



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

## Faculty Senate

Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma

53<sup>rd</sup> Faculty Senate

Thursday, 8 September 2022

Held In-Person in EDU 102

**I. Call to Order**

President Provencio called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. A quorum was found to be present

**II. Roll Call-Secretary Waters**

**Members Present (23):**

CB (3): Senator Anderson, Senator Elliot, Senator Nath;

CEPS (5): Senator Canada-Phillips, Senator Cassel, Senator Cunliff, Senator Lashley, Senator Loucks;

CFAD (3): Senator McGuigan, Senator Pac, Senator Webb;

CLA (5): Senator Breslin, Senator Copley, Parliamentarian Green, President Provencio, Senator Shukla;

CMS (5): Senator Jackson, Senator Jones, Senator Paynter, Vice President Seagraves, Secretary Waters;

Library/Advising (1): Senator Earls;

Prof. Adm (1): Senator Bressler;

**Members Absent (7):**

Correspondent Goulding, Senator Pennington, Senator Fister, Senator Gamagedara, Senator Chen, Senator Pasternack, Senator Kiang.

**III. Recognition of Visitors by UCO FS Secretary Waters:**

Provost Charlotte Simmons (Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Sharla Weathers (DSS), Ellen Schmidt (UCO Staff Senate Vice President), Adri Edwards-Johnson (UCO Staff Senate President), Samantha Kramer (Student Advocacy), Beyonce Hammond (Chair UCOSA), Saul Perez (UCOSA Secretary), Jes Addai (UCOSA Senator)

**IV. Open Session with Provost Charlotte K. Simmons, Vice-President of Academic Affairs**

Welcome to everyone and making sure that all faculty know that she is accessible to them. There are lots of different projects that the administration is going to be rolling out this year: Social Innovation Consortium, grow the downtown campus enrollment etc. Thank everyone

for their willingness to serve. Excited about what the possibilities at UCO can be now and in the future.

Question from a senator asked about the branding campaign that is ongoing. This new campaign will replace the previous tagline (Connect to Central) and figure out who we are and should be to advertise. Provost advises getting involved and making sure your voice is heard. President Provencio seconds the need to get your voice heard and participate in the process. UCO Communications states that rebranding occurs every 3 to 6 years.

**V. DEI Spotlight: Disability Support Services with Director Sharla Weathers**

Sharing 5 tips to make the campus more accessible for students. 1) When you receive a DSS accommodation from a student, schedule a meeting with the student to make sure you understand the students needs. 2) Digital documents need to be created from the beginning with headings, styles, color contrast, meaningful text equivalence. 3) Videos must be closed captioned. 4) Textbooks need to be decided on early (2 months in advance) to find accessible versions. 5) Encourage not to make attendance not a mandatory part of your grade. Make is participation points vs attendance. 6) In Faculty Handbook 3.1, allows for excused absences, medical conditions, pregnant, etc. Make sure you are familiar with the policy and implementation.

Senator questions about night exam DSS accommodations. There is nothing in the work right now, but it should be handled by the faculty and department.

Senator question about a guide to make documentation accessible. This is something that is complex but will see if there is a generic documentation.

Senator question about journal article accessibility. This is done as a scan and rendering process at DSS. It can also be done when requesting articles through interlibrary loan that they be accessible.

**VI. Special Presentation on 2SLGBTQ+ Caucus with Senator Jes Addai, UCO Student Association**

Talked about the development of the 2SLGBTQ+ between not only students, but also faculty and staff. There are not many initiatives for all levels, mostly only freshman. Therefore, this would need to be developed for all students, faculty, and staff levels. A few main points would be a campus needs assessment for UCO, developing resources for all of campus, and intentional branding. If you have interest in participating in the caucus, please send an email to President Provencio.

**VII. Approval of Minutes:**

28 April 2022 Meeting: Vice President Seagraves moved, and the motion is seconded. No opposition or absentia. Minutes are approved unanimously.

