

*Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
49th Faculty Senate
Thursday, April 11, 2019
Forensic Science, Rm. 120*

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (30): *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 Geib, Senator Bramlett, Senator Forbat, Senator Folsom, Secretary-Treasurer Pollack, *CLA:* Senator Martinez-Sotelo, Senator McCune, Senator Squires, Senator Chappell, Senator Goulding, Senator Mock, *CMS:* Senator Bentley, Senator Chooback, Senator Holt, Senator Rollins, Senator Mattison, *Library/Advising:* Senator Edwards, *Professional Administrators:* Senator Karen Davis, Senator Weidell

Members Absent (6): *CLA:* Senator Churchill, Senator Wood, *CMS:* Senator Ellis, Senator Eitrheim, Reporter/Historian Milligan, *Professional Administrators:* Senator Hynes

Recognition of the Visitors: UCO President Dr. Don Betz, UCO President Select, Patti Neuhold, Dr. Jerry Legere, Emeritus Faculty Association, Liliana Renteria, Staff Senate Past-President, Mike Liskey, Staff Senate Vice President, Jennifer Goldman, IT Project Manager for UCO PMO, Lauren Bieri, UCO Photography, Dr. Elizabeth Overman, College of Liberal Arts Faculty.

President Don Betz began his message to the Faculty Senate with a memory of his first daunting Senate experience as a student representative tasked with bringing a proposal to the Faculty body on behalf of students. As poignant as this experience was for him as a student, his point was that our UCO Senate is a welcoming group who work together in a professional and collegial environment.

President Betz proceeded to comment on the news of the Oklahoma Legislature. At the time of this speech to the Faculty Senate, the legislature is on hiatus, and there is confidence that funding will continue for next year and that the Oklahoma Promise initiative will be funded. Optimism abounded at the beginning of the year because of new money that was anticipated, around 400 million, yet solid numbers have yet to be articulated. He also discussed the fact that there are individuals in the legislature who are not negatively predisposed to higher education.

The RUSO proposal to the legislature includes faculty salary increases as well as an inquiry on increasing operational funds. It was recommended to keep interactions non-confrontational to and on-going to ensure a good direction for higher education.

We can look forward to a budget that is not cut, but also not greatly increased. In other words, a flat budget will most likely be in the cards for the next fiscal year even though general optimism and empathy at the capitol has been observed. The legislature is younger and more diverse and carry strong educational backgrounds. President Betz met with the new governor who he described as being pragmatic, and who is not negative towards education, An arrangement for the Governor and the Secretary of Commerce to visit the STEM building is in the works in the coming weeks which will allow for a meaningful connection.

President Betz also mentioned to the Senate that he has much confidence in several members of the House and Senate, specifically Sen. Roger Thompson and Rep. Kevin Wallace who are predisposed to education and will be effective voices for us. We learned that Regent Mark Stansbury, who is greatly admired and respected by President is retiring his post this May, but is looking forward to attending all of our graduation ceremonies.

UCO has presented its document, Connect to Central, to the Board of Regents. This publication highlights faculty and emanates a sense of quality in the institution that they govern. President Betz described his faculty as making a difference every day and pinnacles of excellence. He went on to say, you are energy and environment that make it possible for students to thrive.

He moved to the end of his talk, discussing that he was particularly moved with the student event, "Donuts with Don." He stated how he realized that there is a story behind every face dealing with monumental issues with courage and persistence and spoke about how we, the faculty, encourage them to persist and allow them to find their capability to succeed which puts them in a position of self-respect. He reminded us that it matters that we tell them they matter. and that it takes two ingredients: Faculty who know something and students who are curious. This propels the human family and we are part of that change.

President Select Patti Neuhold began her presentation with an elicitation of a much needed breath of fresh air. She segued into information regarding the budget and had hoped to provide some clarity, but since the aforementioned legislature is in hiatus there is not much new information to date. She supported Dr. Betz's prediction of the flat budget scenario, but added that due to expansion and inflation, inherently there is always a cost and loss. UCO's credit hour production is experiencing a short fall and UCO is tackling this with the use temporary funds, salary savings due to voluntary separation and carry over funds. UCO is 11,000 hours off from what the budget is built on and this is a significant amount. She does not want to see any damage done to work across campus and is working to close the 11.5 million dollar gap. She stated that the UCO community must work together and instigate collective conversation to solve the problem, as there is only so many resources. Eventually the institution must live with what is actually coming in. President Select Neuhold evoked her confidence that we will work together to get there with all of our voices present, striving to cross the finish line in unity. There is one time money available to use as a cushion to help buy some time and she discussed her plan to work as a community so that we can have conversations across campus and help define who we are.

