

End of the Year Report to the Faculty Senate

By the University Affairs Subcommittee

April 25, 2018

Committee Membership:

- Stan Alluisi; Kathy Boothe; Randy Clark, chair; Joshua Nannestad; & Rhonda Richards.

Information items:

- University Affairs began its year by electing a chair, Dr. Randy Clark. A list of scheduled meetings for the academic year follows: October 17, February 7; March 7; April 4, 18, and May 2.
- The Committee's first order of business was to discuss the description of the charges for the committee that were found on the Faculty Senate website. The primary mission of the Committee is (1) to promote communication between the student body and the faculty and (2) work on issues relating to the physical condition of the University. Due to the Committee's understanding of its mission, the "Brown-Bag Lunches" were not continued.
- The Committee discussed different ways to work with students, faculty, alumni and others and coordinate with Physical Plant to accomplish both charges. Several photographs of the University Center building, noting the fact that its construction did not match the rest of the buildings on the campus and lamenting the poor impression that the building made upon visitors, were shared. A suggestion was made that the exterior of the building be cleaned, or the walls be used for a mural or some other art project. Dan Simmons, Director of Physical Plant, was contacted and the Committee met with Mr. Simmons to gain an understanding of current physical condition issues across the campus and the schedule for addressing these issues. Dan has been here as the Director of Physical Plant for 1 ½ years and has been focusing on necessary changes due to being down 5 position and budget cuts; he compiled a list of needs and submitted it to the President for review. Boilers have been replaced which cost ~\$215,000 and were installed mid-December. This resulted in utilities savings of \$145,000 annually by installing high efficiency equipment. In addition, a Title 3 Grant updated classrooms in Morrison Hall's basement for ECU nursing simulation lab. The main focus on campus is currently the Biology building in an effort to make it more efficient – currently the utilities on that building are ~\$60,000 annually. Next focus will be on curb appeal, i.e. parking lot stripes and painting curbs, estimated at \$50,000. Lastly, the University is working with the City of Durant, Imagine Durant and the Department of Transportation to continue to make improvements to the bridge over Chuckwa Creek for parking in VPAC parking lot and access to the walking trail by the softball fields. The Committee was given an update on maintenance of the University Center building. The total cost to wash, prime & pain the wall, including labor, came to \$6,270. The Committee determined that the cost was prohibitive for an individual or group to cover and discussed other potential methods to fund the project.

- In order to deal with the charge to “promote communication between the student body and the faculty” Committee members met with Student Government Association’s executive Council, Tuesday, April 10, 2018, to coordinate meetings between Student Senate and University Affairs. Student senate will be sending a representative to future meetings of the Committee.
- The Committee also commissioned maintenance and use of the University Carillon. The Committee has made arrangements with the Music Department under the authority of Dr. Joshua Nannestad for the carillon’s system operation.

Potential Charges for 2018-2019:

- The Committee recommends that communication with the Music Department as to the use of the carillon continue to ensure that the system is being effectively utilized.
- In addition, the President of Student Government should be contacted at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year to inform the President of Student Government of the Committee’s meeting schedule so a representative from Student Government can attend.
- The Committee will need to follow through with the estimate for cleaning the back wall of the University Center building. In addition, the Committee will need to follow through with a master list compiled for maintenance issues to be addressed on campus.

Report submitted for filing by

Dr. Randy Clark