**VIII. Senate Executive Committee Reports:**

- a. Representative Anderson  
No report.
- b. Representative Pennington

No report.

c. Representative Webb

At the time of my report to the Faculty Senate, the Benefits Office had not contacted me regarding which Healthcare Provider would be UCO's medical, dental, and pharmacy vendors. Senator Kim Pennington and I met with the Advisory Group throughout the summer. The Advisory Group included members from the Staff Senate, IT, and BOK representatives with the Benefits Office team. Three healthcare providers made presentations and discussed their philosophy, incentives, individual case studies, contact points for patient care, websites, and user apps. The Benefits Office, with the BOK representative, is currently working on the tiers for patient care options. Specific tier plans were not presented from Aetna and Healthcare Highway for comparison. A copy of my and Senator Kim Pennington's report to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been posted by President Alyssa Provencio. After the summer meetings, it was apparent that the Benefits Office was considering two healthcare providers, Aetna and Healthcare Highways. Healthcare Highways were invited back for additional presentations to address follow-up questions.

I met with the Media, Brand Identity and Website Advisory Group for a precursory meeting for those to follow. A meeting is scheduled for September 28th, and I will be participating in both the October 19th and 20th Personality and Marketing workshops.

d. Parliamentarian Green

We conducted four special elections in the last few weeks, to fill vacancies for College of Liberal Arts, College of Business, Librarians, and SSAs. All four positions have been filled, and we are pleased to welcome Senators Kiang (CLA), Elliot (Business), Earls (Library) and Bressler (SSA). One more special election is pending, for CFAD: as of the 9.08 meeting, nominations are being solicited, and the election should take place Sept 13 -20.

e. Correspondent Goulding

No report.

f. Secretary Waters

Make sure to bring your name tents with you each faculty senate meeting or leave them with Secretary Waters at the end of the meeting so you have them for next meeting. If you need a name plaque for your door email Secretary Waters.

g. Vice President Seagraves

August 8<sup>th</sup> was a meeting with President Provencio, Vice President Seagraves and UCO President Neuhold-Ravikumar.

h. President Provencio

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year! As we begin again, please know that I am full of gratitude for the service upon which you are about to embark. I am equally grateful for the excellent leadership and support that I have seen demonstrated in the executive committee's work over the summer. We have been putting in extra hours to get prepared for this coming term. Parliamentarian Green has been carefully reviewing our constitution and bylaws to ensure we are following procedure in a way that demonstrates our democratic processes. Secretary Waters has been essential in ensuring we are organized, keeping record, and sharing files/information. And Representatives Webb and Pennington have been crucial in sharing faculty concerns and perspectives in benefits meetings. The entire team has been meeting with Provost Simmons once

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a month throughout the summer and met with President Neuhold-Ravikumar and Provost Simmons last May. Most recently, Vice-President Seagraves and I met with President Neuhold-Ravikumar to discuss our priorities for the coming term. These priorities have been written in a resolution to be voted on by the Faculty Senate body.

Things begin anew, but some things stay the same... this year we will once again be concerned with declining enrollment at UCO. As of this writing, the enrollment census shows the following:

Credit Hour Production – Official Census

Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
160,161	150,072	138,310
	-6.3%	-7.8%

Headcount– Official Census

Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
14, 129	13, 250	12, 250
	-6.2%	-7.5%

Adding concern to this trend are the upward trends we are observing at neighboring institutions; indeed, record enrollment at some. In conversations around campus, I have heard our declining enrollment attributed to the following factors; non-competitive tuition, changing admissions standards at other institutions, pipeline issues (interested to enrolled students – gaps in admissions process), and loss of concurrent enrollments to name a few. As we proceed this year, I anticipate that these issues will remain at the fore.

At stake, of course, are additional losses in faculty positions. If we are to reach the 17:1 ratio that the administration put forth as a goal last spring, that would entail an additional 30 faculty positions lost. This, in addition to the 48 lines already incurred over the past two years. These faculty losses have and will continue to put strain on our ability to serve students and generate revenue through credit hour production. This puts in question long-term vision and strategic planning for the future of the institution.

