

Administrative Council Meeting Notes February 1, 2021

President Thomas Newsom began the meeting by welcoming Administrative Council Members. He also stated that he plans to continue regular monthly meetings. Executive Team Members will be invited if they are needed to make a presentation or report on a specific topic. He asks that members submit agenda items one week prior to the meeting. He also wanted to clarify that if you submit a topic, that doesn't mean that you must make a presentation. Members may also submit items that they would like to discuss or have President Newsom address. You may also present updates that are relevant to the entire group for your area. President Newsom opened the floor for updates, comments, or suggestions.

Ami Towne reported that they will be disbursing financial aid next Wednesday. Many students have been asking. She stated that she sent an email to all student recipients but they don't always check their email.

Michele Hockersmith gave an update on the OSBDC. Their office has been assisting with the Cares Act Funding. They are up to 30 advisors assisting since the pandemic. They have helped 2,217 businesses with 30 million dollars in capital. They have added partnerships and are looking at adding the 4th partnership with OSU. They are also looking at ways to assist minority businesses.

Dr. Meg Cotter-Lynch stated that the deadline for honors was yesterday in theory but applications are still trickling in. Students must have a 3.5 GPA or 25 ACT or 1200 SAT to qualify. The state has not changed the standard. SE is short on applicants for top scholarships due to having issues taking tests. If you know of anyone that would qualify, please have them apply.

Dr. Randy Clark gave an update on behalf of the Faculty Senate. The next Shared Governance forum is scheduled for February 16 at 2 pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Administration will select the topic. Faculty Senate also sponsored a COVID-19 Response Survey. The survey results were emailed to Vice Presidents. If you would like a copy, please email Randy and he will send it to you. It spells out what a great job the University did in the fall.

President Newsom stated that he really appreciated the Faculty Senate for doing the survey.

Christala Smith stated that CIDT has been working with OneNet and faculty on 360 engines. These are similar to real estate tours you see online. Courtroom simulations can be done with this technology. Student workers are learning how to use it. OneNet is paying for 50 modules to be used for instructional tools.

Dan Simmons reported that there has been some concern about SE not having enough PPE & chemicals in stock for the pandemic. He stated that the physical plant has acquired some new vendors and that he now has enough in stock to last a couple of years.

President Newsom thanked Dan and all of the employees in that department for all of their hard work during the pandemic.

President Newsom said that he knows it is early in the semester but several small groups on campus have already been discussing summer and fall activities. Commencement is being discussed and we are looking at ways to possibly have a safe graduation. When planning for summer and fall, President Newsom said to plan for both face to face and virtual. The notice was sent out for students to travel abroad next fall but with the idea that we may have to cancel or postpone. We need to make sure that deposits are refundable. With summer camps, go ahead and start planning with the understanding that things might change.

President Newsom said that the budget process is being looked at. Dennis will be sending out a timeline soon. We will be going back to the old process that we had prior to the pandemic. Department chairs and directors will be asked to submit spreadsheets for budget requests. It may take a couple of budget cycles to get it where we want it to be. President Newsom stated that we don't know for sure what state funding will look like but the Governor presented his budget today and it looks like we may be flat this year. We may see a reduction next year though, so we must stay cautious. Also, in the Governor's State of the State address today, he said we have some new revenue and unemployment is not as high as other states.

President Newsom said that there are currently 3,040 bills in the Oklahoma legislature for review. He is tracking 68 of them that might affect Higher Education. We will see on February 25 how many clear the committee. There are a number of bills regarding guns and guns on campus. If your organization would like to send a recommendation or resolution regarding guns on campus, those need to be sent to the Chancellor. As it stands, policy allows the President of the University to make exceptions or give permission to individuals who have a need for a gun on campus. Otherwise, they are prohibited. There is also a bill to add 11th grade to Oklahoma Promise, teacher certification exemptions, and also a bill to never raise tuition.

President Newsom mentioned that SE has received additional COVID relief funds. We have four million dollars with one million going to students and the other three eligible to spend on a wider scope. The funds may be used to make up for revenue losses. We need to capture everything and ask for reimbursement. If you have any losses in your area, please send that information to Dennis Westman.

Southeastern has been working with the Bryan County Health Department since the pandemic started. Last week we had the opportunity to send out an email to employees 65 or older to get on a list to receive the vaccine. Next week we will be sending out another notice for the next group eligible. We are not requiring employees to get vaccinated but just want to provide the resources if they want it.

Meg Cotter-Lynch asked how the one million dollars for students is being disbursed. President Newsom said that it is still being decided. The guidelines are not clear. He will let everyone know once the decision is made.

The GAC sent out an announcement last week about fans at indoor events. Starting today, each home team player and non-student coach is permitted to put four guests on a pass list. Fans will be required to wear a mask and social distance. The most we would have in the arena would be 80 fans and would keep us under our current guidelines. We will continue the same

protocol for outdoor sports. No visitor fans will be allowed. SE has had 5,000 to 7,000 viewers watch basketball games online. It is important to students for their family and friends to get to see them play.

President Newsom said these Administrative Council Meetings are important for us to have time for discussion. He looks forward to the day when we have the ability to meet face to face. He thanked all members for what they do. Go out and do great things.