

Faculty Senate

Minutes

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

3:00 p.m.

General Classroom Building 118

Hyperlinks to supporting documents are included in these Minutes.

**as approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 2015*

I. Call to order and Welcome

Faculty Senate Chair Moretti called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Attending:

Dan Althoff	William Fridley
Jeremy Blackwood	Tom Harvey
Randy Clark	Layne Heitz
Kay Daigle	John Mischo
Diane Dixon	Chris Moretti
Blythe Duell	Hal Poovey
Steven Emge	

Not attending:

Martin Bressler
Dennis Brewster
Han-Sheng Chen
Riley Coker
George Jacox
Brad Ludrick
Krista Ramírez

II. Approval of the minutes from the meeting on February 4th

Sen. Fridley noted a typographical error on page 3: the word “form” should appear instead of “from.”

Sen. Duell moved that the corrected Minutes be approved.

Sen. Blackwood seconded the Motion.

The Motion to approve the corrected Minutes passed unanimously (11 votes in favor).

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning Committee

Sen. Daigle said the Faculty Senate Award Nominations page went live online; nominations are due by March 6. No additional report.

B. Budget Committee

- Report on meeting on faculty salaries with VP Walkup

The Budget Committee submitted a detailed [report](#) of their meeting with Vice President for Business Affairs Ross Walkup on February 11th. Sen. Emge summarized the bullet points provided on the first page of their [report](#).

Sen. **Duell** asked if the issue of merit raises had been raised; Sen. **Emge** answered that it had not.

C. University Affairs Committee

Sen. **Heitz** reported that the last Brown Bag Scholarly Lunch had four or five attendees, but that the discussion was very good. The next Scholarly Brown Bag Lunch will be on Thursday, March 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the Frost Chambers room of the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

D. Executive Committee

- **Information for Northeastern State University Faculty Council**

Faculty Senate Chair **Moretti** had reported at the previous Faculty Senate meeting that he had received a request for information from the Faculty Council of our sister institution, Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. The request from NSU asked about how Southeastern handled summer compensation for faculty, course overload salary structure, and online course enrollment caps. Chair **Moretti** submitted his detailed [response](#) to them, linked here for informational purposes. He reported that he had honored Sen. **Duell's** request for a summary report of NSU's findings by including that request in the email he sent to them, apart from the letter he included as an attachment to the email.

- **Academic Visioning Steering Team Meeting**

FS Chair **Moretti** submitted his comprehensive [notes](#) from the Academic Visioning Steering Team meeting held on February 18. Key developments include a new "division of labor" between an Advisory Group, consisting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and a Steering Team, consisting of Martin Bressler, Robert Stevens, and Larry Prather. Other members of the Steering Team include members of Administration: VPs Doug McMillan and Bryon Clark, Executive Dean Lucretia Scoufos, and Teena Henry, Academic Affairs Coordinator. FS Chair **Moretti** will serve as the link between the Steering Team and Advisory Group. Meetings will be held in March and April.

- **Executive Committee Meeting with the President**

The Executive Committee met with President Burrage. There were three topics of discussion: (1) University mission and direction; (2) recruitment and enrollment; and (3) proposal for funding increase in adjunct pay.

(1) There is no overarching vision. The President wants to increase the visibility of Southeastern over the course of the next three to five years, including the production of more television spots—possibly one a year. Items he is looking at for increased attention: niche programming, private fundraising, including Presidential Partners.

(2) Enrollment is up overall by a little. The President noted that Bryan County's State Sen. Brecheen is a supporter of concurrent enrollment.

(3) The Executive Committee presented a proposal for a dedicated \$1.00 per semester credit hour fee increase to be used to improve adjuncts' pay. A "back of the envelope" calculation yields an approximate \$130 raise in pay per course by using that method. The President was receptive.

The next Shared Governance Forum on March 9 will be devoted to the topic of university marketing.

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting with the President will be made available pending the President's opportunity to review them first (a standing policy—APPM 3.8).

