

Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 3, 2009, 2:00 pm, EDU 201
(re-scheduled from March 27, 2009, due to inclement weather)
Approved Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM.

II. The April 3, 2009, meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:00 PM in Education 201 with FS President Les Ramos presiding. The following members were present: Lisa Appeddu, John Bradshaw, Kathy Brooks (Sayre), Stephen Burgess, Kevin Collins, Tommye Davis (Sayre), David Esjornson, Terry Goforth, Ralph May for John Hayden, Rita Hays, Todd Helton, Sophia Lee, Jim Long, Warren Moseley, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Randall Sharp, Dennis Widen for James South, Bill Sticka, and Jonathon Woltz.

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Ralph May for John Hayden; Dennis Widen for James South.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 27, 2009, meeting were approved.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. From FS President Les Ramos:

1. General:

- a. **Budget:** The Legislature has proposed cuts in appropriations to state agencies and institutions, including higher education. The cuts include a 1% reduction for the *remainder* of FY09 and a 5% or 10% reduction in appropriations for FY10. For SWOSU, these cuts will result in funding shortfalls of \$243,581 for FY09 and either \$1,449,308 or \$2,655,036 for FY10. Although these cuts have not been finalized, the Legislature has requested that state agencies prepare scenarios for dealing with decreased appropriations.
- b. **Proposed Fees:** The SGA has proposed a \$6 fee per credit hour (\$5 to support athletics, \$0.25 for student allocations and \$0.75 to support music activities), but will require student approval (student body vote is scheduled for April 8). An *academic service fee* (\$5 per credit hour) has been requested for students enrolled in A&S and CPGS to support faculty salaries. Both fees will require formal approval by the Regents.
- c. **Health Insurance:** The regional business officers and HR directors have selected a consultant who will request bids from potential health insurance carriers with a view to have a carrier in place by January 2010.
- d. **Web Sites:** The **Office of Web Site Management** encourages everyone to check web sites and submit changes, updates, and/or deletions. The links in the Faculty Handbook table of contents for the Faculty Grievance Procedure and the Intellectual Property Policy have been revised and are both directed to the university policies web page.
- e. **Event Center:** Discussions have begun concerning the construction of an event center on the Weatherford campus. The event center that is envisioned will provide facilities for area-wide conferences, expos, and common/higher education activities and will also house a new basketball arena. A joint funding effort between the City of

Weatherford and SWOSU is being discussed. At this time, the project has an estimated cost of \$12 million.

- f. **Faculty Retirement Reception:** The reception will be held in the Bulldog Beanery on Tuesday, April 28, from 2:30 to 4 pm. Attendees can order from the coffee bar and enjoy an assortment of fresh-baked cookies. The SGA has kindly offered to help fund the reception.

B. FS Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Appeddu:

- 1. **Roll Sheet** – please sign.
- 2. **Treasurer’s Report:**
 - a. BancFirst Checking account (No change): \$1986.53
 - b. University account balance (No change): \$130.00

C. FS President-elect Scott Long: Not present.

D. FS Past President Robin Jones: Not present.

E. FS Student Government Representative Greg Franklin: Not present.

VI. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A. **Report from the Judiciary Committee on expiring terms of Faculty Senators:** Chair Terry Goforth submitted the following report identifying those Senators whose terms will be expiring this year. Senators either need to find a replacement from within their constituency or, with the consent of their constituency, renew their service for another three years. Senators need to be full-time faculty, have taught a minimum of four years at SWOSU, and cannot hold the title of Associate Dean, unless such stipulations would deprive an academic unit of representation. New Senators will need to attend the May meeting, so that they may be introduced to the Faculty Senate and to officially start their terms during the New Business portion of that meeting. The names of new and continuing Senators need to be submitted to the FS Secretary, Lisa Appeddu.

