dr. Betz stated we should organize a joint statement/protest of this to interested parties. Glen Melancon stated it should go to the Personnel Policies Committee. Someone asked who represents us in this area. Charles Matthews responded that he met in 2005-06 with a state-wide committee to investigate this issue among others and found that this was not a subject that would be covered in the immediate future. Ken Elder suggested that we seek a joint resolution of at least four of the six RUSSO institutions. A motion was made by Debra Haley that we support a competitive bidding process to be employed by the Board of Regents based upon what OSEEGIB states as its mission. A friendly amendment to the motion was suggested by Bruce Johnson to state: Resolve that we request the Board of Regents for RUSSO institutions provide relief for excessive insurance cost by taking immediate steps to initiate a competitive bidding process that would be effective no later than January 1, 2010. Jennifer Hicks 2nd the motion: carried unanimously. A charge was given to Personnel Policies Committee regarding this motion.

- Proposed Changes for the Faculty Absence Request Form
 - Concern voiced by John Hendricks wondering the following: Will there be a consequence if faculty does not meet with their class or will they be charged with personal leave and is there a policy so that this form will be enacted across all departments?
 - Glen Melancon responded that there is no change in personal leave. We get 5 per year and the chair keeps the record, which leaves the chair vulnerable to consistency. There needs to be a consistent policy statement as to leave—personal time or professional leave. Faculty must fill out a leave form if they travel on a school day—school time—so that it is covered by insurance.
 - Ken Chinn stated that his understanding from the Chairs' meeting concerning this form was that consequences are not part of this form. It is intended to provide a form for faculty to fulfill their professional obligation or duty to make good use of student class time.
 - Charge was given to Personnel Policies Committee to form a policy. John Hendricks motioned to disapprove the form and send it to the Personnel Policies Committee to formulate a policy to accompany the form. 2nd by Patrick Reardon; motion was approved unanimously, the form was disapproved.
- Announcement: President Turner and Vice-President Minks will attend the Dec. 10 meeting
 - Ken Elder asked about the Annual Shared Governance Forum. Wayne explained that this new administration wished to meet with the Faculty Senate for questions and discussion of university business rather than a scripted forum—possibly once a month? It was proposed by Michael Kallam that this question time be a combination of prepared and spontaneous questions

Adjournment: This meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. (names?)

Respectfully Submitted: Dr. Gleny Beach, Faculty Senate Recorder