

Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
49th Faculty Senate
Thursday, February 14, 2019
Forensic Science, Rm. 120

CALL TO ORDER:

President Archuleta called the meeting to order at 2:03P.M. A quorum was found to be present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (28): *CBA:* Vice-President Barger-Johnson, Senator Burdina, Senator Jog, Senator Mckee, Senator Osburn,
CEPS: President Archuleta, Senator Barnett, Senator Beasley, Senator Benson, Senator Davis, Parliamentarian Sealey, *CFAD:* Senator Folsom, Senator Forbat, Secretary-Treasurer Pollack, *CLA:* Senator Martinez-Sotelo, Senator McCune, Senator Chappell, Senator Goulding, Senator Mock, *CMS:* Senator Bentley, Senator Chooback, Senator Ellis, Senator Holt, Senator Rollins, Senator Mattison, Reporter/Historian Milligan, *Library/Advising:* Senator Edwards,
Professional Administrators: Senator Weidell

Members Absent (9): *CLA:* Senator Churchill, Senator Squires, Senator Wood, *CFAD:* Senator Bramlett, Senator Geib, *CMS:* Senator Eitrheim, *Library/Advising:* Open seat, *Professional Administrators:* Senator Hynes, Senator Snoddy

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Dr. Mark Kinders, UCO Vice-President for Public Affairs, Dr. Jerry Legere – Emeritus Faculty Association, Taylor Baird - Staff Senate Parliamentarian.

Dr. Mark Kinders, Vice President for Public Affairs, summarized to the Faculty Senate the message UCO brings to the First Regular Session of the 57th Legislature. He also communicated to the members present, the discourse and climate both philosophically and financially of the new session. He discussed that in this early stage, an atmosphere of optimism prevails and explained that even though many new members (of 149 members - 60 are new) may lack experience, there is tone of productivity and a sense of shared commitment for progress. Dr. Kinders expressed that Oklahoma has not witnessed this type of political mix since 1907 and attributed the turmoil of last year's teacher pay protest directly influenced this turn over.

Dr. Kinders explained that there is more money; however, the increase of 1.4 billion in new requests presently exist and 500 million is already earmarked for promised allocation. He detailed that the salary increases within the realm of Oklahoma's K-12 education system will be a first. He also stated that with a new governor and new focus within the legislature, reform is the message. He asserted to the Faculty Senate that

visibility is key and that many bills could effect UCO. He invited anyone interested in joining the team that visits the capital every Monday.

Freedom of expression on campus is a subject which Dr. Kinders advocates for a thoughtful inquiry and further open discussion about. According to Kinders, a bill that allows a university to give up the right to control time, place and manner of protest could be of negative consequences for the institution. The bill put forth as of the present is “weaponized,” meaning lawsuits can be allowed against the university if any person or group feels free speech was impeded or hindered. UCO still remains committed to free expression, but vigilance is warranted if law materializes which can be of detriment to the well-being and successful future of the institution.

Approval of the Minutes

President’s Report - As you are all aware, the spring semester is now in full motion. We have a limited amount of time to bring proposals to the floor so please make sure to be as responsive as possible to committee chairpersons as we want to make sure to bring our work to realization.

President Select Neuhold was announced as President Betz successor. I have asked both of them to meet with the Faculty Senate to discuss the transition and listen to ideas and recommendations for the Faculty Association and it looks as though this will likely occur during the last meeting of our year. Typically, we meet twice in April but the second date is the same day as President Betz has announced that First Amendment Day will occur. We are working on the date that it will be best to meet. It could potentially be May 9th, the 2nd Thursday in May since our semester is longer this year. I will inquire about how many people may have conflicts with final exams before our meeting ends today.

Additionally, I have reached out to all Former Faculty Senate Presidents to meet with President Select Neuhold in late February to begin the conversations regarding the support of the Faculty Association. We will likely schedule an Executive Committee meeting with President Select Neuhold as well.

A retirement incentive was announced on February 8th to a specific population of Faculty. 42 Faculty were offered the incentive. I have asked for all of the information that they have received so that our Personnel Policies & Adjunct Affairs committee can review all of the information as well as to bring any requests forward that this group may have. For example, one suggestion was to hold a community for the 42 Faculty members where wellness, Emeritus Faculty Association, and other benefits and connections to the university could be shared. From my current understanding, any of those interested in the retirement incentive has to submit paperwork by March 1st but has 45 days from their individual appointment with Human Resources to make a final decision. We will do our best to support this population of Faculty as they make their decisions.

Vice-President's Report: Senator Barger-Johnson - nothing to report

Reporter-Historian Report: Senator Milligan - nothing to report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Senator Pollack reported \$80 spent on Faculty Senate newsletter supplies for the Spring Forum.

Parliamentarian's Report: Senator Sealey - nothing to report

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Faculty Handbook & Academic Affairs - Senator Goulding, Chairperson. Dr. Goulding reported that the Handbook committee is waiting on some recommended changes from Human Resources that are mainly informational (rather than substantive) for review by Faculty Senate.

B. Personnel Policies & Adjunct Affairs - Senator Bramlett, Chairperson. Nothing to report

C. Research, Information Resources & Technology - Senator Edwards, Chairperson, announced that the IRCAT – RCSA grants are open for application. The deadline is 2/20.

D. Faculty Welfare- No report

E. Student Relations, Alumni, & Community Service - Senator Geib, Chairperson. Senator Forbat announced the commencement proposal to be discussed presently. The committee is also working on creating a response to the freedom of expression proposal as well as a diversity round table and sustainability proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS: FSP-2018-2019-003 Academic Conflicts with Commencement.

The Faculty Senate has a month to review this proposal. The question of how many people will be affected was brought up. In witnessed conversation across campus, there is concern about the fact that exams are given during commencement.

It was mentioned that when the exam schedule is distributed there may not be a choice for certain graduates or faculty.

A suggestion of a change in wording was put forth, “exam must be given.”

It was proposed that solutions to this issue can be included in the proposal. There is currently a team of student, faculty, and staff on a calendar planning committee. Communication with this committee could be beneficial.

In the Student Handbook under policy number 4.4 – students will be allowed to reschedule if there is a graduation conflict. This doesn't take into consideration faculty members who have to give exams.

It was suggested that “about to enter workforce” wording be taken out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senate will meet on May 9th of finals week and the April 25th date is TBD due to conflict with First Amendment Day.

Senator Weidell announced that the Distinguished Speaker event on February 27th at 2:00 in the Nigh University Constitution Hall featuring Jon Meacham has 608 confirmed attendees and only two volunteers. Please Sign-Up to volunteer: https://uco.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvdI0DMHkIo0XdP

Senator Martinez - Sotelo asked those present if the the voluntary separation will be a yearly event or a one time scenario. It was clarified that there was a year 2000 buy out and one in the 1990's. It is not a yearly event and faculty should be able to qualify for buy out weather or not they indicated this year their desire to retire by or before the deadline.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary/Treasurer
Sallie Pollack
1/17/19