

*JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE*

The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)

Regular session – December 8, 2014 – 3:30 p.m. – Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102

office: Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 206 phone: (405) 325-6789

e-mail: [facsen@ou.edu](mailto:facsen@ou.edu) website: <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/>facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/OUFacultySenate>

*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.*

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The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Randall Hewes, Chair.

PRESENT: Ayres, Barker, Bemben, Bergey, Bradshaw, Burcham, Burke, Cracknell, Cravey Stanley, Elisens, Fiedler, Forman, Frickestein, Halterman, Harm, Hart, Hewes, Hirschfeld, Irvine, Johnson, Johnson, Kong, Kornelson, Kutner, Lawson, Liu, Livingood, Lupia, Mackey, Merchan-Merchan, Mortimer, Raman, Refai, Riggs, Schmeltzer, Schmidt, Scrivener, Sharma, Sikavitsas, Smith, Snell, Stock, Strout, Terry, Weaver

Provost's Representative: Kyle Harper

ISA representatives: Chris Cook, Dan Hough

SGA Representative(s): None. (Note: It is Final Exams Week.)

Other(s): Felix Wao, Mark Morvant, Lee Williams

ABSENT: Coleman, Fincke, Goode, Laubach, Marcus-Mendoza, Miller

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**APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for the spring 2015 semester are schedule to be held at 3:30 p.m. in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102 on the following Mondays: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 4. In lieu of the January meeting of the Faculty Senate, a reception for Senators and members of the Higher Administration will take place on January 12, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. in Jacobson Hall, Room 102.

The 2015 State of Creativity Forum will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2015. More information is available at <http://stateofcreativity.com>.

Tinker Air Force Base recently initiated a program very similar to OU's international student sponsor family program. "Team Tinker Home Away From Home" matches Tinker's college-age Airmen and Sailors with sponsor families that help provide a caring environment for young service members that are far from home, often for the first time in their lives. Much like OU's sponsor program, "Home Away From Home" sponsors provide Airmen and Sailors a welcoming place to relax, opportunities for home-cooked meals, and inclusion in holiday events and activities. To become a sponsor, please contact OU alumni Major Richard Layman, USAF, Team Tinker Home Away From Home's Co-Executive Director at [layman@tinkerhafh.org](mailto:layman@tinkerhafh.org) or 708-1883.

The Center for Teaching Excellence is accepting proposals for the Faculty Fellows Program, <http://www.ou.edu/content/cte/about/cte-faculty-fellows.html>, due by December 15, 2014, and for Janux Next courses, <http://www.ou.edu/content/cte/initiatives/open-courses/request-forproposals-2015.html>, due by December 18, 2014.

The Center for Teaching Excellence, OU Information Technology, and the University Libraries will be hosting the Fourth Annual Academic Technology Expo on January 9, 2015. This event is open to all faculty members who are interested in learning about emerging technologies that can facilitate improvements in teaching. Additional details should be emailed to faculty soon and can be found at <http://academictech.ou.edu/>.

The Faculty Senate sent out the call for proposals for the Ed Cline Faculty Development Awards on November 10, 2014. Proposals are due to the Faculty Senate office by February 2, 2015 and up to \$2,500 may be awarded per proposal. Further information is available at <http://facultysenate.ou.edu/facdev.htm>.

**REMARKS BY FELIX WAO, ABOUT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES**

Prof. Hewes introduced Felix Wao. Dr. Wao thanked the Chair and the Executive Committee for the opportunity to speak at today's senate meeting. He stated that assessment is about celebrating student learning and what they can contribute to the world once they have graduated from OU. The new Office of Assessment has four employees and conducts training sessions and performs course assessments for faculty. The staff will also meet with faculty members to develop rubrics and assist with self-studies for accreditation.

There was a recent Program Assessment training that was attended by 92 assessment liaisons, chairs, and directors. Participants realized there are many shared challenges between disciplines and outreach to all the colleges, both at the Dean and chair level.

