

MINUTES of the
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA FACULTY SENATE
Thursday, October 9, 2014
Forensic Science Auditorium

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Hammond called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. with a quorum of 24 Senators present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (25): Senator Atkins, Senator Barger Johnson, Senator Brym, Senator Burns, Senator Chooback, Senator Dechter, Senator Evans, Senator Feinberg, Senator Forbat, Senator Hammond, Senator Holt, Senator Johnson, Senator Kleeman, Senator Knoche, Senator Krishnan, Senator Kyle, Senator Manral, Senator Maxwell, Senator McLemore, Senator Pac, Senator Rider, Senator Schemm, Senator Vershelden, and Senator Xu.

Members absent (11): Senator Bingabr, Senator Chappell, Senator Delano, Senator Gorrell, Senator Hanebutt, Senator Knight, Senator Lohmann, Senator Maisch, Senator Mock, Senator Platz, and Senator Youngblood.

Recognition of visitors to the Senate: Dawna Terrell - President of Staff Senate, Elise Marrs - Staff Senate Vice President, John Gilmore - Staff Senate Representative, Adam Johnson - Registrar's Office, Dr. Timothy Bridges, and UCO President Don Betz.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 1) **Dr. Timothy Bridges presented the Special Order of the Day: Faculty Handbook changes.** Dr. Bridges presented the changes to Section 2.3.4 External Activities – a handout was provided in redline format. The changes related to confidential materials. Several Senators had questions related to the procedures and processes necessary to maintain these materials. There was also a brief discussion related to Intellectual Property ownership. Any further questions related to Dr. Bridges should be addressed to Dr. Bridges or to Senator Delano as Faculty Senate Representative to the Handbook Committee.
- 2) **UCO President Don Betz – Special Session** beginning at 2:29pm.
 - a. **Guns on Campus.** President Betz illustrated that there as a great divide among legislators on this issue. Those who are in favor of guns on campus largely base their case on “fear.” At the legislature, statistics are often quoted in terms of level of violence, and President Betz believes that those statistics are clearly inaccurate. Legislators in opposition believe that guns on campus would create danger that does not currently exist by introducing weapons to campuses.
 - b. **Budget.** President Betz indicated that it is difficult to talk specifics until after the November elections.

- c. **Retirement Plans.** There have been attempts to consolidate several of the states retirement plans together. This is against the interest of the Teacher's Retirement Fund as it is healthier by comparison to the others. This would be to fix those funds which are not doing as well. This does not appear to be the direction of the state at this point.
- d. **Campus Construction.** Several ongoing construction projects were discussed.
 - i. **New Campus Housing on Ayers ("The Quad").** 120,000 square feet of building space. 140 new beds, plus a formal classroom.
 - ii. **Mitchell Hall.** \$5 million dollar enhancement project scheduled to start in the Summer of 2015. This will expand the area available for dance, and build out new make-up and green rooms.
 - iii. **UCO Boathouse.** 18,000 square feet of space. Performance venue for musicians and artists. Adjacent to a new white water rafting piece with will break ground on October 20, 2014 which will be the only one in near a downtown metropolitan area in the United States.
 - iv. **Old North.** Plan being finalized. Psychology faculty offices will be housed on the first floor. Every college will have a classroom inside the building with major updates to the building's interior. The building's exterior will not change.
- e. **Newspaper Article.** "Learning Returning" Article in the Daily Oklahoman. UCO is expected to create new edgy programs to meet needs of citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Jamie Mock's Report, October 9, 2014?

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No Report.

REPORTER/HISTORIAN'S REPORT:

No Report.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Senator Barger Johnson reported that a "Faculty Senate Vice President" sign which had adorned her door in Thatcher Hall had been removed without her knowledge. She discovered this when she went to remove the sign and return in to now Vice President Hammond. Anyone knowing the whereabouts was asked to return it to Vice President Hammond ASAP. Senator Barger Johnson told all senators to let her know if anyone needed "Faculty Senator" signs for their office doors and she would order them as soon as possible.

Finally, Senator Barger Johnson asked all remaining Standing Committees which have not previously reported out their committee chairs to inform the Faculty Senate officers as soon as possible.

PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT:

No Report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Council: Senator Rider reports that 281 proposals have been submitted so far and the Academic Affairs Curriculum Committee has started its review process.

Alumni Association Board of Directors: No Report

Appellate Comm. On Dis. Of Tenured Faculty: No Report

Athletics Council: No Report

University Planning Council: No Report

Committee on Student Conduct: No Report

Veteran Support Alliance: No Report

eLearning Advisory Team: No Report

Faculty Grievance Board: No Report

Faculty Merit Credit Committee: No Report

CETTL Advisory Board: No Report

Faculty Handbook Editorial Board: No Report

Faculty Technology Advisory Board: No Report

Graduate Council: No Report

Online Course Evaluation: No Report

Passport Committee: No Report

Research Advisory Council: Senator Krishnan reports that Oklahoma Research Day will be held on March 13, 2015 at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Transportation and Parking Advisory Team: No Report

Undergraduate Research Advisory Council: No Report

SPIE Advisory Group: No Report

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Affairs: No Report

Adjunct Affairs: No Report

Alumni and Community Relations: No Report

Budget: No Report

CPP&E: No Report

Faculty Handbook: No Report

Faculty Welfare and Development: No Report

Information Resources and Technology: No Report

Personnel Policies: No Report

Research: No Report

Student Relations: No Report

Student Retention Committee: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Faculty Senator Barger Johnson introduced Staff Senator John Gilmore who submitted a copy of his proposal for the Faculty Senate to review. Staff Senator Gilmore followed with a brief presentation to the Faculty Senate. The proposal is to increase UCO's Tuition Waiver Award from \$1,500 per year to an amount equivalent to fifteen UCO undergraduate credit hours per year (currently \$2,355 in FY14, and \$2,460 in FY15). This would remain a shared benefit among eligible employees, spouses, and children. In addition, the Staff Senate proposes the Tuition Waiver Award should be reviewed each year and increased to reflect the amount equivalent to fifteen UCO undergraduate credit hours per calendar year. In addition, the Staff Senate proposes the Tuition Reimbursement benefit limited to regular full-time employees who take non-equivalent courses for credit at a public or private institution of higher education other than UCO.

NEXT MEETING: The Next Faculty Senate Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice President Hammond adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Barger Johnson, 22 October 2014