

**JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)

Regular session – November 13, 2023 – 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), Busselle (1), Cavazos (1), Cuccia (0), Cytacki (0), Demir (0), Fithian (0), Furtado (0), Gibson (0), Grigo (0), Hill (0), Hougen (0), Kang (1), Kibbey (0), Kraus Steffensen (0), Lamothe, M. (0), Lamothe, S. (0), Larson (0), Leseney (1), Lifset (0), Livingood (0), Litov, (0) Lu (0), Lungmus (0), Malestein (0), McLeod (0), Muraleetharan (0), Neeson (0), Pepper (0), Rai (0), Saho (0), Schmeltzer (0), Scrivener (0), Sharma (0), Tracy (0), Warnken (0), Weaver (0), Young (0), Zumpe (0)

FS Chair: Hunter Heyck  
 FS Chair-elect: Lori Jarvis  
 FS Secretary: Sarah Robbins  
 FS Executive Committee Members (Non-senators): Kimberly Marshall, Darren Purcell, Stephanie Burge  
 FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely  
 FS Student Worker: Taylor Fleming

Guests: Markus Bowman, Sean Burrage, Guy Patton

**ABSENT:** Deacon (1), Fuenzalida (1), Hott (1), Jones (1), Koch (1), Nelson (1), Nicholson (1), Nollert (1), Thibodeaux (1)

*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 October 9, 2023 was approved without revisions.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Faculty Senate is sad to report the deaths of retired faculty members Dr. Edwin E. Tucker, Associate Professor - Chemistry on October 9, 2023, and Dr. Franklin John Appl, Professor - Engineering, on October 15, 2023.

The end-of-course survey is getting a new name. Previously called Student Experience Survey (SES), the name is changing to Course Reflection Survey (CRS) to avoid confusion with other surveys and programs used at OU that also use the phrase "Student Experience." You will see the new name in the emails about the survey this semester and the websites will be updated soon. Also, please remember that there are three proven ways to increase your student response rate: 1) Explain the importance of their feedback to students. 2) Give students time in class to do the survey. 3) Offer students a small amount of extra credit if some high percentage of the class fills out the survey.

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

The report was distributed via email. Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Muraleetharan thanked the chair for his detailed report and asked about the discussion with Dean Hewes regarding graduate assistant fees. He asked if there was a cap to the increase of fees because agencies are not increasing the amounts they are granting. Chair Heyck noted that, according to Dean Hewes, we 'cycle through' almost all of the grants on campus over the course of seven years, and that we are now approaching the peer average for our billed rate. Also according to Dean Hewes, if this is what others are charging in their grants, then this does not put us at a disadvantage in grants because everyone is charging approximately the same rates. Chair Heyck expressed a willingness to consider a task force in the faculty senate to investigate the rates.

## **UPDATE: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE FACULTY APPEALS BOARD, ABROGATION OF TENURE, TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT, SEVERE SANCTIONS POLICY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (NORMAN)**

A summary memo and the revised policy were distributed via email. Chair Heyck sent a memo summarizing discussions and feedback from the Faculty Senate to the Faculty Rights Assurances Committee (FRAC). He recommends that senators send the revised policy to their constituents. We hope to vote on the policy in December so it can go to the OU Regents in the spring.

Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Abramson asked about language related to non-performance of regular faculty duties and the document that PACPEM has been asked to generate related to non-performance of faculty. Chair Heyck indicated he was unaware that PACPEM was asked to address the topic. Sen. Malestein asked about having a brief discussion about the policy in December before the vote. Sen. Muraleetharan asked about a point of clarification regarding what we would be voting on in December versus what was distributed. Sen. Pepper, parliamentarian, indicated we cannot take a vote until a motion has been made. We still have not seen the finalized policy; we need to see the specific policy changes.

## **REMARKS BY MARCUS BOWMAN, DEPUTY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS STRATEGY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER; SEAN BURRAGE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS; AND GUY PATTON, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION ON PROPOSED MIXED USE FACILITY**

VP Burrage introduced the topic of the proposed performance venue in Northpark and anticipated benefits to recruitment of moving to the SEC. Deputy AD Bowman discussed how the university has prepared for the move to the SEC. Committees researched peers, compared OU to other SEC institutions, and looked at conference policies

that might require changes to current practice. Senators were asked to promote the move to the SEC, to encourage attendance at games, to contact alums in SEC states/cities, and to recruit and engage prospective students from new areas of the country. OU Foundation President Patton provided a brief history of land development in north Norman and then discussed the proposed entertainment, residential, and business district. Eighty-percent of this development will be funded with private investment; the remaining twenty-percent would be funding the construction of the arena, and they anticipate it would be a TIF.

Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Muraleetharan indicated he thought the TIF funding was the most controversial portion of the proposal. Pres. Patton indicated they are working with the city of Norman on the details. Sen. Demir asked about the anticipated benefits and the assumptions made by the consultant; Pres. Patton clarified the assertions made. A senator expressed concern about a science center in north Norman and asked how we prevent it from becoming a bottleneck that prevents people from visiting other areas of Norman. Sen. Burnes asked about the move to the SEC and the benefit/cost to non-revenue sports as well as non-athletics portions of the university. Deputy AD Bowman discussed that the move to the SEC was an attempt to remain a self-sufficient athletics department. Sen. Lu asked about plans for infrastructure; Pres. Patton indicated they were planning a better exchange at Tecumseh and 24th as well as access/egress off of I-35 at Rock Creek Road. A senator from Fine Arts mentioned the difficulty of scheduling their programming around athletics events and the plan for improving parking. A senator asked about what this is doing to community-building across the state now that we do not regularly play OSU. Deputy AD Bowman indicated we still hope to compete with OSU as schedules allow. Sen. Kibbey asked about what will happen to the Lloyd Noble Center; we will continue to study the needs and use of the facility. The basketball practice facilities will remain in their current location. FSEC member Marshall commented about the impact of SEC move on academics, including funds to visit archives, etc.

## **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO POLICIES REGARDING THE ROLE OF NON-REGULAR FACULTY IN FACULTY GOVERNANCE**

Stephanie Burge, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC), discussed the issue of non-regular faculty's lack of representation in the University's shared governance and problematic language in the Regents Handbook. The FWC met with Jennifer Hembree, Director of Policy, about proposed wording to remove the problematic language from the handbook so that a role for non-regular faculty in shared governance is possible.

Chair Heyck opened the floor to questions. Sen. Lu indicated that non-regular faculty in his department participate. Sen. Burge indicated that was not unusual and that practice varies across campus. We are trying to make policy match practice. Sen. Muraleetharan indicated that we cannot vote on a change to the Board of Regents Handbook. Dr. Burge indicated that we are getting support from stakeholders before taking it to the Board of Regents for consideration. There is an ad hoc committee working on recommendations for how non-regular faculty could participate in shared governance; however, the handbook must be changed before we can consider those changes. There was a question about if this change would extend to changes for non-regular faculty consideration for internal funding.

## **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 December 11, 2023 at 3:30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Robbins". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "S" and "R".

Sarah Robbins  
2023-24 Faculty Senate Secretary