

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)
April 10, 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting

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.

The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Professor Dave Hambright, Chair. It was confirmed that a quorum was present allowing business to be conducted.

Present: Apanasov (0), Beaulieu (0), Bemben (0), Benjamin (0), Bolino (0), Burns (0), Busselle (0), Cuccia (0), Cytacki (0), Deacon (0), Fithian (0), Fuenzalida (1), Ge (0), Hambright (0), Harjo (0), Heyck (0), Hougen (0), Kibbey (0), , Kraus (0), Lamothe M. (1), Lamothe S. (0), Larson (1), Livingood (0), Malestein (1), McCarthy (0), Miller (0), Neeson (1), Nelson (0), Nicholson (0), Nollert (2), Rai (2) Raymond (0), Robbins (0), Schmeltzer (0), Sharma (0), Stalling (0), Steele (0), Warnken (0), Weaver (0),

Provost's Representative: ---

Staff Senate representative(s): Ann Seely

SGA Representative(s):

Invited Guests: Sean Burrage, Hollye Hunt, Brian Holderread

Absent: Abramson (1) Cavazos (1), Dee (2), Furtado (1), Garofalo (1), Lai (1), Leseney (4), Tracy (1), Mayeux (4), Muraleetharan (2), Natale (1), Pepper (1) Stock (3), Wang (1) Young (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 Hambright read the [Land Acknowledgement](#) approved at the May 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of March 20, 2023 was sent as a draft; the journal was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Candidate Statements (attached).

Committee on Committees' Nominations for end-of-the-year vacancies on university and campus councils/committees/boards and Faculty Senate standing committees (attached).

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Chair Hambright

The report was distributed via email. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. There were none.

2023 CALENDAR YEAR EVALUATION SYSTEM MEMO

The 2023 evaluation system memo was distributed via email. Chair Hambright provided a brief overview and then opened the floor for discussion. Sen. Miller thinks getting rid of decimal points for the various areas as giving up information and distinction that we currently have. Sen. Nollert pointed out that giving up numbers that have no meaning does not give up information; it makes it appear there is a distinction where there is no distinction. Sen. Kibbey is concerned about the administration's permission to make these changes without faculty approval/input and about administration limiting the number of each score allowed to be assigned. Sen. Burns thinks this is a bad precedent; in principle. If we could move to whole number evaluation, we should; the current system pretends to have a precision that it does not have. Sen. Sharma made comments about the feel good quality of the current system. Sen. Bolino talked about the composite score being what would decide the merit raises. Sen. Cytacki mentioned that their department used the whole number approach this year, and as a Committee A member, this actually simplified the process; departments need to manage expectations in advance.. Sen. M. Lamothe talked about university-wide understanding vs. at the department-level ratings; if the new system is linked to salary, there should be common expectations among departments. Sen. Ge asked about what was driving the change and discussed tension that might be created in departments. Sen. Apanasov is concerned about the lack of explanation around the proposed system. Sen. Beaulieu talked about service load and how the new system might disincentive accepting service commitments. Sen. S. Lamothe is concerned that the administration does not understand the tension it creates within departments, especially when potential raises are attached to scores. Sen. Fuenzalida expressed concern about implementation based on conversations they have already had within her department. Sen. Nicholson expressed the need to have clearly articulated expectations. Sen. Stalling addressed distribution of effort and its role in determining composite score. Sen. Kraus provided comments on discussions in her department; in small departments, it is difficult to rank in this way. Sen. Raymond noted that the tie to raises could have implications for faculty mentorships. Chair Hambright indicated that Provost Wright will be issuing a new memo outlining a modified system based on feedback he has received.

REMARKS BY SEAN BURRAGE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS AND CHIEF OF STAFF, AND HOLLYE HUNT, CHIEF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICER, CONCERNING OKLAHOMA'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

VP Burrage Chief of Government Affairs Hunt provided an overview of the state legislative process and the current legislative session. Senate Bill 521 restores electronic library resources for our concurrent students; it passed out of committee today. Common education is dominating the headlines. We think the higher education budget will see an increase this year.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Busselle asked about any challenges to HB 1775; no known revisions in the works. Sen. Bolino asked about pieces of legislation of concern. Generally, VP Burrage is concerned about attracting businesses to the state and the bills that come out that tarnish the state's reputation. Sen. Nollert asked about the state funding outlook and the potential impact for OU; the majority of the appropriation will likely go through the state regent's funding formula for distribution.

REMARKS BY BRIAN HOLDERREAD, VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPUS OPERATIONS, CONCERNING OU SPACE POLICY

VP Holderread provided a brief overview of the campus space policy and the space committee that articulates the one office policy and provides guidance on space usage across campus. There are exceptions to the one office policy if supported by a college dean.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Livingood expressed a departmental concern about the disconnect between offices in one area and labs in another area which forces a choice between being available to students and supervising research projects. VP Holderread indicated there are exceptions available as long as they are supported by the dean of the college. Sen. Hougen asked about authority between central administration, the college, and departments; there is a specific question about two faculty members swapping offices. Centrally, they are most concerned about tracking changes to use of space (i.e. a lab becomes an office) rather than a simple office swap. Knowing what is happening across the university helps them track trends over time. At a strategic level, make sure the dean understands the needs and that they communicate it to central administration.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Hambright opened the floor for new business; there was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 pm on May 8 at 3:30 pm.



Sarah Robbins
2022-23 Faculty Senate Secretary