

University Affairs Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on April 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Laura Lamb Atchley, Jeni Maple, and Mila Zhu.

Absent: Jennifer Anderson, Kyle Lincoln, Sarah Morrison, and Frank Xu

Updates on action items were provided as follows:

Dead Time During the Academic Week

Laura Lamb Atchley reported she had not heard back from Jennifer Swearingen on this issue, so she had nothing to report.

Communication between our Faculty, Faculty of Other Universities, and the Public

Mila Zhu reported that her department had been going through their Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation visit so she and Jennifer Anderson and Sarah Morrison had been tied up with that, so she had nothing to report.

Physical Plant

Jeni Maple provided the following updates regarding issues related to the physical plant.

Meeting with Dennis Westman to discuss American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding:

- Westman confirmed that the state has expressed concerns about these funds being spent before the federal deadline (Oct. 31, 2026) - funds not spent by this date could be lost. However, these concerns are not directed specifically to SE but to all institutions that received this funding.
 - Approximately \$7.5 to the state of OK, awarded to multiple institutions
 - Some institutions have not started spending any of these funds yet (e.g., those with bigger projects requiring matching funds through donations, etc.)
 - Westman said that, essentially, the state took time with the proposal and approving process and is now rushing institutions to spend the funds.
- Our projected completion date is September 2026, and while he noted that unforeseen circumstances could arise, Westman said he feels "confident we are not at risk" of losing the funding.

Again, faculty and staff are urged to report any repairs, maintenance, and projects needed through the work order system [School Dude](#).

Establish Communication with Adjuncts to Encourage Them to Bring Concerns to the Senate

Frank Xu was not in attendance at the meeting so there was no report on this aspect of our charge.

Communication between the Faculty Senate and Student Senate

Kyle Lincoln was not in attendance at the meeting, so there was no report on this aspect of our charge.

Other Business

Senator Lamb Atchley reported that she would be at a conference next Wednesday, so she asked Senator Maple to present the committee's report at the next Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for the same day. Senator Maple agreed to do so.

A Doodle poll will be sent to committee members to identify which day and time for the next meeting will work best for the majority of committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Lamb Atchley