Results of the forum included discussion of clear forum objectives and clear Information about OU's vision of assessment. The content was well organized and the forum increased the Chairs' knowledge about the program assessment process. Over 85% of participants gave a positive rating of regarding their overall satisfaction with the forum. There was much feedback regarding spending sufficient time to develop the assessments or self-studies. The concerns about the program assessment process include:

- Time (73% of participants named this)
- Linking Methods and Outcomes (64% of participants named this)
- Use of Assessment Results (62% of participants named this)
- Direct and Indirect Assessment Methods (60% of participants named this)
- Stating Learning Outcomes (58% of participants named this)
- Lack of Examples (57% of participants named this)
- Creating Rubrics (56% of participants named this)
- Lack of Training (48% of participants named this)

The Assessment process can be illustrated as:



These are not new processes; they are just imbedded in day-to-day interactions with students. Dr. Wao's office will review the assessment reports that were just submitted by departments using the four steps above and provide feedback on improvements. They will be conducting workshop during the spring 2015 semester and plan to continue to the Program Assessment Forum every year. Short and long-term plans include:

- Program Assessment Feedback
- Assessment Consultations
- Assessment Workshops (course and program)
- Communities of Practice
- Scholarship of Assessment
- Assessment Forums
- Assessment-related Institutional Grants

Dr. Wao stated that we are moving from a climate of an accountability exercise to assessment of student learning. For more information, faculty can contact Dr. Wao at [wao@ou.edu](mailto:wao@ou.edu) or learn more about the Office of Academic Assessment at <http://www.ou.edu/assessment>.

Prof. Barker asked if this office is tasked with collecting data about assessment, especially in politically charged areas. Dr. Wao said that this type of data is not requested from his office. However, they do analyze data on student performance to assist departments, but do not deal with politicians directly.

Prof. Merchan-Merchan asked about how data is collected on student satisfaction. Dr. Wao stated that a survey is performed each year and they will be sharing the resulting data with various OU organizations, including the Faculty Senate. All of the data will be aggregate. Prof. Hewes asked when the departments would start receiving feedback on the assessment reports. Dr. Wao stated that dissemination would start in January.

### **REMARKS BY MARK MORVANT, ABOUT CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE PRIORITIES**

Prof. Hewes introduced Prof. Morvant who stated that the CTE's mission is to "Inspire, Facilitate, Enable". In 2014, there were 32 Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) & Workshops, with 19 different facilitators, 467 registrants, and 363 attendees. The objective of the FLC is communicating strategies about:

- How Learning Works
- Becoming an Inclusive Teacher
- Digital Humanities
- Helping Students Learn
- Active Teaching and Learning
- Video at Your Fingertips
- Effective Writing for Student Learning
- Effective Instruction for STEM Disciplines
- Mastering Feedback for Student Motivation
- Building a Teaching Portfolio

In terms of new faculty development, in August his office conducted the New Faculty Orientation with 96 Invitees and 61 participants. It took place over two days with 17 presenters. During the fall, the New Faculty Seminars averaged an attendance of 29. During the spring, the CTE will develop new Faculty Learning Communities.

Teaching Assistant Orientation was revamped this year and the August 2014 session included 301 attendees and 11 presenters. Furthermore, for the 2014 Teaching Scholars Initiative, there were 18 presentations, and 120 attendees. In 2014, 17 JANUX courses were created and 23 courses were offered serving 3,699 OU Students and 27,521 open enrollment students. Proposals for Fall 2015 Janux Next courses are due December 18, 2014.

This fall, the CTE will run a pilot for Creative Portfolios. OU Creative Portfolio will empowering digital scholarship, expand digital literacy, and create digital citizens. The pilot will include 1,000 students and faculty. More information is available at <http://create.ou.edu>

The focus for the 2015 Faculty Fellows Awards will be scholarship of teaching and learning, open or low-cost educational resources, and faculty training programs. Proposals are due December 15, 2014.

Dr. Morvant said that the Faculty Learning Communities are active and going well. Felix Wao's assessment office is now separate. In addition, parts of the original mission of the CTE are being handled now by Simin Pulat and Glen Krutz in the Provost's office. There have been faculty fellows for four or more years.

The CTE will be moving in mid-December to Old Science Hall, where Study Abroad was formerly located. There are currently 12 CTE staff members. They are located in Wallace "Old Science" Hall 224(Northwest of Evans Hall) and their phone number is 325-2323.

More information about the CTE can be found at <http://teach.ou.edu> or <http://www.oucteblog.com>. Twitter is @teachOU and YouTube is <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCTE>. There were no questions. Prof. Hewes thanked Prof. Morvant for joining us.

