I. CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate President Fred Gates called the December meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:59 PM in Education 201.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The following members were present: Arden Aspedon, David Bessinger, Tammy Blatnik, Héctor Garza for John Bradshaw, Kathy Brooks (Sayre), Brad Bryant, Tommye Davis (Sayre), Jerry Dunn, Jason Dupree, David Esjornson, Fred Gates, Marci Grant, Andrea Holgado, Siriporn Peters for E.K. Jeong, Tiffany Kessler, Ed Klein, Jim Long, Hardeep Saluja for Scott Long, Tom McNamara, Evette Meliza, Kristin Montarella (OKC), Cynthia Pena, Ann Russell, Joel Kendall for Lisa Schroeder, Jeff Walker for Trisha Wald, Dennis Widen, and Trevor Ellis for Curt Woolever.


IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The amended November minutes were approved by a voice vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. President Fred Gates

1. From the Executive Council meeting of December 2, 2013.

   a. President Randy Beutler provided a legislative update. The interim studies are over and the results of them are yet to be determined. The Chancellor did ask for an additional $76 million in new funds, of which about two-thirds are earmarked for Complete College America. The overall budget for FY2014 looks as if it will be flat but that should become clearer in the coming weeks but as always, Higher Ed. is competing with a lot of folks for money.

   b. Vice President Tom Fagan reported on the budget and mentioned that we will be starting FY2014 about $500,000 in the hole due to the mid-year raise and expected increases in insurance premiums beginning in January. As a result, the university will have to start prioritizing its strategic goals by overall dollar costs and reviewing past program expenditures to determine how best to allocate limited resources. One specific example he gave was that the proposed Honors Program would cost about $500,000 over a four year period. The monies for that (and other
projects) would come from increased legislative funding, increased enrollment, tuition increases, or budget reallocation. Therefore some hard choices may have to be made in order to implement long range strategic goals.

c. President Beutler presented RUSO enrollment and degree numbers to the Council and stated that these numbers don’t accurately reflect the truth of our success in this realm. As such, he has asked if we can think of a better way to measure our success rate that is easily defensible to critics. Dean Ken Rose suggested we measure more than just Bachelor’s degrees. It was also proposed that Pharmacy students be awarded some form of degree once they’ve completed a certain amount of hours. Any ideas should be forwarded to the President.

d. President Beutler would also like suggestions concerning SWOSU’s shutdown and delay policies due to inclement weather. Should there be different times for different days because of class scheduling, etc.? Again, any suggestions should be forwarded to the President.

e. The top administration is attending a strategic enrollment seminar on December 4th and 5th. The President believes it is imperative that we develop an enrollment plan since we have to maintain enrollment to alleviate budget constraints. V.P. Fagan noted that the university would have $2,000,000 more if we were at the same level of enrollment we were ten years ago. President Beutler and others also stressed that faculty members need to become more active in recruitment and be prepared to work with admissions more closely when potential recruits are on campus.

2. From the Administrative Council meeting of December 2, 2013.

a. Interim Director of Distance Learning Marci Grant reported that one on one CANVAS training has begun for those who are interested. D2L will be taken down on December 21st, but faculty will still have access.

b. Denisa Engleman reported that incoming freshman GPA’s have been gradually increasing over the past 4 years as have the percentage of incoming freshmen who graduated in the top 10% of their class. Average composite ACT scores had been increasing for the past 3 years but flattened out this past year.

c. Registrar Daniel Archer reported that enrollment is still down with a total number of 3629. However, he is encouraged by the initial Spring enrollments. (Update: Spring enrollments are running about 6% behind last year at this time).

d. Todd Boyd reported that New Orientation Leaders have been selected and will start training in the Spring. He also requested that any departments
interested in aiding with recruitment are more than welcome.

e. HR Director David Misak reiterated that Hazardous Communication training must be completed by anyone on the payroll.

f. Lynne Thurman wants to remind all departments that if they have any needs that cost over $1,000 to please let her know and perhaps she can find donors wishing to fund specific projects.

g. V.P. of Student Affairs Dr. Cindy Foust reported that the Dean of Students office adjudicated 13 cases of plagiarism and all were found guilty, failed the course(s), and were banned from taking the professor(s) future classes which resulted in 3 having to change their majors.

B. Secretary/Treasurer Curt Woolever (David Esjornson reporting)

1. Roll Sheet – please sign.

2. Treasurer’s Report:
   a. BancFirst Checking Account: November Meeting Balance: $2311.19
      CURRENT BALANCE: $2311.19

   b. University Account: November Meeting balance: $105.01
      CURRENT BALANCE: $105.01

C. President-Elect Evette Meliza: Nothing to report

D. Past President David Esjornson: Nothing to report

E. Student Government Representative: Not in attendance.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Report from the Adhoc Committee on the FUPTRC

Per the motion creating its existence, the committee investigating the role of the FUPTRC on the SWOSU campus must report its activity to the Senate.

The Committee is currently surveying recent FUPTRC members to get information on the positives and negatives of the current system. The survey results will be reported to the Senate in January.

Respectfully, Fred Gates (reporting for Committee Chair, Jared Edwards.)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Any Senators with their departments’ top 3 faculty concerns should report these to Fred Gates by the end of January.
IX. NEW BUSINESS: none.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3:15 PM

  Next meeting 2:00 pm
  Friday January 31, 2014