



*Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
51st Faculty Senate
Thursday, 11 March 2021
Held virtually via Microsoft Teams*

CALL TO ORDER:

President Barger Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. A quorum was found to be present.

I. *ROLL CALL* – Secretary Ellis

Members Present (32):

CBA: Senator Arnold, President Barger Johnson, Vice-President Burdina, Senator Maisch;

CEPS: Correspondent Archuleta, Senator Beasley, Senator Cassel, Senator Jill Davis, Senator Evans, Senator Sealey;

CFAD: Parliamentarian Folsom, Senator Ladwig, Senator Moran, Senator Weidell, Senator Wynn;

CLA: Senator Burns, Senator Copley, Senator Goulding, Senator Green, Senator Maier, Senator Warehime;

CMS: Senator Bentley, Senator Creecy, Senator Eitrheim, Secretary Ellis, Senator Fister, Senator Waters;

Library/Advising: Senator Kirsten Davis; Senator Kuschel

Prof. Adm: Senator Banks, Senator Jobe, and Senator Renteria-Mendoza

Members Absent (4): Senator Jones, Senator D. Nelson, Senator Squires

II. *RECOGNITION OF VISITORS BY UCO FS PRESIDENT BARGER:* Provost Charlotte Simmons, Heloisa Cursi Campos, Jakey Dobbs, Jerry Legere, Saasha Reese, Scott DeBoard, Nikki Seagraves, Michael Martin, Stockton Duvall, Amanda Keesee

III. *Special Presentation by Provost Charlotte Simmons:* This week the academic affairs leadership team has been meeting with each of the colleges and the point of these meeting is to help pull together the best strategic plan as it relates to Faculty positions. Hopefully all of you have been involved in writing your up to five-page report of how you see Faculty line needs for the



next 3-5 years. The Deans Office team has been working with chairs and directors to pull those together. In order to make the best argument that they can, the Deans and AVP's and the Faculty Senate executive team will meet in a retreat for one and ½ days. Just to recap, we have determined a \$4.2 million budget cut is needed from Academic Affairs as part of an overall \$7 million cut to the institution. We are going to do the best we can under the worst circumstances, so that is why, as I said over and over, it is so critical that we are the same institution when we come out the other side of this. The Department chairs are already trying to put the schedules out, which will be released in a couple weeks to the students, so I can't overemphasize the significance of the time of what we're going through right now. We've instructed Department Chairs and directors and Deans to try to build a schedule for the Fall that's analogous to the Spring schedule in terms of format. We made this decision several weeks ago as it is unclear how many of our students will be vaccinated by the Fall semester, should they so choose. We see other institutions like OU and Northeastern announcing they will be going back to pre-Covid schedules in the Fall, so that is something we are still looking at. We need to also look at things like, How do we use all of this technology that we have put in our classrooms at a cost of three and a half million dollars? The Dean searched are progressing and should be finished by May. I do want to also mention Bronco blueprint, which is our initiative to try to improve the Freshman first to second year retention rates, piloted by Forensic Science last Fall with excellent results. Each college will participate in offering sections next Fall. Thank you for everything you have done, you continue to do amazing things under the worst circumstances.

IV. Motion to allow a brief legislative update from Stockton Duvall. Senator Fister motions, Senator Sealey seconds, none opposed.

V. Special Presentation by Stockton Duvall – UCO public affairs specialist
There are a couple Senate and House bills that we are a little concerned about.

This Thursday is the deadline for these to be heard in the Chamber or House floor. Senate bill 639, authored by Adam Pugh, our own senator, is for a Fall back provision for Oklahoma Promise, so that if students do not complete their degree program within six years, they will be required to pay that to the University which will then be put back into the Higher Ed fund for the state.



There is at least an amendment where the University is able to decide hardships. As we know this serves lower income students so it basically puts a loan on them instead of a scholarship if they have to stop after their junior year, they would have, let's say, 20K of debt. Overall this impacts a lot of students in diverse communities, and that just passed off the Senate floor today on a straight party vote.

Next one is House Bill 1888, that has not been heard yet, today is the deadline, that public bodies are not allowed to require gender and sexual diversity training, which is obviously very problematic. A couple of House members were hoping it won't make it out of the House, but even if it does, it still has to move through the Senate. We are hopeful it will be defeated, but contacting representatives is always helpful on that. The last one is Senate Bill 614 by Senator Bullard, which sets up a committee on each Higher Ed Campus for students to report if they have any First Amendment related issues, and also mentions there is not allowed to be any promotion of Marxism, socialism, or communism by any member of Campus. This is obviously very dangerous and could affect what Faculty could teach and not teach, and is just clearly a 1st amendment violation. It has not been voted on yet by the Senate, and then would have to make it through the House.

