

**JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE**  
**The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)**  
**Regular Session, September 12, 2022, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom**

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Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. Minutes of meetings shall be provided as the official record of the duties and responsibilities of the governing body. Any recordings done by staff are for personal use in creating the official record.

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The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Professor Dave Hambright, Chair.

**Present:** Abramson (0), Beaulieu (0), Bemben (0), Benjamin (0), Bolino (0), Burns (0), Busselle (0), Cavazos (0), Cuccia (0), Cytacki (0), Deacon (0), Dee (0), Fithian (0), Fuenzalida (0), Garofalo (0), Ge (0), Hambright (0), Harjo (0), Heyck (0), Hougen (0), Kibbey (0), Koch (0), Kraus (0), Lai (0), Lamothe S. (0), Lifset (0), Malestein (0), Mayeux (0), McCarthy (0), Miller (0), Muraleetharan (0), Natale (0), Nelson (0), Nicholson (0), Nollert (0), Pepper (0), Rai (0), Raymond (0), Robbins (0), Schmeltzer (0), Sharma (0), Stalling (0), Steele (0), Stock (0), Wang (0), Warnken (0), Weaver (0), Young (0)

Provost's Representative: ---

Staff Senate representative(s): ---

SGA Representative(s):

Guests: Mark Morvant, Tana Fitzpatrick, Hollye Hunt, Sean Burrage

**Absent:** Bergey (1), Lamothe M. (1), Larson (1), Leseney (1), Neeson (1)

*Note: During the period from June 2022 to May 2023, the Senate held eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.*

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## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair-elect Heyeck read the [Land Acknowledgement](#) approved at the May 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular session of May 9, 2022 was approved without revisions.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A list of senators is on the Faculty Senate website. New members were introduced.

The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate for 2022-23 will be held at 3:30 p.m. on the following Mondays: September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, January 23 (reception), February 13, March 20, April 10, and May 8.

The Senate Executive Committee elected Amy Pepper (Law) as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate and Regular Faculty for 2022-23.

The summary record of the disposition by the administration of Faculty Senate actions for September 2021 to August 2022 is [available online](#).

The compilation of the 2021-22 annual reports of University councils was distributed via email on September 2, 2022, to Faculty Senate members and university administrators to be made available to the general faculty. The reports are available at <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/cncprep22.pdf>.

The 2022-23 list of faculty appointments to committees is available on the Faculty Senate website at <http://faculty senate.ou.edu/commem22.html>.

The Athletics Department is offering the Faculty & Staff Sports Pass which for \$100 provides entrance for two (2) adults to all volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, women's basketball, wrestling, baseball, and select men's basketball non-conference and select softball games. Contact the Athletics Ticket Office at 405-325-2424 or [outickets@ou.edu](mailto:outickets@ou.edu).

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty members Courtney Vaughn (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) on May 7, 2022 and Richard Pailes (Anthropology) on August 27, 2022.

Chair Hambright introduced Ombudsperson Jeff Harp and Faculty Senate Student Worker Taylor Fleming.

## **SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Chair Hambright**

The Senate Chair's Report was distributed to all regular faculty members before this meeting along with the meeting agenda. Chair Hambright asked if there were questions or comments about any of the items in the report. There were none.

## **PRE-FINALS WEEK POLICY, presented by Vice Provost Mark Morvant**

Chair Hambright introduced Vice Provost Mark Morvant to discuss proposed changes to the Pre-Finals Week Policy distributed via email. The Academic Programs Council refers to the policy when reviewing syllabi, and there has been confusion about how the policy is written. Student Affairs intended the policy to be the last two days of class as Thursday and Friday, though the council has been interpreting it to be Saturday and Sunday. What was distributed reflects the council's interpretation but would be considered a

change to Student Affairs. Overall, the language has been clarified but the intent has not been to change the policy.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Burns discussed that quizzes on the last couple of days of class are not uncommon to ascertain student learning to date. Sen. Cavazos expressed concerns that students may be confused if we say the last two days of class to mean the last two days of the given course rather than Thursday and Friday. Sen. Muraleetharan questioned the need for a rewrite. Chair-elect Heyck suggested consistency in how we refer to the numbering of days within the policy and asked for clarification on when final projects are due. Sen. Lamothe indicated how to interpret some of the changes because they seem in conflict with one another. Sen. Busselle asked questions about changes to deadlines at the student request. Sen. Weaver indicated that he has routinely had to ask for permission to override the policy to allow for team presentations. Chair-Elect Heyck and Sen. Burns raised questions about small, routine assignments/quizzes that are worth low percentage points.

There will be a final discussion and vote at the October meeting.

