

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – March 10, 2014 – 3:30 p.m. – Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102

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Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. A recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Edgar O’Rear, Chair.

PRESENT: Apanasov, Atiquzzaman, Ayres, Bemben, Bergey, Bert, Burcham, Burns, Clark, Coleman, Cracknell, Cravey Stanley, Duncan, Elisens, Grady, Hahn, Halterman, Hewes, Irvine Johnson, Kong, Kornelson, Kutner, Lamb, Laubach, Loon, Mackey, Marcus-Mendoza, Merchan-Merchan, Miller, Nelson, O’Rear, Palmer, Pigott, Raman, Refai, Sharma, Shelton, Smith, Snell, Stoltenberg, Strout, Terry, Warren, Wong

Provost’s representative: ---

ISA representatives: ---

Others: R.C. Davis-Undiano, Felix Wao, VPR Droegemeier,
Betsey Martens (Tulsa Faculty Liaison)

ABSENT: Cortest, Forman, Mortimer, Riggs, Schmeltzer, Schwarzkopf

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of February 10, 2014 was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce the recipients of the Ed Cline faculty development awards for 2013-14: Loretta Bass (Sociology), Marjorie Callahan (Architecture), Janet Croft (University Libraries), Lee Fithian (Architecture), William Frick (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies), Samik Ghosh (Construction Science), Nian Liu (Modern Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics), Kimberly Marshall (Anthropology), William Matthews (Biology), Chie Noyori-Corbett (Social Work), Lina Ortega (University Libraries), and K. Meghan Wieters (Regional & City Planning).

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the deaths of retired faculty members John Skvarla (Botany and Microbiology) on March 2, 2014 and Forrest Frueh (Marketing) on March 4, 2014. Prof. Skvarla retired in 2010 as a George Lynn Cross Research Professor Emeritus of Botany after 45 years of service to OU and Prof. Frueh retired in 1999 as Professor Emeritus of Marketing and Legal Studies after 35 years of service to OU.

The Big Event, a student-run community service effort, will be held on April 5, 2014. For more information visit <http://bigevent.ou.edu/website/>.

A new exhibition at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art titled “Allan Houser Drawings: The Centennial Exhibition” contributes to a statewide celebration of the artist’s work.

The Sam Noble Museum of Natural History will exhibit “George M. Sutton: Exploring Art & Science” through April 20, 2014, which features 75 watercolor paintings from George Miksch Sutton's Mexico, Arctic, and U.S. expeditions.

Prof. O’Rear asked the VPR to introduce Dr. Michael Thompson, Director of Broader Impacts in Research, who joined OU in January 2014.

REMARKS REGARDING WORLD LITERATURE TODAY, THE NEUSTADT PRIZE, AND THE PUTERBAUGH FESTIVAL BY ROBERT CON DAVIS-UNDIANO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

Prof. O’Rear introduced Robert Con Davis-Undiano, Executive Director of *World Literature Today* (<http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/>). *World Literature Today* (WLT) has been housed at OU since 1927, and is a humanities center for students. Its core activities are producing two magazines, *World Literature Today* and *Chinese Literature Today*. In addition to offering two literary prizes, the Neustadt and NSK Neustadt Prize for Children’s Literature, WLT puts on a conference each semester. It sponsors a constant stream of talks, discussion panels, film series, live theater, musical performance, and art exhibits. There is a professional staff of eleven; however there are many student interns, upwards of 30 to 40. WLT also sponsors three to four courses each year and provides the instructional faculty. The Neustadt Family has endowed internships, as grants and scholarships, in order to allow students to be able to take these courses. WLT also sponsors a book club.

Over the last decade, WLT has tried to find ways to open up its doors more to students, faculty, and staff in addition to trying to more aggressively serve the region and the surrounding states. WLT’s partnership with the Norman Public Schools allows the center to bring in 400 to 500 students to hear authors speak, with books being provided to the students in advance. WLT also works with libraries from throughout Oklahoma such as the Pioneer Library System to bring librarians to campus to hear authors. In addition, WLT staff are in talks with the Dean of Fine Arts about a developing a play-version of the Fall literature. There are 281,000 readers of WLT and over 150,000 Facebook followers.