VI. Approval of the minutes

February minutes: Senator Fister moves, Senator Folsom seconds, minutes are approved

VII. Senate Executive Committee Reports:

Parliamentarians Folsom: Election reports and winners announced so far.

Correspondent Archuleta: Nothing to Report

Secretary Ellis: Nothing to Report

Vice President Burdina: Nothing to Report

President Barger's Report

This week marks the half-way mark to the semester. I have learned to never say it cannot get worse in the middle of a pandemic! Just when we were prepared to get a groove going into the semester, we were hit with a snow



storm to give us even more to work around. Within a week we went from minus 17 degree temperatures to temps in the 70s. As we approach what would normally be Spring Break, I am certain your students are like mine – full of life and ready to finish the semester with a strong showing.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Health, cases have begun to decline slightly in Oklahoma. We continue to be aware of the risks faced by those of you who are taught in the Face-to-Face classrooms. Data also shows that by region, we seem to be flattening at a much quicker rate than some other regions. However, the most alarming data of all to me was that the group with the highest infection rate, according to the Oklahoma Department of Health, was the group occupied by our students.

As the vaccination clinics across the state continue to administer the vaccines, we will hopefully see our most vulnerable populations protected. As of this week, 368,851 Oklahoma residents have been fully vaccinated. Roughly the same number has been given their first dose and will be fully vaccinated within the month. This week Phase 3 opened so all educators (even us) are allowed to get the vaccine now.

I want to commend you all for bringing issues to me as they arise so I can carry them forward to our administration. As budgets tighten, it is going to be more important than ever to make sure we are heard. While we may not always have every request granted, we will continue to make those requests known. Please trust that if you bring an issue to me or any member of the Faculty Senate, we will make sure it is heard.

The **UCO COVID-19 ON-CALL TASK FORCE**. This group has not met this month.

The **UCO FS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FSEC)** continues to meet monthly with the President and the Provost team. This month our meeting was canceled. We are trying to reschedule that meeting. *The next meeting of the UCO Executive Committee meeting with the President and Provost Team is scheduled for April 13th at 2pm.*



The UCO PROVOST'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETINGS, our *next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24th at 9am.*

The UCO UNIVERSITY PLANNING COUNCIL (UPC) MEETINGS was canceled this month. *Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22nd at 9am.*

The UCO PRESIDENT'S FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PFAC) we are working toward a replacement meeting date for our Friday, February 26th meeting which was canceled.

My monthly meeting with the **UCO PROVOST CHARLOTTE SIMMONS** was Monday, March 1st. *Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th.*

The UCO INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM has been meeting monthly since the beginning of the year. We last met on Wednesday, March 3rd. *Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th.*

FACULTY HANDBOOK EDITORIAL BOARD last met on *Thursday, December 3rd*. While there are not any outstanding projects assigned, we did revisit a couple of projects that we will look at this year.

The UCO FACULTY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION has completed its work and presented the same to this body. We are *still* awaiting the Regents approval. Somehow the new Constitution was lost in the shuffle with the President/Provost this past fall and it has been once again dispatched.

UCO FACULTY SENATE ELECTIONS are underway and Parliamentarian Folsom has done a great job getting those rolling and some to completion.

Please remember to send any reports you may have to our **FS SECRETARY SHAWNA ELLIS** for her inclusion in our minutes. Also please remember to send any Resolutions or Proposals your Standing Committees may produce to **FS VICE PRESIDENT MARIYA BURDINA**. Our UCO Faculty Senate webpage is now being maintained by our **FS CORRESPONDENT KRISTI ARCHULETA** and can be found at (<http://sites.uco.edu/central/faculty-senate/index.asp>). **FS PARLAMENTARIAN DAISY FOLSOM** is well into our election process and is doing an amazing job this year with help from Thomas Milligan of CMS who previously served in this role. Thirty-Four Faculty ran for fourteen different seats this year. That is an amazing turnout!



Thank you again for all of your hard work this year, and thank you for allowing me to represent you.

VIII. Senate Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Handbook/Academic Affairs Committee – Senator Goulding (Senator Folsom) nothing to report.