President Select Neuhold noted that reducing unnecessary expenses is smart, but more seeds need to be planted in order to grow. An important seed to foster is online growth. She is

suggesting money and resources to be committed to this incentive. UCO is in need of more instructors, advisors, counselors, and administrators to improve and expand online growth. Dr. Bucky Dodds has started the conversations to meet student demands for access to online resources in education. She also mentioned that UCO is starting programs with aid of from a well-known data resource company, Burning Glass. The information captured will ensure we are meeting the demands of our state. UCO will invest in the staff and resources that it will take and President Select Neuhold is committing a million dollars towards this effort. She also expressed a commitment in keeping tuition waiver budgets in sync with tuition increases. Any increase in the operating budget will effect tuition increases and when the UPC meets next week she is happy to share the meeting outcomes and discussion points. She ended her talk with a call for communication and mobilization as well as our time, patience, tolerance, and engagement.

President Archuleta's Report: The semester is quickly coming to a close. Please make sure to carefully read the proposals and resolutions that are sent to you so that you can be familiar with the recommendations that are being made. The standing committee meetings are likely winding down, but if one is called do please your best to attend and help us bring our work to culmination.

The Executive Committee elections will take place during the May 9th meeting. We will disseminate information about the roles in between this meeting and the next. If you are interested in any of the roles, please contact those of us currently serving in the roles and we will be happy to share any information with you that we can.

Vice-President Barger-Johnson reminded the Faculty Senate body of the Freedom of Expression Forum to be held Tuesday, April 16th at 2:00 PM in Constitution Hall.

Reporter-Historian Milligan: No report.

Secretary/Treasurer Pollack: No report.

Parliamentarian Sealey gave an update on the election. The filing notice went out and the deadline is April 25th. The announcement of winners will be May 3rd and the next Senate meeting in May the new senators can attend.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Faculty Handbook & Academic Affairs - Senator Goulding, Chairperson, noted that conversation is ongoing on the clarification for chairs election processes proposal and that there was a disputed election in nursing that further highlights the need this clarification. Two more weeks for deliberations will take place. Senator Goulding also announced that the discussion in committee about processes for allowing a name change designation from department to school is ongoing. A second idea that has developed in these discussion centers on how would this change the designation of being a Chair of a department to Director of the school.

B. Personnel Policies & Adjunct Affairs - Senator Bramlett, Chairperson, no report.

C. Research, Information Resources & Technology - Senator Edwards, Chairperson, announced that the UCO contingency at NCUR was the largest. In addition, a proposal is on the floor regarding IT transparency and oversight of non-centralized entities that exist in its realm.

D. Student Relations, Alumni and Community Service Committee - Senator Geib, Chairperson. The graduation exam conflict proposal is in the process of amendment and the sustainability proposal goes to the floor for deliberation.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee - Senator Martinez-Sotelo, Chairperson, no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FSP-2018-2019-004 Campus Sustainability

This proposal currently has no amendments to enact and since it is presently coming out of committee, no motion was required. Senator Geib summarized the proposal. The UCO Faculty requests that the administration of the university continue to support sustainability efforts across campus and the community.

FSP - 2018-2019-003 Academic Conflicts with Commencement

Senator Geib mentioned that this will return to committee for discussion and revision. Language already exists in handbook for students exemptions, but there nothing for faculty to allow for rescheduling of exams to facilitate graduation attendance. This will come to vote next month

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Edwards announced that conversations are taking place within the Research, Information Resources and Technology Committee concerning the ethical accountability/ IT. This is in alignment with March Faculty Senate's visit from Chief Information Officer, Sonja Watkins. There is a marked difference between Departmental and Central IT and e-mail monitoring needs accountability. Senator Edwards discussed that departmental IT personnel are not on-boarded with Central IT and this needs to be further explored.

Discussion points included:

- PayCom will not affected
- Off-campus research - faculty are encouraged to get data before they leave campus for extended periods.
- If an employee elects or voluntarily allows IT access to a computer, this will not slow the process.
- An amendment was requested to cover telephone coverage in the proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Campus Expression Policy

Vice President Barger-Johnson announced that there has been a faculty-driven draft proposal and that Vice President David Macey has taken the lead on the Freedom of Expression. It is a well-written and well-timed policy statement and she encouraged the Faculty Senate to come to the forum on April 16th to ask questions and learn more.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary/Treasurer
Sallie Pollack
4/18/19