

**JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)

Regular session – March 11, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.

Thurman J White Forum Building – Conference Room B

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Email: [FacSen@ou.edu](mailto:FacSen@ou.edu) | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>*Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim*

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Chair Heyck. Senators were asked to read the [Land Acknowledgement](#) on the screen.

PRESENT: Abramson (1), Beaulieu (1), Benjamin (1), Bolino (0), Burns (0), Cavazos (3), Cuccia (0), Cytacki (0), Davis (0), Deacon (1), Demir (0), Fithian (0), Gibson (1), Grigo (0), Hill (0), Hougen (0), Jones (1), Kang (1), Kibbey (0), Kraus Steffensen (1), Lamothe, M. (0), Lamothe, S. (0), Larson (1), Leseney (1), Lifset (0), Livingood (0), Litov, (0) Lu (0), Lungmus (0), Malestein (0), McLeod (0), Muraleetharan (0), Neeson (0), Nollert (1), Patten (0), Pepper (2), Rai (1), Scrivener (0), Sharma (0), Silva (0), Tracy (0), Warnken (0), Weaver (0), Young (0), Zumpe (0)

FS Chair: Hunter Heyck

FS Chair-elect: Lori Jervis

FS Secretary: Sarah Robbins

FS Executive Committee Members (Non-senators):

FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

FS Student Worker: Taylor Fleming

Guests: Belinda Biscoe, Nina Barbee, Tomás Díaz de la Rubia, Sarah Ellis

ABSENT: Busselle (2), Fuenzalida (2), Furtado (2), Nicholson (2), Saho (3)

*Note: During the period from June 2023 to May 2024, the Senate holds eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.*

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## **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of February 12, 2024 was approved without revisions.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of Dr. Tom Boyd, longtime Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Faculty Senate will host a Town Hall meeting to be held March 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. The topic of the Town Hall will be "IT and the Research Enterprise at OU." Featured speakers will be David Horton, Sr Associate Vice President & Chief Information Officer, and Jeff Miller, CISO. After a short overview of relevant IT policies, practices, and goals, CIO Horton and CISO Miller will take questions. To receive the zoom link for the Town Hall, [please register](#).

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

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

## **BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

The policy was distributed via email. Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. There were none.

The senators voted on the policy; the policy was approved.

## **POST-TENURE REVIEW POLICY**

The policy was distributed via email. Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Muraleetharan asked why we are voting today if we are awaiting changes to formatting and possible other edits. Chair Heyck indicated we were not anticipating substantive changes and that we are just establishing a review in the process. Sen. Muraleetharan requested that in future votes that the senate votes on the finalized version of the policy.

Sen. Muraleetharan questioned if you do not meet expectations in an area of evaluation, currently tied to the score of 2. VP Ellis indicated the scores are tied to current evaluations but numbers were purposefully left out of the policy. Another senator asked about the flow chart and how one interprets not meeting expectations on the chart. Accumulating two does not meet expectations (either in the same evaluation or over a period of 5 years) prompts an accelerated review. Sen. Kibbey asked about the prompted review vs. a scheduled review and distribution of effort.

The senators voted on the policy; the policy was approved.

## **REMARKS BY BELINDA BISCOE, SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR OUTREACH/COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Sr. Assoc. VP Biscoe presented about OU Outreach and the College of Continuing Education. The umbrella of services ranges from KGOU to the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development and certificate programs. Less than 1% of their funding comes from the state. The crux of what they do relates to community engagement and broader impacts (interdisciplinary research, competitive grant writing, life-long learning, etc.). Discussed some of the existing strategic partnerships with OU academic departments. Handouts will be distributed from the Faculty Senate; the handouts include contact information for each Outreach.

## REMARKS BY TOMÁS DÍAZ DE LA RUBIA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS

VPRP Díaz De La Rubia discussed Pillars 1 & 5 in the Lead On Strategic Plan and how they have been guiding activities related to research and creative output. Convergence is the vision for transdisciplinary research and creative activity with lasting social impact at OU. Discussed internal investments for seed grants to support interdisciplinary research projects. Considerable work is being done with federal and state legislatures and agencies to influence appropriations to support OU research endeavors. There was a 33% increase between FY 22 and FY 23 in sponsored awards and a 53% increase in federally sponsored awards for the same time period. Last year OU had eight faculty win 8 NSF career awards. VPRP is concerned about the number of doctoral degrees granted annually; he hopes this improves as enrollments improve in conjunction with improved support for graduate students. The Honorifics Committee is charged with helping faculty get nominated to the most prestigious national/international awards and promote faculty achievement. In 2024, they will continue to advance the strategic plan. They will create a joint institute between OU-Norman and OUHSC related to the future of health. They are also launching financial incentives for those bringing in large grants to the university. The VPRP reviewed the internal funding opportunities for the upcoming year; these are outlined on the VPRP's website.

Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Muraleetharan discussed the anxiety caused by increasing the graduate student stipend; thankful to hear about the bridge program. The changes from the Graduate College with little communication is creating trouble for researchers with existing grants. VPRP Díaz De La Rubia emphasized that his area is committed to cover the delta on stipends until the existing grants have expired. He is also willing to cover the delta for stipends on proposals that have been submitted but are awaiting a funding decision. The delta on tuition will be covered on a case-by-case basis. A memo will go out in April related to funding gaps for graduate student stipends. A question was asked about the compression/inversion in wages between newly hired faculty and those who have been here for a while; this causes people to leave OU and can impact graduation rates of doctoral candidates. Sen. Nollert mentioned that filling the gap for graduate student stipends rewards those who were paying poorly rather than those who were already paying better wages. Since changes were imposed on faculty, the VPRP felt they had to help so as not to lose graduate students, etc. Chair Heyck asked about the strategic plan refresh and how faculty input will be a part of the process. The VPRP indicated this summer they will look at KPIs for the current pillars and what has been executed. In the early fall, the VPRP will start to engage faculty groups on what needs to be started, stopped, continued, etc.

### NEW BUSINESS

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

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting will be held on April 8, 2024 at 3:30 pm.



Sarah Robbins  
2023-24 Faculty Senate Secretary