

Faculty Senate Meeting
2:00PM March 31, 2006, Stafford 110
Approved Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM:

The March 31, 2006 meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:00 PM in Stafford 110 with FS President Kelley Logan presiding. The following members were present:, Stephen Burgess, Dayna Coker, Viki Craig, Tom Davis, Michael Dougherty, Barry Gales, Terry Goforth, John Hayden, Devid Hertzell, Robin Jones, Chad Kinder, Kelley Logan, Scott Long, Joseph Maness, Robbie McCarty, Les Ramos, Pamela Roys, Jeffrey Short, Mark Tippin, Karen Travis, Don Wilson, Kathy Wolff, and Jon Woltz.

II. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Max White for Nancy Buddy Penner, Mehdi Raoufi for Madeline Baugher, Dennis Widen for James South, George Hauser for Tami Loy.

III. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: Cindy Dougherty, Dean of Students discussing FERPA

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of Feb. 24, 2006 were approved.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. From FS President Logan:

1. Thursday, March 30th, the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed SB 1262 which is a General Appropriations bill that sets an appropriation level for all state appropriated agencies. The State Regents for Higher Education, if agreed to by the Senate and the Governor, would receive a total of \$914,392,116 which is an increase over FY'06 of \$24,958,236 or 2.8%. This amount is vastly lower than the \$86 million in new funds recommended by the Governor and the Senate and would not cover all the obligations for OHLAP and capital bond debt payments.

2. We were reminded in the Executive Council meeting to maintain records of our students' work: Class rolls must be kept for 5 years, grade books for 5 years and all papers, exams, etc. must be given back to each student or kept until the academic appeals period for that class has expired, then you must ask and receive permission from David Misak to destroy this material before doing so. For exhaustive information see: <http://www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/docs/ucgrds-schedule.pdf> or you may wait until next senate meeting during which David Misak will present this information more fully.

3) We were reminded to abide by the FERPA.

4) The administration would like to promote SWOSU by publicizing the notable accomplishments (service, scholarship, teaching innovations) of faculty and students that would be of interest to the general public and in a form for public consumption (TV, radio, newspapers).

5) Dr. Sonobe clarified that the FS does, indeed, have the right to consider and express opinions about ongoing legislation. There is no conflict of interest as expression of thought upon these matters is covered by the Freedom of Speech.

B. FS Secretary/Treasurer Melody Ashenfelter reported by Robbie McCarty:

1. Roll Sheet—please sign and update.

2. Treasurer's Report: BancFirst Checking account balance: \$1,549.71
 University account balance: \$131.96

C. FS President Elect Maness:

D. FS Past President South: No report

E. FS Student Government Representative Sheena Pritchett: No representative.

VI. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

A. Personnel Policy Committee: (Issue sent to committee: Proposed Change to the Faculty Handbook as Identified by the College of Professional & Graduate Studies Academic Council and Review of First Year Tenure Track and Non-Tenure Track Continuing Faculty) – Committee reports were provided to Senators

B. Student Affairs Committee: (Issue sent to committee: Academic Dishonesty policy for students) The committee is working on a policy and expect to have something for the senate to review in April.

C. University Policies Committee: (Issue sent to Committee: Motion 2006-02-03: Scientific Misconduct Policy) – Committee reported that questions had been sent to the Chair of the Research Committee.

D. Nominating Committee: (Issues sent to committee: Elections for Faculty Senate Officers as well as Selected University Committees) – Committee reported nominations received and brief resumes/bios. Voting will be at the April meeting

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Results of e-mail voting on Motion 2006-02-02:

**Resolution
of the
Faculty Senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University**

We, the faculty senate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University are very concerned about the future state of education in Oklahoma and in particular legislation introduced and being considered in the 2006 Oklahoma legislature (HB 2107, the “Academic Freedom Act” and HCR 1043).

While we recognize that abuses addressed in this legislation are not beyond the realm of possibility, checks already exist that protect the academic freedom of faculty and students and promote critical thinking in the classroom. These include but are not limited to student grade appeal processes, yearly tenure reviews of non-tenured faculty and post-tenure review of tenured faculty, peer reviews of curricula and teaching, competition between institutions for students and competition between students for university admission and scholarships, state and national science curriculum standards, standards of professional ethics and conduct endorsed by professional academic and educational organizations, and public awareness of institutional behavior. We feel that these checks appropriately balance proper academic freedom while punishing wanton abuse or neglect of duty.

In our litigious society the unintended consequences of the proposed legislation could be devastating. The effect of this legislation will be to encourage and protect the introduction of unverifiable pseudoscientific and philosophical ideas and concepts into Oklahoma science classrooms. Nine major federal court cases have determined that the actions of teachers and schools encouraged by this legislation violate the establishment clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, and will unnecessarily expose teachers and school districts to costly litigation.

Furthermore, the introduction of such material in science classrooms will weaken Oklahoma science curricula, do immeasurable harm to the reputations of graduates of Oklahoma public schools and higher education institutions and inhibit Oklahoma’s attempts to encourage a growing biotech industry

We therefore oppose passage of HB 2107, the “Academic Freedom Act,” and HCR 1043.

Adopted 7 March 2006

For the Faculty Senate
Dr. Kelley Logan, President

The motion passed by e-mail vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A.

FS Motion 2006-03-01:

The Personnel Policies Committee discussed the “Proposed Change to the Faculty Handbook as Identified by the College of Professional & Graduate Studies Academic Council.” The Personnel Policies Committee moved that the proposed change be denied.

The motion carried by voice vote.

B.

FS Motion 2006-03-02

The Personnel Policies Committee moved that the following timetable and procedures be used to review first year tenure track and non-tenure track continuing faculty.

First year full time tenure track faculty and first year full time non-tenure track continuing faculty will be reviewed for continuance in the spring of their first year.

1. The tenure track candidate for continuance and the non-tenure track candidate for continuance supply to the Department Chair by the third Monday in January the following:
 - a. A current copy of their curriculum vita.
 - b. Two peer reviews (one chosen by the candidate and one chosen by the Department Chair).
 - c. (Optional) any other documentation (maximum of 10 pages) that the candidate would like the committee to consider.
2. The Department Continuance Committee shall meet in accordance with the Continuance instructions set down by the Faculty Handbook, and the final report of the Continuance Committee will be ready by the fourth Friday in January.
3. The Department Chair will follow the Continuance instructions set down in the Faculty Handbook, and forward a recommendation to the Dean by the first Friday in February.
4. A meeting between the Department Chair and the Dean is required when the Continuance Committee, the Department Chair, or both are recommending non-continuance.
5. The Dean takes the recommendations of the Continuance Committee and the Department Chair into consideration and makes a recommendation to the Chief Academic Officer by the third Friday in February.
6. If the Dean is going to make a recommendation of non-continuance, the Dean will ask the Department Chair to so inform the candidate. The candidate then has the option of submitting a letter of resignation by the fourth Friday in February or allowing the process to continue.
7. By March 1 or the immediately following business day, candidates for Continuance will be notified of their Continuance or Non-Continuance.

The motion carried by voice vote.

IX. Closing Remarks:

President Logan congratulated Faculty Senator Mark Tippin on completion of his Ph.D.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: April 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m., STF 110.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Logan, President
2005-2006

Melody Ashenfelter, Secretary
Minutes taken by Robbie McCarty