### **REMARKS BY DEAN LEE WILLIAMS, ABOUT ONLINE APPLICATIONS/ADMISSIONS SYSTEM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Prof. Hewes introduced Dean Lee Williams to discuss online graduate student applications and admissions. Dean Williams introduced Amy Shaw, the Director of Graduate Admissions. She administers the part of admissions that is focused solely on graduate admissions. While reporting to the admissions office, it is co-located with the Graduate College. Dean Williams then presented the new Graduate College logo:



Dean Williams stated that the Graduate College seeks to have continuous engagement with graduate students throughout the entire experience, from prospect/recruit, admit/yield, progress/completion, to alumnus. The new system allows for more continuous monitoring of students' progress by departments. This will allow more flexibility in admissions and give departments more discretion to make admissions decisions.

CollegeNET is being used to support the system, which is in its second year of implementation. The most significant issue so far is that some of the supplemental materials requested by departments were desirable, but were listed as mandatory. This was delaying the review of applicants by departments. 6,000 applications have been processed resulting in 2,200 new graduate students. Amy Shaw is the point of contact for questions about the CollegeNET system and how to set-up or tweak the admission process for your department.

Dean Williams stated that CollegeNET has some powerful reporting tools and that we are rolling out the prospect management tool in CollegeNET during the next few weeks. In addition, OU has been asked to be a pilot for a new CollegeNET module called 'Progress' and as a part of that, departments and colleges will be interviewed on their current process for tracking graduate student progress. However, CollegeNET will not do the final degree audit. Degree Navigator is used for undergraduates, but does

not support graduate student needs. OU is still seeking a degree audit program that supports graduate students.

Prof. Barker said that the student tracking looks great but asked who will have access to the data on a particular student. Dean Williams said permissions can be given so that users have different levels of access based on their needs. Prof. Barker confirmed with Dean Williams that Directors of Graduate Admissions in each department would have access to this information.

Prof. Sharma asked how the systems assist departments in graduate-level academic advising. He noted that colleges have advising offices that are primarily focused on undergraduate advising. Dean Williams suggested that since undergraduate and graduate student advising are so different, it is difficult to share advisors. In addition, we need to be aware of departmental concerns regarding advising. Dean Williams confirmed it is up to each college and department to determine their role in graduate advising. There are programs with 10 students all the way up to 500 students and those larger programs tend to have more structured advising and may use a professional advisor. Prof. Hewes thanked Dean Williams for speaking to the Senate.

***SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Prof. Randall S. Hewes***

“On November 7, I submitted a list of questions and recommendations from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to the Provost’s office concerning OU Councils and Committees. One recommendation was to eliminate the inactive Film Review Committee, and on December 1, the Provost’s office informed me that this action was taken. In response to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee’s questions regarding the Student Code Revision Committee, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Dean of Students Susan Sasso advised that the Code was simplified recently, and the committee remains active. However, they only meet when there is a revision to be considered, and sometimes that doesn’t happen every academic year. The newest version of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code states the Committee will “review and revise the Code every three (3) years, or sooner, if needed.” The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is expecting but has not yet seen proposals from the Athletics Council to change its terms of service, from the university libraries to modify and expand the membership of the Libraries Committee, and from Enrollment and Student Financial Services to create a Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Answers to the FSEC questions regarding the reasons behind the apparent inactivity of the Patent Advisory Committee are still pending.

“The large Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on November 24. Several of the council and committee chairs were present and provided mid-year updates on their activities, some of which were discussed in depth by the executive committee. Most of the council and committee chairs not in attendance (the chairs of Academic Programs, Athletics, and Information Technology) submitted written mid-year updates on their activities prior to the meeting. The Faculty Awards & Honors Council does its work in the spring and thus did not have a report. We also received a report from Betsy Martens, the OU-Tulsa faculty liaison. Dr. Martens shared the news that Dr. Gerry Clancy will be stepping down as the OU-Tulsa President on January 1 to become the Vice President of Health Services at the University of Tulsa. Dr. John Schumann of the School of Community Medicine has been approved by the Regents to serve as the interim president. Dr. Martens did not know whether the selection of the new president for OU-Tulsa would involve a national search.

“The small Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on December 1. The discussion topics included 1) ongoing work by the Faculty Welfare Committee to create a campus civility survey for faculty, and 2) the ratios of employee/university contributions for health insurance for employees and their

families and dependents. In addition to meeting in advance with the Faculty Senate's guests for today, the Executive Committee met with Interim Senior Vice President and Provost Kyle Harper. The main topic of discussion was a newly announced Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education Funding and Competitiveness, which will include the Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives, the Dean of the Graduate College, the Vice President for Research, three faculty representatives named by the Faculty Senate Chair, and representatives of each of the other academic colleges with graduate programs. The task force will start work in the spring, with the goal of studying our own graduate education infrastructure and the models of our peers and aspirational peers. There will be town hall conversations and other opportunities for engagement with the task force, and then the group will develop a list of core issues for graduate education at OU and suggested next steps.