Senate Terms expiring in 2009:

A&S:

Terry Goforth, Chemistry & Physics ^a
Robin Jones, Communication & Theatre
Bill Sticka, Mathematics
James South, Music
David Hertzal, Social Sciences

Libray

Jim Long, Management & Marketing
Don Wilson, Education ^{ab}

CPGS

Jonathan Woltz

CAAP (Sayre)

None

Pharmacy

Randall Sharp, Pharmacy Practice

^a *These terms are incorrectly listed on the Faculty Senate Web Page. They were reduced in length in Spring 2008 to rebalance the election cycle of the overall Senate and within each College. (The effect is to roll-over 1/3 of the representatives each year.)*

^b *Vicki Gilliland was appointed as a replacement for Don Wilson upon his retirement in December 2008. She will officially start her term of service in May 2009.*

B. Report from the Ad hoc Committee on the Honors College Proposal: Chair Stephen Burgess presented the following information to the Faculty Senate, which outlines the objectives and general plan of action in establishing an Honors College at SWOSU. With a desired start date of Fall 2010 (or 2011), the Committee would like to determine the level of commitment from SWOSU faculty. Therefore, Faculty Senators are charged with going back to their departments to assess (1) an estimated number of faculty interested in participating the Honors College and (2), if possible, in what component(s) of the Honors College they would like to be involved (i.e., teaching specific classes, mentoring research, leading service learning projects, etc). This information should be reported by the Chair / Assistant Dean or by the Faculty Senate representative to Stephen Burgess by the next Senate meeting.

Objectives we have so far:

- Honors College would be a recruitment tool for high level students
- Honors College would be a retention tool for high level students
- Honors College would increase opportunities for high level students to interact across disciplines
- Would encourage interdisciplinary collaboration for faculty
- A focus on providing opportunities for students of the Honors College to interact in classes & experiences with other high performance students
- Students would have an increased exposure to multicultural issues
- Not an add on program

4 core areas of the program:

- 1) a set of core GE classes designated as honors classes (percentage of GE classes would be taken as Honors)
- 2) a percentage of upper level classes would be taken as honors classes
- 3) a senior level project that would likely be specific to their major area of study
- 4) a service learning component with emphasis on group community projects

Core Areas: Current thoughts

- Honors students take at least 8 Honors classes (thinking 1 per semester)
- At least 4 GE's would have to be Honors designated
- At least 2 interdisciplinary courses required
- Waive minor requirement (HC would serve as minor)
- Some number of GE classes could be replaced by interdisciplinary courses

1) GE classes

- At least 4 GE's would have to be Honors designated
- minimize incidence of contracting other courses for Honors
- several offered each semester
- post a projected slate of 2 years for planning purposes

2) Upper level classes

- At least 2 interdisciplinary courses required

3) Senior level project

- Oversight would be at level of department
- Would submit a prospectus to HC committee for approval and contract
- Designed as a year-long project

4) Service learning

- 2 semester long small group projects
- emphasis on group/team solutions to problems/opportunities identified in the community
- encourage multidisciplinary solutions
- not part of a class, but part of the program
- would be heavily faculty supervised

Notes from the committee meeting with the Provost:

At this point, the Provost would like us to prepare a formal proposal. This will include having individuals agree to teach classes, agreements from the affected departmental chairs, proposed course schedules, etc.

- Based on numbers of ACT scores of students applying this year, there are about 80 that would qualify at 27 and up.
- Teaching of courses would be paid at overload rates.
- Honors College replacing the minor (unless required for a specific major) is OK.
- Class sizes in the 25 student range.
- A director that receives some amount of release time is needed.
- Can try to find sponsors and to development an endowment, but there are few to no funds available to earmark for the program.
- Not a problem to designate Freshman Orientation sections as honors.
- director and committee would supervise and set policy as per a department

Suggestions:

- Students would receive recognition on their transcripts with a designation of honors (would be SWOSU honors, not by major area)
- Students would wear honor cords at graduation
- Honors classes would be denoted on transcripts
- Honors classes would be low enrollment
- Honors students in specific sections of Freshman orientation
- Honors classes would typically consist of only Honors students
- Only a certain percentage of the Honors requirements could be satisfied by taking regular courses with extra work (focus will be on classes with other Honors students)
- Honors faculty would teach honors classes
- We contact prospective students with an invitation to enter the Honors College at SWOSU
- Honors College students could be given financial incentive (e.g., scholarships, dorm waiver, tuition waver)
- We have an Honors College committee that oversees faculty involvement in the program
- That there be a person assigned some oversight responsibility
- There should be several paths to satisfy requirements (some flexibility)
- There should be several ways to enter the program (first level would be ACT composite cutoffs, also possibility of using AP scores, high ACT in 1 area as invited freshman entries) and possibility of using grades and faculty recommendation after some number of classes completed at SWOSU
- The requirement for a minor be waived for students completing the required Honor's course work
- Budget which might be used for speakers, conferences, and a few extras that would make the program appealing to students.
- Try to schedule honors classes in set time slots for scheduling purposes

C. Report from the Nominating Committee: Chair Scott Long presented the following report regarding the **Election of Members of Selected Standing University Committees for Academic Year 2009-2010:**

The following offices and committee members need to be chosen by the Faculty Senate for the up-coming 2009-2010 academic year. Please forward all nominations, including the nominee's name, their college, and their committee preferences to Scott Long, Chair, Nominations Committee at scott.long@swosu.edu

Faculty Senate (NOTE: These two offices will only entertain nominees from within the Faculty Senate)

President-Elect
Secretary-Treasurer

Faculty Development Committee

One (1) member from Arts and Sciences
One (1) member from Pharmacy
One (1) member from Professional and Graduate Studies

Bernhardt Selection Committee

One (1) member from Associate and Applied Programs
One (1) member from Pharmacy
One (1) member from Professional and Graduate Studies
One (1) member from Arts and Sciences (Dr. John Woods)

Academic and Advisory Committee

Three (3) members

Academic Appeals Committee

Five (5) members

Financial Assistance Advisory and Appeals Committee

One (1) member

Campus Environment Committee

One (1) member

Appellate Committee on Dismissal of Tenured Faculty

Four (4) members

Intellectual Property Committee

Two (2) members

Student Center Policy Forming Board

Three (3) members

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Concerns regarding the composition of the Faculty Grievance Committee:

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-03-01:

It is proposed that the Faculty Grievance Policy shall be modified to stipulate that a majority of members of the Faculty Grievance Committee shall be tenured but that at least one member shall be non-tenured.

Rationale: Even in cases in which the objectivity of an individual tenured-only grievance committee is unimpeachable, the current policy creates an unfortunate *appearance* of bias in faculty grievances between tenured and non-tenured faculty members: the appearance is that the committee begins the grievance process valuing the experiences and points of view of tenured colleagues and not valuing those of non-tenured colleagues.

The reality may well be that, in most other matters, tenured faculty members do indeed value the input of their tenured colleagues more highly than that of their non-tenured colleagues, and for good reason. On a Faculty Grievance Committee, though, the implicit claim in the current policy is that the committee does not want even to hear from faculty members whose experiences are comparable to a non-tenured faculty member involved in a grievance with a tenured member.

It is important that a majority of the members of a Faculty Grievance Committee be of the tenured faculty. It is equally important that a non-tenured member be permitted to add to the discourse. Even if a non-tenured member does not affect the votes of other members, he or she could raise issues that the majority of the committee would have to respond to, which could result in more thorough and thoughtful decisions.

A motion to send this issue to the University Policies Committee was seconded and passed by voice vote.

B. Concerns regarding university travel policies: Concerns were raised by Faculty Senators who have experienced some problems in arranging travel reservations, registering for conferences, and receiving reimbursement through the Business Office. The Faculty Senate President was requested to discuss this issue with the Provost and/or business office.

C. The Option of Electronic Submission of Promotion and Tenure Documents:

The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2009-03-02:

In that more and more documents are being kept electronically;

And in keeping pace with the trends for paperless submissions and computer applications in Higher Education;

And in support of those disciplines which may better present their accomplishments electronically;

It is proposed that the option of electronic submission of Promotion and Tenure materials be sent to the University Policies Committee for review.

The motion passed by voice vote.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Ramos, FS President

Lisa Appeddu, FS Secretary

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:
Friday, April 17, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in EDU 201**