

Email sent on 5-23-2020

RE: Requesting a meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Dear Executive Committee Colleagues:

Regarding President Newsom's statement yesterday concerning, among other things, the formation of three sub-committees on Instruction, Campus Living, and Athletics as part of the Southeastern COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, I understand that our Chair, Randy Clark, is a member of the sub-committee on Instruction. This is excellent news and a wise decision. I couldn't be more pleased, and I'm sure we all trust Dr. Clark to work in the best of interest of the faculty as well as in the best interest of the university.

To quote directly from Dr. Newsom's [statement](#):

These subcommittees will be formed in order to increase the number of decision-makers in regard to operationalization of the plan to specific divisions of the university. They will also be tasked with providing an additional line of communication in order to offer input from our different constituencies on campus.

According to our Constitution, the Faculty Senate has the unique responsibility of being "the official elected representative body of the faculty with powers to act for the Southeastern Oklahoma State University faculty" (APPM 3.3.1, Article II, Section A); and moreover, "[t]he Faculty Senate shall present the position of the faculty concerning policies affecting the University to the appropriate committee, administrative office, or board" (APPM 3.3.1, Article II, Section B).

President Newsom's charge to sub-committees to "provide an additional line of communication" to and from different constituencies on campus comports beautifully with the Faculty Senate's Functions and Powers described in our Constitution.

In light of the once-in-a-lifetime circumstances the University community is living through and adapting to almost hourly, I believe we are duty-bound to act. I propose that we gather during the week of May 25 as the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to discuss how best to discern the position of the faculty on fall instruction, and communicate that to the Recovery Task Force's Sub-committee on Instruction.

Best regards,
Dan

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