Faculty Welfare Committee – Senator Eitheim (Senator Jobe) nothing to report.

Personnel Policies/Adjunct Affairs Committee – Senator Ellis (Senator Archuleta) nothing to report.

Research, Information Resources & Technology Committee – Senator Ladwig (Senator K. Davis) Updates on Senate proposals below.

Student Relations, Alumni, & Community Service Committee – Senator Cassel (Senator Nelson) nothing to report.

IX. University-Wide Committee Reports:

Alumni Association Board of Directors –Nothing to report.

Appellate Committee on Discipline – Senator Burns (Senator Cassel) nothing to report.

Athletic Advisory Council – Senator Nelson nothing to report.

Committee on Student Conduct – Senator Kuschel nothing to report.

CUIT – nothing to report.

eLearning Advisory Team – Senator Ladwig nothing to report.

Faculty Handbook Editorial Board – Senator Goulding (Senator Barger Johnson) nothing to report.

Faculty Merit Credit – Senator J. Davis application period has started.

Graduate Affairs Council – Senator Creecy nothing to report.

Inclusive Community Response Team Advisory Council – Senator Barger nothing to report.

Research Advisory Council – Senator Waters reported out related to on-campus grants updates.

SPIE Advisory Group – Senator Maier nothing to report.

Transportation & Parking – Senator Wynn nothing to report.

21CPI Advisory Board – Senator Green nothing to report.

Technology Faculty Advisory Board – Senator K. Davis nothing to report.

UG Research Advisory Council – Senator Warehime nothing to report.



University Council on Diversity – Senator Renteria-Mendoza provided updates on the Inclusive Community Strategic Plan and an announcement of the Tulsa Race Massacre Commemoration Week, and a library exhibition project regarding UCO black sororities and fraternities.

UCO Faculty Grievance Board – Senator Sealey (Senator Moran) nothing to report.

X. New Business

A. Appointment of Senator Connie Squires to replace Senator Banks on CUIT

Senator Folsom moves, Senator J. Davis seconds. None opposed.

B. Appointment of Senator Nelda Fister to replace Senator Eric Eitrhein on the Faculty Grievance Board

Already Serving:

Chintamani Jog , CB, Economics (appointed by UCO President)

Frederick Hammond, CEPS, CI (appointed by UCO President)

Timothy Petete, CLA, ENG (appointed by UCO President)

Linda Sealey, CEPS-DNAPSS (appointed by FS)

Peggy Moran, CFAD-SOM (appointed by FS)

No objections. Senator Sealey moves, Senator Cassel seconds. No opposition.

XI. Old Business

A. Assignments for Personnel Policies Committee

Issue: Faculty CUPA/AACSB/AACN Salary Data and Salary Adjustments

Issue: Responsiveness of Staff and Administration to Students/Faculty/Administration

B. Assignments for Faculty Handbook/Academic Affairs Committee

Issue: Continuous Cultural Competence Program review

Issue: Faculty Senate Covid-19 Task Force Q/A Action Items

C. Assignment for Faculty Welfare Committee

Issue: Health Concerns Related to Remote Teaching



- D. Assignment for Research, Information Resources, and Technology Committee
Issue: Pedagogical Concerns about the F2F/Extended Classroom Environment; and Technological Resources and Training related to Fully F2F Teaching in the Extended format.
- E. Assignment for Student Relations, Alumni & Community Service Committee
Issue: Faculty have questions related to Covid-19 Notification Issues/ Accuracy/Safety/Rights on campus.
- F. **Open Discussion:** *What does shared governance mean or look like to you?*

XII. Announcements for the Good of the Order

Senator Sealey states there are concerns that when vacant lines are not replaced, how will we protect Faculty loads?

President Barger-Johnson states that the plan she has heard is to reduce offerings, and not to hire more adjuncts, but that she will continue to bring that forward. We will continue to represent and advocate in the Academic Affairs retreat.

Senator Green raises the issue of the dress code e-mail that went out a couple days ago, and concerned Faculty.

Senator Barger-Johnson states that the executive committee met with the director of people and culture, and we made it clear that we are in a different position and emphasized that it seemed unreasonable to apply a dress code, and we were informed this was to apply to Staff, not Faculty.

XIII. Adjournment 3:01 pm

Motion to adjourn – Senator Goulding, Second – Parliamentarian Folsom

Respectfully Submitted by **Secretary Shawna Ellis**, on 07 April 2021