



Southeastern Oklahoma
State University

Faculty Senate NEWS BRIEF

The purpose of the Faculty Senate *News Brief* is to keep faculty informed about Faculty Senate meetings. Agendas and minutes of meetings can be accessed by clicking on the [Faculty Senate Homepage](#).

FROM THE SENATE MEETING ON 17 JANUARY 2024

The **Treasurer** had no new report, but has devised a plan to resolve outstanding questions about Faculty Senate's budget allocations with the collaboration of the Senate Chair. Ami Towne, of Staff Senate, graciously offered her assistance and collaboration, to help resolve these questions

The **Budget Committee (BC) and Personnel Policies (PPC) Committee** are continuing their collaboration with respect to ongoing review of the salary card, noting that—even with recent revisions—attracting and retaining faculty remains difficult, so long as pay remains below the tenth percentile. A meeting has been set with Pres. Newsom and VP Westman, *inter alia*, for the 15th of February.

The **Budget Committee (BC)** had no report beyond the shared committee report for the salary card joint committee.

Personnel Policies (PPC) Committees had no additional report, beyond that shared for the salary card joint committee.

The **Executive Committee (EC)** has engaged in preliminary study of a topic for the Spring Shared Governance Fora's first topic, based on recent feedback about the dearth of mid-career faculty in leadership roles. Early results indicate a noticeable decrease in the number of colleagues at either/both the associate professor level or/and those who have been at the university for more than 10 years. Since this deficit of mid-career faculty creates a leadership vacuum that threatens regular and useful shared governance, the Executive Committee has proposed this for a topic of further discussion.

The **Planning Committee (PC)** reports that nominations for Faculty Senate Awards have already yielded more than 120 nominations, but that the portal for nominations will remain open until early February. Nominations are still warmly encouraged for all categories, but especially for research and service awards where numbers are usually smaller.

Committee on Committees (CC) reports that the list of University Committee members and their chairs is now up-to-date and will be deployed to fill vacancies during the usual Spring appointment period.

The **University Affairs Committee (UAC)** reports that it is meeting soon to discuss its charges and their progress, but had no formal report for Senate.

Within New Business of the Senate, two discussions require note here. First, Senate held exploratory discussions around the need for possible revision to the University's Academic Integrity Policies regarding cheating and plagiarism in light of the challenge of proving that AI was used in contradicted manners for coursework submitted for credit. Among the discussed elements was the inclusion of a (variously named) "F!" grade to denote that the mark had been earned as a result of academic dishonesty. The Senate Chair, in response to vigorous discussion of the various pertinent issues, is convening an *ad hoc* task force to discuss the issue, and invites faculty to volunteer for discussion of this issue. Second, Senate discussed concerns about the transition between general and major-specific advisors—i.e. when undergraduates being advised by the Advising Center declare their major and solicit an advisor from their major. There was additional discussion about how this might also impact the nature of courses that appropriate for General Education students versus those that are designed for, if not exclusive, students in a specific major. Some question was raised about the impact that Civitas¹ might have on this issue, as well as the adaptation to a "student-ready university" model, and how faculty should shape important policy questions regarding these issues.

¹ IPA pronunciation: ki:wta:s
Simplified pronunciation: kee-WIH-tahs

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

The Mutual Mentoring Group is holding a meeting to discuss to talk about the library's commitment to making both faculty research and research-driven classroom teaching more plausible and feasible at Southeastern on 25 January, 15:30 in Science 333, led by Senators Kramer and Greene.. Topics for the meeting include, but are not limited to Open Educational Resources (OERS), Research collections and resources, and Library Resources for Research-driven Teaching.

The Director of Study Abroad reminds his colleagues that the application period for short term summer study at our partner campuses in Geneva, Leiden, Vienna, and Athens are open until the end of February, and include both internship programs and taught modules. The Fall semester has similar openings at those campuses, plus a program in Firenze, whose deadline is in March. If faculty have students that might benefit from these career- and academically-oriented programs, they should refer the students to www.se.edu/study-abroad or have the students email studyabroad@se.edu.

Please visit the [Faculty Senate website](#) for detailed information concerning *your* representative body!

This Faculty Senate News Brief was produced by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate: Kate Shannon, chair; Sondra Petty, Chair-Elect; Amy Gantt, vice chair; Randy Clark, past-chair; B. Steve Csaki, treasurer; Andy Kramer, archivist; Kyle C. Lincoln, recorder; Christopher Moretti, parliamentarian.