Last year, WLT started working with a public relations firm to publicize the Neustadt prizes. The firm is paid for directly by the Neustadt family. This year’s Puterbaugh Festival starts on March 26, 2014 and faculty members are encouraged to attend the Puterbaugh Festival events.

Prof. Lamb asked about the journal ranking of *WLT*. He is familiar with the ranking system of journals in the sciences and asked if *WLT* is ranked and if so, where. Prof. Davis-Undiano said it is based on citations and he would have to check to see whether that is the case in humanities and if so, how *WLT* is ranked. He went on to indicate that digital publications would cut into the market for print publications. Prof. Burns asked about trends in audiobooks. Prof. Davis-Undiano says they make audio recordings of authors reading from their books available as audio clips on the *WLT* website at <http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/>.

There were no additional questions. Prof O'Rear thanked Prof. Davis-Undiano for speaking to the Senate.

REMARKS CONCERNING FACULTY SUPPORT WITH ASSESSMENT BY FELIX WAO, DIRECTOR FOR ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES FOR THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE (CTE)

Prof. O'Rear introduced Dr. Felix Wao, Director for Assessment Outcomes for the Center for Teaching Excellence. He joined OU in July of 2013 and comes to us from Bridgewater State in Connecticut and more recently from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Wao said faculty members need to be aware of assessment and understand how it can benefit both faculty and students. He noted that there is often a weak link between course assessment and program assessment. The Center for Teaching Excellence has begun offering workshops to OU faculty and teaching assistants. Workshops are offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for one hour each day or on Tuesday and Thursday for one and a half hours. The workshops have been well attended and a list of upcoming workshops is available on the CTE website at: <http://www.ou.edu/content/cte/communities/workshops/workshops-spring-2014/assessment-workshops.html>. Dr. Wao is also willing to meet one-on-one with faculty. He noted that some of these workshops will be also offered at the program level during the Fall 2014 semester.

Dr. Wao is working with the Academic Program Review (APR) Committee to align their processes with program assessment. He is doing a meta-assessment of the assessment reports and is developing an assessment data management system that will be tied back to curriculum improvement.

Prof. Johnson asked if his program is going to be taking over assessment at OU. Dr. Wao said they will assist in the process. Prof. O'Rear asked if there has been a survey of the state of assessment at OU. Dr. Wao said that he has looked at the sixteen programs undergoing assessment this year. Prof. O'Rear asked Dr. Wao if he is available to assist with national accreditations such as ABET. Dr. Wao said that he could assist departments with self-study and preparation for reviews. Prof. O'Rear asked if he would create a template to help faculty with program assessment. Dr. Wao said that there seems to be much variation in what departments include in their sections of the assessments, thus they are developing a template to make that content more standardized.

Prof. Halterman stated that the list of workshops was impressive, but wondered what content or outcomes could be shared with faculty who are unable to attend the workshops. He suggested preparing materials they can read through in more detail. Dr. Wao said that he is happy to provide an evaluation of the workshops the next time they are offered. VPR Droegemeier asked if Dr. Wao could assist in providing tools for departments to use the results of assessments to improve their processes. Dr. Wao said that his office can and that they are currently meeting with departments to assist in developing rubrics.

There were no additional questions. Prof O'Rear thanked Dr. Wao for speaking to the Senate.

FOR DISCUSSION: OU RETIREES ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

The OU Retirees Association (OURA) has drafted a resolution of support for Pres. Boren's efforts to thwart cutbacks in state support for the University of Oklahoma as follows:

*WHEREAS, a well-educated workforce is vital for the nation's economic progress, and
 WHEREAS, the financial health of the country's institutions of higher education is critical to
 furthering the development of a well-educated work force, and
 WHEREAS, the growing cost for these colleges and universities to educate more and more
 students has become an increasing financial burden, and
 WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma faces an especially difficult financial future with the
 threat of decreasing state support, and
 WHEREAS, over the past five years, the University of Oklahoma has lost about \$100 million in
 state support and now receives only about 17 percent of its operating budget from state
 appropriations, and
 WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed state budget for FY 2015 calls for a 5 percent reduction in
 state funding for higher education, and
 WHEREAS, such a decline in state support would require the University to either raise student
 tuition or reduce spending for vital programs, or both, and
 WHEREAS, such actions would be detrimental to the enormous progress toward excellence
 achieved in the past several decades and detract from the University's growing
 reputation as a top-tier national institution of higher education, now
 THEREFORE, be it resolved by the University of Oklahoma Retirees Association that it strongly
 endorses President David L. Boren's efforts to thwart this proposed cutback of state
 support for the University of Oklahoma.*

The OURA will be voting on this resolution at their next meeting, and Prof. O'Rear would like the Faculty Senate to vote on endorsement of that resolution at the April senate meeting.