"The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with President Boren on December 2. After presentation of a framed copy of the recent Faculty Senate Resolution honoring David and Molly Shi Boren's 20 years of service to the university, discussion turned to employee/university contributions for health insurance for employees and their families and dependents. In the recent Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council survey, the cost of health insurance, dependent coverage, and wellness programs was the third most highly ranked issue of concern of the OU faculty respondents. For faculty in tiers 3 and 4 of the 2015 OU Medical Insurance Rates (these are the tiers for most new Assistant Professors), the employee contributions for employees plus families health coverage will range from \$643 to \$722 per month for the most widely utilized plan, the PPO. Comparisons to the most similar available plans for employees at other Big 12 institutions, as well as several other peer institutions nationally, show that OU is an outlier, with most other institutions requiring employees to pay in the range of \$200-450 per month or less for family coverage. Possible adverse effects of these competitive disparities on faculty recruitment and retention, as well as on the claims experience and premium rates for the university as a whole were discussed. President Boren expressed an interest in addressing this issue. In addition, he shared related news of an amendment to the Sooner Heritage Scholarship tuition waiver program. This amendment, which was just approved in the December meeting of the OU Regents, is to provide full tuition waivers for "undergraduate students who are also properly enrolled as dependents in the University's benefits plan. The waiver will cover the cost of tuition, excluding associated fees. The effective date and administrative specifics will be formulated to address the distinct conditions and processes of each campus."

"Finally, the Council of the Deans met on December 3. In addition to the new task force on graduate education, the Provost announced a new shared tuition growth model for master's programs. As announced by the Provost, and I quote, "Because graduate admissions decision-making resides at the department and college level, we want to provide both an incentive and a means to cover potential costs for expanding Master's level enrollments at OU. Beginning in fall 2015, any net tuition revenue generated from Master's enrollments above a four-year historical average will be shared equally (50-50) between the academic unit and central administration." These will be discretionary funds, and the goal of this program is to expand Master's enrollments at OU as units see fit in order to advance their priorities.

"A second topic of discussion was pilot testing of a faculty activity information system in the Colleges of Education and Engineering. The system has been used to digitize the process of uploading faculty service data for creating minivitas, compiling information for accreditation processes, and to simplify key word searches. It is in use by over 200 campuses, including Cornell, Kansas, Harvard, and Georgetown. It can be an efficient way to simplify collection and use of faculty service information, for example, for automatic updating of faculty web page profiles. Based on the positive experiences in Engineering and Education, it seems likely that OU will move from paper to electronic media for these kinds of processes in the near future.

“Also on the agenda was the annual call for Astronaut Scholarship Nominations. The University of Oklahoma is one of 28 institutions nationwide that can nominate students for these \$10,000 awards, which are given to juniors and seniors majoring in any area of the natural or applied sciences, engineering, or mathematics and who have been active in undergraduate research. To remain a Foundation institution, OU must nominate at least eight students each year, and the nomination deadline this year is in February 2015. Engineering Dean Tom Landers strongly encourages faculty to be on the lookout for the call for nominees and to consider nominating deserving students.”

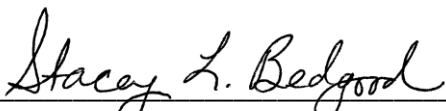
### **NEW BUSINESS**

Prof. Andrew Strout (Art & Art History) is retiring at the end of the semester. Customarily, senators rotating off the senate are recognized at the May meeting. However, since Prof. Strout is leaving the Senate this month, Prof. Hewes presented him with his Certificate of Appreciation for his service as a senator from the College of Fine Arts.

Prof. Bradshaw stated that the week prior to the last week of classes many of the OU computer systems including D2L and email were down. She spoke on behalf of her colleagues in requesting that a task force be developed to evaluate ways to address the issue. Prof. Smeltzer agreed that a motion should be made to have the Faculty Senate create such a task force. There was some confusion at the time regarding whether Prof. Smeltzer had actually made a motion or not. Consequently, Prof. Hewes told the Senate that the Executive Committee would meet with OU IT administrators about the issue and report back, but no vote was taken on a motion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2015, in Jacobson Faculty Hall, Room 102. However, there will be a reception hosted by the Faculty Senate on January 12, 2015 for senators and Higher Administration.



Stacey L. Bedgood, Administrative Coordinator



Wayne Riggs, Faculty Senate Secretary