E. Personnel Policies Committee

- **Proposed changes to tenure/promotion policy (on outside input, recusals, and annual review of the policy)**

The Personnel Policies Committee has met twice since the last Faculty Senate meeting; PPC chair Hal **Poovey** submitted their [report](#) on their actions related to their charges.

(1) Pursuant to the proposal contained in that report, Sen. **Poovey** requested that the Faculty Senate express its support for the following statement:

“It is recommended that the statement in 4.6.3 Procedure for Granting Promotion and Tenure Step 3, **“This review shall be conducted in a manner that allows for input from non-tenured colleagues, students, alumni, and administrative information from the department chair”** be struck from the current policy.”

Sen. **Clark** moved to support the statement.

Sen. **Althoff** seconded the Motion.

The Motion to support the statement was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

(2) Pursuant to the proposal contained in that report, Sen. **Poovey** requested that the Faculty Senate express its support for the following statement:

“It is recommended that the following be added to Step 2 **Recusal from the Promotion and Tenure Committee by qualified faculty is not allowed except in cases of nepotism or if the faculty member is involved in a current grievance pending related to the candidate. In these two instances alone the faculty member may choose to recuse themselves from the committee if circumstances would not allow them to make a fair unbiased assessment of the candidate.**”

FS Chair **Moretti** moved to support the statement.

Sen. **Dixon** seconded the Motion.

The Motion to support the statement was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

(3) Pursuant to the proposal contained in that report, Sen. **Poovey** requested that the Faculty Senate express its support for the following statement:

“Add to the end of the introduction paragraph 4.6.3. **“The Personnel Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Vice President should conduct an annual review of the promotion and tenure policy in the spring semester of each academic year.”**”

Sen. **Dixon** moved to support the statement.

Sen. **Fridley** seconded the Motion.

The Motion to support the statement was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

- **Proposal to use instant runoff voting in at-large Senate elections**

FS Chair **Moretti** moved that the Faculty Senate Chair election in spring 2015 be held using the instant runoff method.

Sen. **Daigle** seconded the Motion.

Prior introductory discussion had clarified that the “instant runoff method” was a ranking of candidates according to the voter’s preference (first choice, second choice, etc.) and that such a method would greatly reduce the need to have full runoff elections in the case of ties.

The Motion to hold the Faculty Senate Chair election in spring 2015 using the instant runoff method was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

F. Committee on Committees

Sen. **Dixon** announced that she had received an email from VP Bryon Clark stating that Stevenson Smith was on sabbatical, giving rise to a vacancy on the Institutional Assessment Committee. The Committee on Committees nominates Dr. Ying Lin to serve on the IAC for the remainder of the spring term.

Sen. **Dixon** moved for approval of the nomination of Dr. Ying Lin.

Sen. **Poovey** seconded the Motion.

The Motion was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

Sen. **Dixon** further noted that it may soon be necessary to revise the description of the Honors Committee membership and its function.

IV. Old Business

- **Treasurer’s Report**

Postponed until next Faculty Senate meeting.

V. New Business

A point of information came up: Adjunct pay schedule is currently handled by the State of Oklahoma. The payroll function currently handled by the State is expected in the future to become the university’s responsibility.

- **Bylaw proposal: proxy voting in the Senate**

FS Chair **Moretti** submitted a proposed [bylaw](#) which would allow for proxy voting in the Faculty Senate.

FS Chair **Moretti** moved that the proposed bylaw be adopted.

Sen. **Poovey** seconded the Motion.

The Motion to adopt the proposed bylaw to allow proxy voting in the Faculty Senate was approved unanimously (12 votes in favor).

- **Discussion of faculty oversight for classes/programs that do not fall within a department**

Comments by various Faculty Senators:

- Higher Learning Commission will have problems with this situation
- Academic Council seems a natural body to determine appropriate academic oversight
- The overseeing department(s) should be determined **prior** to approving a cross-disciplinary class or program
- The Graduate Council, depending on the course and/or program, may have a say
- Courses in Orientation could be considered a responsibility under General Education Council
- Academic Council should be overseeing the Bachelor of Liberal and Applied Studies (BLAS)

VI. Adjournment: The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Althoff

Recorder