The good news is... we have **\*THE BEST\*** faculty around. I have been asked several times why I wanted to serve as faculty senate president this year and my response is simple; because I believe in our faculty and their value. Every single person I have met at our institution in the past six years have shown how deeply they care about our students and the mission of the University of Central Oklahoma. Our Faculty Senators are no different. This group has so much experience and expertise, that I know you will work hard to address the above concerns and many more. I am here to support, guide, and lift up that work. To start, we have quite a few changes in store for the coming year, including:

- All legislation will get read on the Senate floor prior to committee deliberation;
- All sub-committees will be chaired by an executive committee member and held once a month; and
- Consistent and direct communication to the faculty association.

This is only just the beginning! I’m eager to collaborate and work toward a better Faculty Senate.

Committee Reports:

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- FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE last met with Provost Simmons on August 2 at 2 PM. We discussed committee assignments, as well as new faculty orientation and start-up week activities.
- PROVOST'S ADVISORY COUNCIL met August 24 at 9:00 AM. In that meeting, we welcomed the Iraqi Fulbright Scholars, reviewed and approved the Center for Neuroeducation and Embodied Learning proposal, and discussed changes in academic policies pertaining to curriculum.
- UNIVERSITY PLANNING COUNCIL will meet September 12 at 9:00 AM. The focus of the next three meetings is reviewing the criterion of the assurance argument for the HLC accreditation process.
- COVID-19 ON-CALL TASK FORCE has not met since the spring semester.

### Reminders:

- Please send standing committee or university committee reports to Secretary Waters or upload them directly into Teams.
- Send any resolutions or proposals to me or Vice-President Seagraves one week prior to any senate meeting for inclusion on the agenda.
- If you have any suggestions or find errors with the website, please alert me or Correspondent Marc Goulding.
- Any questions pertaining to parliamentary procedure can be directed to Parliamentarian Jerry Green.

As your Faculty Senate President, I represent you and I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me at any time through our Faculty Senate website or via email [aprovencio@uco.edu](mailto:aprovencio@uco.edu).

### IX. Senate Standing Committee Reports

- Faculty Handbook/Academic Affairs** – Parliamentarian Green  
Committee is scheduled to meet regularly; details will be posted on Teams. First order of business will be a Faculty Handbook revision to implement evaluation procedures for President and other upper admin, as assigned in the last meeting of the previous Senate session. The Faculty Handbook Editorial Board has not yet scheduled meetings for this semester.
- Faculty Welfare Committee** – Correspondent Goulding  
No report.
- Personnel Policies/Adjunct Affairs** – Representatives Pennington and Webb  
Committee has not yet met. Meeting times are being discussed currently.
- Research, Information Resources and Technology Committee** - Secretary Waters  
Committee is scheduled to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from 1-2 pm on MS Teams. The meeting will be in the Committee Channel, so all faculty senators are welcome to attend. The committee is currently gathering information on issues so if you have anything that need to be investigated or discussed please let Secretary Waters know.
- Student Relations, Alumni and Community Service Committee** – Vice President Seagraves  
Committee has not yet met. Meeting times are being discussed currently.