### **PROPOSAL FOR 4.0 AND DISTINCTION, presented by Vice Provost Mark Morvant**

Chair Hambright introduced Vice Provost Mark Morvant to discuss a proposal for 4.0 and Distinction distributed via email. VP Morvant discussed the need for changes to how colleges acknowledge distinctions to standardize across the university. The proposal standardizes what is done across the university; this should save time for advisors and others. The change can be programmed with reports pulled each semester. Chair Hambright asked if he had a sense of how this would change the final recognitions; VP Morvant indicated that he thinks the numbers could go down some but it depends on the college.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Chair-Elect Heyck indicated that some of the writing is unclear. Sen. Bolino asked if we had the data on how the criteria would impact the numbers from last year; VP Morvant indicated that he might be able to run those numbers for us. Sen. Miller asked if we could strike a sentence that is untrue; we will strike it. Sen. Burns supports the standardization across the campus and encourages us to count online classes as the proposal suggests. Sen. Muraleetharan questioned if the deans were on-board if the Faculty Senate approves. VP Morvant indicated that the Faculty Senate does not need to approve it, but if there were a lot of concerns then changes might be made. This may not be policy but rather practice within the colleges; if we move forward, it will become policy. VP Morvant explained State Regent policy on grade replacement in hopes of clarifying language used in the proposed policy.

There will be a final discussion and vote at the October meeting.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR PARKING SERVICES, presented by Sen. Anthony Natale**

Chair Hambright introduced Sen. Anthony Natale who shared a resolution for parking services to add geofencing to its parking policy for scooters.

**Whereas**, improperly parked scooters and bikes pose pervasive fire hazards, ADA violations, liability issues, and basic nuisances;

**Whereas**, other universities such as the [University of Maryland](#) and [Texas A&M](#) have adopted policies to regulate scooter and bike parking,

**Be it resolved**, that the Faculty Senate call on University of Oklahoma Parking Services to require that VeoRide and similar vendors operating on campus add geofencing to its parking policy, so that their vehicles must be parked at bike racks or designated parking areas to ensure that sidewalks and building access points are not impeded.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Bemben indicated that the assumption is that the scooter company is leaving the scooter in inappropriate places, but it is often students. Chair Hambright shared links to policies at Texas A&M and Maryland similar to our resolution. Sen. Miller indicated that a low tech solution would be signage for students to help educate them on appropriate places to park. Sen. Bolino asked about additional costs for parking if students start using the traditional bike racks for scooters too. Sen. Deacon indicated that people also leave the scooters around neighborhoods near campus. Chair Hambright indicated that he will take this to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and consider voting before our next Faculty Senate Meeting.

### **REMARKS BY TANA FITZPATRICK, ASSOCIATE VP FOR TRIBAL RELATIONS**

AVP Fitzpatrick provided an overview of her educational and professional experience prior to joining OU. The position is now located in the Office of the President and advises the president on tribal partnerships. The position can also work with faculty and provide advice on working with tribes. AVP Fitzpatrick is currently working with the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Native Nations Center on a series of workshops for faculty wanting to work with tribes.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. There were no additional questions.

### **REMARKS BY HOLLYE HUNT, VP FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND SEAN BURRAGE, VP FOR EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS**

VP Hunt explained her role for the University and how she approaches the job. During the summer and early September, she has been working on submitting projects for the American Rescue Plan Act funding; we currently have three large health-related projects still being considered for OU. The Legislature will likely go into special session in September and could result in approximately \$110M for the OU enterprise. VP Burrage indicated that as the legislative session gets underway do not hesitate to give them a heads up to make sure it is on their radar. They have vast experience addressing many of the bills we see each year. We expect good revenue for the State of Oklahoma this year.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Chair-Elect Heyck asked a question about HB 1775 and its effects on teaching. VP Burrage does not anticipate a call from the legislature to revise it. They indicated that there are also people doing this work at OSU and with the State Regents, and there is often alignment.

### **MEETING MODALITY FOR 2022-23**

Chair Hambright raised the issue of how we wish to meet for the upcoming year - either in-person or via Zoom.

Chair Hambright opened the floor for discussion. Sen. Ge asked about the possibility of meeting hybridly. Sen. Garofalo indicated how important it is to meet in-person. Sen. Muraleetharan asked how online has been for those who have been meeting this way for a while. Sen. Natale indicated that meeting online is better because the current room is problematic for inclusion and exclusivity, the level of dialogue depends on the

issues more than the mode of meeting, Zoom allows for flexibility for those who have caregiving responsibilities. Chair Hambright did ask VP Morvant about a facility that would allow us to meet in a bigger space that would provide greater accessibility; VP Morvant indicated that there is a larger space where people might feel like they can get around the table but needs to consult with operations. Sen. Lamothe wanted consideration of hybrid; there are still health considerations but many people prefer in-person. Sen. Burns agrees with Sen. Natale but would vote for hybrid because there can be better interpersonal exchanges without masks. Sen. Muraleetharan finds Zoom very efficient but with the in-person you can have conversations before and after the meeting.

A straw poll was taken and FSEC will consider the tally and Senator comments expressed before making a final decision.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Hambright opened the floor for new business. There was none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 pm on Monday, October 10, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Robbins". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Sarah Robbins, 2022-23 Faculty Senate Secretary

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