

Faculty Senate Minutes
(Approval pending)
Wednesday, February 22, 2017

3:00 PM: General Classroom Building 118

Hyperlinks to supporting documents are included

**As approved at the Faculty Senate meeting on March 8, 2017*

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Faculty Senate Chair Steven Emge called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

a. Attending:

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|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Daniel Althoff | Steven Emge | Brad Ludrick |
| Brandon Burnette | William Fridley | Charles Matthews |
| Han-Sheng Chen | Karl Frinkle | Stewart Mayers |
| Randy Clark | Crystal Jensen | Chris Moretti |
| Diane Dixon | | |

b. Not Attending

Stan Alluisi
Gleny Beach
Jeremy Blackwood
Martin Bressler
Mo Chehbouni
Kay Daigle

c. Attending – Guests

Carolyn Fridley

II. Approval of the [minutes from February 8, 2017](#)

Sen. Fridley moved to accept the minutes, Sen. Burnette seconded. The motion passed 11 in favor - 0 opposed - 0 abstentions.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Planning Committee – Did not meet. Sen. Ludrick sent a faculty-wide email on February 22, 2017 with an update on the Award nomination and voting process including links to allow faculty to view nominees’ letters of support: [SE Faculty: Over 400 nominations for faculty senate awards were received when the nomination period closed on January 20th. Over 70 supporting documents from award nominees were received when the documentation period closed on February 17th. These supporting documents are now available for your review by following each of the links provided below. Each of the dropbox](#)

folders are categorized by award, itemized in alphabetical order by nominee last name, and are “view-only”. Please note that not all nominees provided supporting documentation, but will still be eligible to receive votes during the voting process. Next week, I will send a Survey Monkey link to all the faculty at large for each faculty member to cast their vote for a nominee for each award. This faculty at large vote opens on Monday, February 27th and closes on Friday, March 3rd.

B. Committee on Committees – Will meet on Friday February 24 to review and discuss a proposal for a Learning Technologies Council that was forwarded from the Presidential Advisory Committee for Academics.

C. Executive Committee (EC) –

i. The EC met with President Burrage on Monday, February 13. Questions concerning the definition and conditions of *financial retrenchment* (as used in APPM 4.6.8) were the primary focus of the discussion. Burrage explained that financial retrenchment is initiated by a request from the president that is then subject to approval by the Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO). Such a request would be publicized, and approval of the request by RUSO would constitute a formal declaration of financial retrenchment. According to Burrage, there have been no known declarations of financial retrenchment by RUSO institutions in the last thirty years. While no identifiable benchmarks exist that constitute the need for financial retrenchment, [a document](#) was provided that listed several major events that could trigger a financial retrenchment:

- Reduction in State funding (appropriations)
- Reduction in enrollment (tuition and fee revenue)
- Large-scale unexpected expense(s)
- University reserve below State Regents requirements
- University viability ratio or Composite Financial Index (CFI) outside of acceptable range mandated by the Higher Learning Commission and RUSO Regents

President Burrage was not certain if there is a distinction between *financial retrenchment* and *financial exigency*. The ability to dismiss tenured faculty (APPM 4.6.8) would be the signal consequence of a formal declaration of financial retrenchment.

- ii. Chair Emge asked senators to study and review the university's mission statement and gather thoughts and comments to inform the *assurance report* for the Higher Learning Commission that will be due in May of 2018.
- D. Personnel Policies Committee – Did not meet.
- E. Budget Committee – Did not meet. Chair Emge stated that he received an email from Vice President for Business Affairs, Dennis Westman, indicating that the Budget Process Subcommittee of the PAC for Budget (aka Budget Task-Force) would be meeting soon to begin work on developing a *budget process*.
- F. University Affairs Committee – Did not meet.

IV. Old Business

- A. APPM 4.6.8 Revisions—[Motion filed](#) by the EC. The motion for revisions and additions to the APPM 4.6.8 (Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Program Discontinuance or Financial Retrenchment) was the result of the EC's and Senate's deliberation and work on a *reduction in force policy*. The recommended revisions formalize the processes for a program discontinuation, provide examples of "reasonable efforts to place affected members in other suitable positions," and identifies a priority scheme for continued employment for faculty affected by a program discontinuation. Sen. Clark made a motion to approve the revisions of the APPM 4.6.8. Sen. Fridley seconded. The motion passed 12 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstention.
- B. Shared Governance Forum #2 — The date for the semester's second forum (topic chosen by the Faculty Senate) will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 2:00 PM. Chair Emge asked senators to consider and forward possible topics. It was noted that the first Forum will be held on Monday, March 6 at 3:00 PM. The topic, chosen by the administration, is *Technology – Graduate Students/Programs – University Mission*
- C. Chair-elect Elections Announcement – Chair Emge shared a draft announcement modeled after last year's announcement for the election of the Archivist. The Senate found the draft to be agreeable, and Chair Emge will send the announcement to faculty next week.

V. New Business

- A. Resolution – Guns on Campus – Chair Emge received a request from the President’s office, in response to a request from Chancellor Johnson, concerning a guns on campus resolution. An example of such a resolution was provided for the Senate’s consideration:
- Whereas, a civil, safe, and open environment is fundamental to the educational and research mission of Southeastern, and
Whereas, guns, including legally purchased guns, have been involved in numerous unfortunate incidents on college campuses around the country in which students, faculty, and staff have been injured and killed; and
Whereas, numerous studies, have determined that possession of guns greatly increases the risk that innocent people will be shot, and
Therefore, let it be resolved that the Southeastern Oklahoma Faculty Senate, on behalf of Southeastern, strongly opposes any legislation that would allow guns on campus.

Senator Fridley made a motion to approve the resolution. Sen. Dixon seconded. Friendly amendments were made to change the wording of the resolution as follows:

Whereas, a civil, safe, and open environment is fundamental to the educational and research mission of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and
Whereas, guns, including legally purchased guns, have been involved in numerous incidents on college campuses around the country in which students, faculty, and staff have been injured or killed; and
Therefore, let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the faculty of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, strongly opposes any legislation that would allow guns on campus.

The motion passed 12 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions.

- B. Annual Faculty Senate Survey – Senators were asked to review last year’s Survey to consider if any changes are needed. The EC will be meeting soon to get the Survey ready for distribution in April.
- C. University Project Cover Grant – Chair Emge explained that he (along with several other university personnel) signed this grant proposal for a violence awareness project, as Chair of the Faculty Senate. He clarified to the grant writers that this did not constitute an endorsement by the Faculty Senate.

VI. Adjournment.

Sen. Clark motioned to adjourn. Sen. Althoff seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.
Respectfully submitted by William Lloyd Fridley, Faculty Senate Archivist