**X. University-Wide Committee Reports**

- a. **Academic Affairs Curriculum Council** – Senator Lashley, McGuigan, Nath, Parliamentarian Green, and Secretary Waters  
The group held its first meeting Wednesday Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 112 undergraduate proposals and 30 graduate proposals for review as of right now. This number is expected to grow as the October 1 deadline for submissions approaches.
- b. **Graduate Council** – Senator Breslin  
Met Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. 2022-2023 graduate catalog is going to have information for how to give graduate students credit for prior work experience.
- c. **21CPI Advisory Board** – Parliamentarian Green  
We hosted another successful Collegium on August 17. Several Faculty Senate members presented at the Collegium (Cunliff, Green, Provencio, Jones, Waters), or won a 21CPI Award (Gamagedara, Green, Jones, Waters, Nath). Information about Fall Book Clubs (and other topics) is available at <https://blogs.uco.edu/tts/>
- d. **Alumni Association Board of Directors** – Senator Fister  
No report.
- e. **Faculty Merit Credit** – Senator Chen  
No report.
- f. **Title IX Advisory Board**- Senator Copley and Correspondent Goulding  
Frist meeting was this week. Dr. Logan understands there have been issues in the past and she is working on improving their image and utility on campus.
- g. **Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty** – Senators Cassel, Copley, Cunliff, Gamagedara, Jones, Pasternack and Shukla  
Committee has not met yet.
- h. **Committee on Diversity** -Representative Anderson  
Committee has not met yet
- i. **Research Advisory Council** – Secretary Waters  
The group met for the first time this semester on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. After several years of hard work, RAC is proud to announce the official approval of the raise for research assistantships to \$11 an hour for undergraduate and \$13 and hour for graduate students effective this fall. The increase in tuition waiver amounts is still being discussed with administration. Oklahoma Research Day 2023 will be hosted at UCO on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are in the early planning stages, but will be looking for campus wide support in the form of volunteers.
- j. **Undergraduate Research Creative Activities Team** – Senator Canada-Phillips  
Committee has not met yet.
- k. **Committee for University IT (CUIT) Project Prioritization** – Senator Earls  
Committee has not met yet.
- l. **Faculty Support Services Team (IT)** – Senator Paynter  
Committee has not met yet.
- m. **Committee on Student Accountability and Conflict Resolution** – Senator Nath  
Committee has not met yet.
- n. **Athletic Advisory Council** – Senator Loucks  
Committee has not met yet.

- o. **Communications Taskforce** – Representative Webb  
Committee has met once. The main focus is on the rebranding that Provost Simmons talked about earlier. Please make sure to participate if able during the workshops on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> workshops.
- p. **Public Affairs Constituency Group** – Senator Jackson  
First meeting will be Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- q. **Faculty Grievance Board** – Senators Chen, Fister, Pac Shukla and Representative Pennington  
Committee has not met yet.

**XI. Old Business**

No old business carried over from the previous UCO Faculty Senate 2021-2022.

**XII. New Business**

- a. Resolution- Faculty Senate Priorities for the 2022-2023 Term  
Vice President Seagraves conducted the first reading. There was a motion from Senator Copley to suspend the rules to move this legislation for immediate vote. There was a second. There was no debate. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or objections. Representative Web motions to send this legislation to the full senate for a vote immediately. It was seconded. There was a friendly amendment to the language in the II, 3<sup>rd</sup> point from “programs and departments” to “programs, department, schools, institutes and colleges”. The motion passes to approve the legislation unanimously with no abstentions or objections.
- b. Resolution- Reaffirmation of Opposition to Weapons on Campus  
Representative Anderson conducted the first reading. There was a motion by Senator Jones to suspend the rules. It was seconded. This passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions. There was a debate on the language of the first resolution point. After debate, it was decided that the language would be voted on as is at this point and other considerations would be addressed by the Student Relations, Alumni and Community Service Committee. Using presiding powers, President Provencio overrides the previous motion and moves that this be moved to be committed to committee. This was unanimously approved with 1 opposed with no abstinence. This resolution will be committed to committee.

**XIII. Sub-Committee Touchpoint**

- a. This agenda item was omitted due to time.

**XIV. Announcements for the Good of the Order**

- a. HLC Forums
  - i. HLC Accreditation: Reviewing the Five HLC Criteria will be held Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 pm in HOH 222 on 10/5 and 11/2  
(<https://blogs.uco.edu/tts/book-clubs-workshops-fall-2022/>)
- b. Professional Liability Insurance through AAUP

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- i. Please see Correspondent Goulding or Senator Copley for more information.
  - c. International Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference
    - i. Occurs September 29 through October 1, 2022 at UCO  
(<https://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/thecenter/conference>)
- XV. Adjournment 3:39 pm**  
Motion to adjourn by Senator Breslin and a second. Adjourned at 3:39 pm.

Respectively Submitted by **Secretary Amanda Waters**, on 9 September 2022