Prof. Grady said that some of the numbers were not quite accurate and suggested that OURA verify them. Prof. Lamb asked what exactly the senate would be voting on. Prof. O'Rear said that we would vote to endorse the OURA resolution and added that he said he would make sure that the final version of the resolution has the correct figures.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Edgar A. O'Rear, III

“Two new staff members were introduced at the February 19 Deans' Council Meeting. Stewart Berkinshaw will be taking over for Cindy Cash as Associate Provost and Director of Financial Operations. A licensed CPA, Mr. Berkinshaw earned a BBA in Finance and Accounting, Summa cum Laude, and a Master of Accountancy from The University of Oklahoma. His employment prior to coming to OU was with one of the Big Four Auditors, KPMG. Associate Vice President for Research Alicia Knoedler introduced Michael Thompson who becomes the Director of Broader Impacts in Research. Dr. Thompson double majored in Biology and Chemistry at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana and then earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biochemistry and Chemistry at Purdue University. His experience includes working with the Oregon Health and Science University's Institute of Environmental Health and the NSF Center for Coastal Margin Observation & Prediction. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) policy has gone into effect. The policy through the Office of Risk Management covers compatible units and maintenance requirements. AEDs should be available for large public events at OU. The full policy can be found online on the Risk Management website (<http://www.ou.edu/risk>).

“The Deans' Council meeting for February was mainly spent with an update on significant legal issues. Chief Legal Counsel Anil Gollahalli gave an overview of his office and introduced several staff members with specific areas of responsibility. Implications for a variety of recent laws and

court decisions are being examined including the DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), ACA (Affordable Care Act), e-cigarettes, scholarships based on race or gender, and firearms. Separate presentations were made by Office of Legal Counsel staff on employment law, the Oklahoma Open Records Act, Export Controls, and Minors on Campus Guidelines. The employment law component dealt with leave management and primarily the ACA requirements for OU. Administrators were reminded about the program for behavioral intervention as a possible resource to help a troubled employee. Faculty receiving requests for materials under the Open Records Act should work with OU's Open Records Office. It is important to understand that there is no requirement to create a document. Faculty members are advised to be careful in the use of phones, emails, and texts for University business, even if the communication is on a personal device. The Open Records Office has the responsibility also to respond to requests for student education records under the Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) from third parties (<https://soonerspace.ou.edu/content/ferpa.html>). Contact Michael Purcell (NEL 113, 325-0202) for more information on Open Records. Legal requirements under export controls were reviewed. Generally, the law covers specified items or technologies with certain destinations, end use, or end users (<http://www.ou.edu/content/exportcontrols.html>). The last subject from Legal Counsel covered guidelines and procedures for minors on campus. A wide variety of activities cause minors to come to the University of Oklahoma. In the wake of the abuse incidents at Penn State University, there are concerns for the safety of children. The policy may be reviewed online (<https://www.ou.edu/content/web/landing/policy.html>).

“Over the last three weeks of February, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee interviewed candidates for the College of Arts and Sciences and the Price College of Business. Five interviews were conducted with three prospective deans for Arts and Sciences and two for Business. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee provided its input in the form of memos to the chairs of the search committees, Dean Joe Harroz for the College of Business search and Dean Gregg Garn for the College of Arts and Sciences search.

“The Faculty Advisory Council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) met on Tuesday, February 25. Daniel Archer, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs made a presentation on the history of general education in Oklahoma. Broad guidelines were adopted in 1984 with number of credit hours specified in 1994 for English, U.S. history & government, science, humanities, and mathematics. Additional hours were required from among psychology, social science, foreign languages, and fine arts. A computer science requirement was added in 1998. Core objectives are similar to 1984 as represented by five areas, which are: communication and symbols; social, political, and economic institutions; understanding relationships in nature and science; understanding of human heritage and culture; and values and beliefs. Some discussion followed about how to do a better job with remediation. The State Regents are working with math educators to find answers and reform remediation programs. One issue is how to address specific needs so that students can be successful in their particular area.

“Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships Debra Stuart communicated two items from the OSRHE Student Advisory Group to the Faculty Advisory Council. The student group would like to see faculty give more timely feedback. Students also sought better academic advising because some students fall through the cracks. The Faculty Advisory Council noted that advising is multi-faceted, spanning coursework to career counseling, so the exact request of the students was not quite clear. Hollye Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, called in from the state capital to give an update on bills that had to make it out of committee that week for further consideration. She has been following bills related to guns on campus and tuition setting authority. Only one proposal for guns on campus remained. It came out of the Judiciary Committee and apparently has a provision allowing the president of the institution to set policy. A bill that would have frozen tuition for five years did not make it through the Higher Education Committee and Board consolidation was also stopped. Some reform is under consideration for the Teachers' Retirement System, but changes would only apply to new hires. The change may make it harder to attract new hires.

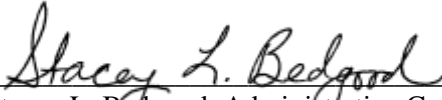
“Due to inclement weather and the closing of the University on March 3, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting for March was rescheduled for March 5. The meeting opened with members of the Executive Committee being encouraged to make legislative visits in support of the University. Mike Bembem, Cal Stoltenberg, Chris Ramseyer, Greg Burge, and Ed O’Rear all expressed interest in participating. Their names were forwarded to Al Schwarzkopf who leads these efforts with Vice President for Government Relations Danny Hilliard. The first topic for discussion was the dean searches for Arts & Sciences and for Business. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee interviewed both candidates for Business and all three candidates for Arts & Sciences, although the interview with Kristine Blair was conducted by conference call due to scheduling issues. Memos with input from the interviews were available for review. These had been sent to Dean Joe Harroz who chaired the Dean Search Committee for the Price College of Business and to Dean Gregg Garn who chaired the Dean Search Committee for the College of Arts & Sciences.

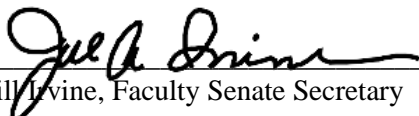
“Executive Director of *World Literature Today*, R. C. Davis-Undiano, described the history of *WLT* and associated activities. This includes publication of *World Literature Today*, *Chinese Literature Today (CLT)*, the Neustadt and NSK Prizes, and the Puterbaugh Festival. Many distinguished authors have come to OU under aegis of *WLT* events including Nobel Prize winners Gabriel Garcia-Márquez, Kenzaburo Oe, and Orhan Pamuk. Unfortunately, visibility of the Neustadt Prize among the general public has not been commensurate with the prestige of the award, an award characterized by the “*New York Times*” as the America Nobel in Literature. Steps taken by a public relations firm from Colorado show promise in elevating the broader status of the Neustadt Prize. Dr. Felix Wao described his responsibilities as the Director of Assessment Outcomes in the Center for Teaching Excellence. Although at OU for only a relatively short period of time, he has created a series of workshops on assessment from students to courses to programs. Interested faculty members are referred to the CTE website (www.ou.edu/cte.html) for more information. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee welcomed Dr. Emily Neff as the new Director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. She described her educational background and her experience as curator at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. After learning more about the University, she will be developing a vision for museum at OU. Projects are nonetheless already underway with three departments. Members were invited to the opening of the Allan Houser Centennial Exhibit. Director Neff will be speaking at the April meeting of the full Faculty Senate. Finally, the last agenda item covered was a communication plan for the Bizzell Library Master Plan Steering Committee. Faculty Senate Chair Ed O’Rear, Dean of University Libraries Rick Luce, and University Library Committee Chair Dan Emery have been working on ideas for getting faculty input on the renovation of Bizzell Library. The renovation follows national trends at academic libraries in response to remote access through electronic media. Possibilities include a survey, a website, and meetings with representatives of the faculty.”

Prof. Lamb asked the names of the candidates for the deans’ positions. Prof. O’Rear answered giving the names of the three candidates for the A&S dean and the two for the Business dean.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2014, in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102.


 Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator


 Jill Irvine, Faculty Senate Secretary