

Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
43nd FACULTY SENATE
November 8, 2012
Education Building 106

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of President Mock, Beth Adele called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm and asked for a call of the roll. A quorum was found to be present for this meeting of the 43nd UCO Faculty Senate.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (21): Senator Adele, Senator Barnes , Senator Charoenwongse-Shaw, Senator Chappel, Senator Chooback, Senator Cowan, Senator DeBolt, Senator Delano, Senator Dickson, Senator Ferguson, Senator Fister, Senator Garcia, Senator Holt, Senator Kickham, Senator Krishnan, Senator Lindblade, Senator Maddy, Senator Mizell, Senator Nelson, Senator Rundle, Senator Vanhoy.

Members Absent (15): Senator Barger-Johnson, Senator Brown, Senator Butler, Senator Clavin, Senator Epstein, Senator Farnell, Senator Frush, Senator Glaubitz , Senator Khandaker , Senator Mertens, President Mock, Senator Overman, Senator Patrick, Senator Shin. Senator Mazuet is on sabbatical.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS TO THE SENATE:

Adam Johnson, Registrar's Office, Division of Enrollment Management.

Steven Kriedler, UCO Executive Vice President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting as distributed were approved without correction.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's Report, 08 November 2012, via email.

On October 31st, the executive committee met with Provost Radke.

We discussed the HLC visit and the information that will be required for approval of on-line courses. There are differences between the HLC requirements for percentages of courses online and those of our regents. This is a situation that has been in process of resolution well in advance of the HLC visit. We were told that the ten year accreditation is no longer to be offered: the maximum accreditation is now going to be for three years. The one item on the HLC list of criteria which will present a problem for us is the absence of a university strategic plan: that we are at work crafting such a plan will help us. The provost has requested that deans and division heads not schedule events that would conflict with Heartland e-learning, Research Day, and the conference on transformative learning.

We had a lengthy conversation about the anti-harassment presentations. The immediate impetus for the presentations is a new federal mandate that such training be given in all institutions receiving federal funding. The other push for the presentations is the continuing problem of law suits: there are several on-going and there have been a non-trivial number over the years. We spoke about anti-harassment information being presented to new faculty and other hires, and whether this could be set up as an on-line procedure in the future. This led to a discussion of safety training and the observation that the training would be better if more closely targeted to colleges and their sets of concerns: we do not need laboratory acid spill information in Liberal Arts, for example. We then spoke about the active shooter practice day. That the practice did not extend to night course was noted as a problem, as was the non-compliance on the part of some faculty persons. It was mentioned that all universities (especially large one like UCO) are very much at risk of such events. We then spoke about the obvious categories of problematic persons we know about (stalkers, estranged spouses) and it was helpful to know that students do not have access to the picture class lists. Finally, we discussed evolving techniques to assure exam integrity for on-line courses, a topic which will be looked into by Academic Affairs.

I will be meeting with the HLC visitors three times. I will be the hosting faculty person for the open forum scheduled in Pegasus Theater on Monday, the 12th. I hope that all faculty senators will attend, and encourage as many other faculty as possible to also be there. Staff and students have their own gatherings, as do the department chairs and deans.

I attended the Regents Advisory Council session on November 3rd. I am now the representative to the council for the next two years, replacing Luis Montes who has served splendidly for the past two year term.

Chancellor Glen Johnson's presentation focused on:

Leadership Oklahoma day, at OSU, which was expected to deal mostly with K-12 issues, but which rapidly evolved into the topic of higher education, with business groups interested in how they could aid and interact with higher education institutions;

Cost issues and on-line issues. Post 2008 economy, it has been a media 'staple' (my terminology here) that students will graduate with fewer credit hours in the future. Oklahoma is trying to resist this notion/trend/proposition;

OCPA continues to argue that there is no real value to a degree, and claims that this lack of gain is not only for the student but also the state. The governor enthusiastically supports our degree completion initiative. There is a clear, statistical correlation between the percentage of a state's population with degrees and state income levels;

Work is ongoing to develop linkages between employment needs and college programs;

The budget process runs from June to (literally) ten days before our meeting. Over the last five years, higher education suffered an eight point four percent reduction in funding. There has been a steady decrease in funding percentages over the last thirty years. A significant part of the decrease is the expanding costs of Medicaid and Corrections. However, with the shrinking of funding, we also have had steady enrollment increases;

As to national rankings, Oklahoma is considered the eighth most efficient university system, seventh in affordability, and sixth in STEM growth (science, technology, engineering, and medicine);

The chancellor would like faculty to participate in Higher Education Day, this February, at the capitol, and noted that it is good/wise to engage legislators to keep handguns off campuses, as well as emphasizing the importance of higher education to the state;

New performance models are attempting to capture information on degree completion for transfer students which have been an important but difficult to assess group;

Performance Funding: there is no legislature-supplied money to get this model going, so Braingain money has been shifted for start-up. It is important that performance figures are available for requesting money from the legislature;

At the regents' retreat a couple of weeks ago, on-line courses were the focus of concerns. A taskforce will soon be announced to deal with this important set of concerns and opportunities. There was an extensive Q&A session following the chancellor's address. I will send a link to the power points that accompanied the chancellor's presentation as soon as I can.

Vice President's Report:

No report

Webmaster/Historian's Report:

No report

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

No expenditures reported.

Parliamentarian's Report:

Beth Adele clarified the following issues regarding the meeting with the Provost:

The Heartland Learning Conference is February 25-26, 2013, anti-harassment training will be added to the annual training schedule, and the Higher learning Commission will have an open faculty session in Pegasus Theater on Monday at 2:30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Graduate Council met on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. A summary of that meeting was sent via email to all Faculty Senate members on November 7, 2012 by Warren Dickson. No questions were asked regarding this summary report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Kriedler, UCO Executive Vice President, addressed the Faculty Senate to discuss the budget process in regards to how allocations from the State Legislature are provided to the regents to fund the higher education system. Allocations are done through a funding formula where no school receives less than the amount given the previous year, regardless of enrollment or changing needs of each recipient school. This process results in UCO receiving ~71% of the money that it should receive through the funding formula, while other schools receive a substantially greater percent of their necessary funds by this process. Developing UCO as a metropolitan university will provide stronger partnerships with local entities to promote stronger funding for UCO. UCO is now receiving approximately 30% of its funds from the state and 70% from students. Therefore, a budget developed in May is a forecast based on best estimates for the upcoming school year of how many students will actually attend based on enrollment, housing contracts, and so forth. The Budget Task Force develops priorities gleaned from information from each college, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Athletics Department, deans, students, and Faculty Senate. UCO needs new sources of funds due to increasing costs of essential services such as utilities and infrastructure maintenance. UCO tuition and fee rates for students are 70% of the amount peer institutions charge, and UCO staff and faculty numbers are 30% below peer institutions. UCO staff and faculty wages are 80% and 92%, respectively, of salaries at peer institutions. By any measure UCO is under-funded. A handout titled “Budget Report FY 2013” was given to each Senator that outlines budget priorities and sources of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- The Higher Learning Commission visit is upcoming and UCO a HLC website for more information.
- There will be a Veterans Day ceremony in Plunkett Park with speakers and a band.
- There is a UCO food pantry for students, staff, and faculty in NUC 201 run by the Volunteer and Service Learning Center staff.
- UCO will host a Statewide Conference on Serving Student Veterans, Friday, Nov. 30, 2012 at the Nigh University Center.
- 15th Annual WinterGlow begins on November 30th.
- Final exams and Commencement are upcoming in December.

ADJOURNMENT: Parliamentarian Beth Adele adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary/Treasurer Dana Rundle, 12/11/12