

Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
2:00 PM November 21, 2008, Education 201
Approved Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM.

II. The November 21, 2008, 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, Chelsea Church, Kevin Collins, Tommye Davis (Sayre), David Esjornson, Jason Johnson for Terry Goforth, John Hayden, Rita Hays, Todd Helton, David Hertz, Robin Jones, Daniel Farris for Sophia Lee, Joe London, Jim Long, Scott Long, Warren Moseley, Chad Ramirez, Les Ramos, Ann Russell, Randall Sharp, Daniel Farris for James South, Bill Sticka, Muatasem Ubeidat, Don Wilson, Kathy Wolff and Jonathon Woltz.

III. CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES: Jason Johnson for Terry Goforth; Daniel Farris for Sophia Lee; and Daniel Farris for James South.

IV. PRESENTATION OF VISITORS: Randy Beutler discussed higher education issues in the state legislature. There are three primary issues of which to be aware: State Budget (State appropriations versus tuition to cover costs); Tuition authority (currently lies with the Regents versus the legislature); and the return of a campus gun bill (allowing “qualified” persons – students / faculty / staff – to be armed on college campuses). He may be contacted at Randy.Beutler@swosu.edu.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the October 31, 2008, meeting were approved.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. From FS President Les Ramos:

1. Executive and Administrative Council meetings of November 14, 2008:

- a. **403b (pre-tax contribution) Retirement Plans:** The regional universities, by unanimous vote, have selected Lincoln Financial Group as the sole vendor for 403b retirement plans. Lincoln provides a wide range of investment options and is committed to investor education. In addition, Lincoln will manage the administrative, record-keeping, and compliance aspects of these plans, including the tracking of “legacy” accounts.
- b. **Health Insurance:** The regional business officers and HR directors plan to have a consultant in place by January 1. The consultant will then prepare an RFP for vendors and begin to receive bids. The University Benefits Committee is inviting any suggestions or concerns regarding health insurance. The goal is to have the vendor in place and providing services by January 2010.
- c. **Salary Increase:** A 2.5% increase in base salary is planned for January 2009.
- d. **Higher Education Funding:** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are requesting \$80.4 million in state funds for FY’10. This is a significantly lower request than in previous years. If the requested funding is received, then the Regents have committed to “freezing” tuition and mandatory fees at the current level for the 2009-

10 academic year. The Regents have described this initiative as the “Putting Families First” plan.

2. Executive Committee meeting with the Provost and Associate Provost on November 18, 2008:

- a. **University Attendance Policy:** The Provost has requested that the Faculty Senate re-examine the current university attendance policy.
- b. **Adjunct and Overload Pay:** The Provost has requested that the Faculty Senate examine adjunct and overload pay

B. FS Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Appeddu:

1. **Roll Sheet** – please sign.

2. **Treasurer’s Report:**

- a. BancFirst Checking account (Addition of \$5 dues): \$1986.53
- b. University account balance (No change): \$129.15

C. FS President-elect Scott Long: Re-iterated the need for re-examining the university attendance policy.

D. FS Past President Robin Jones: None

E. FS Student Government Representative Greg Franklin: Provided updates on current SGA topics, including:

- 1. The SGA will address the proposal for SWOSU to become a smoke-free campus in January 2009.
- 2. In coordination with the Western Oklahoma Tobacco Control Coalition, the SGA will sponsor a program on March 24, 2009, addressing the health benefits of becoming tobacco-free.
- 3. The SGA is accepting audition demos and logo design submissions for the 2009 SWOSU Palooza, the outdoor musical event that is held each spring on the Weatherford campus. Submissions may be mailed to SWOSU SGA at 100 Campus Drive.

VII. REPORTS FROM STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES:

A. **University Policies Committee on University Email and Web Usage Policy:** The Committee presented a combined faculty- and staff-based university email and web usage policy. President Les Ramos presented a faculty-based policy as modified from the university email and web usage policy as currently proposed for staff.

B. **Ad Hoc Committee on Developing an Honors Program:** Nothing to report.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2008-11-01:

It is proposed that Faculty Senate members take both university email and web usage proposals back to their constituents to receive feedback, so that proposals may be re-visited at the December meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2008-11-02:

The FS Student Affairs Committee is charged with reviewing the current university attendance policy.

The motion passed by voice vote.

C. The following motion was moved and seconded:

FS Motion 2008-11-03:

The FS Personnel Policies Committee is charged with reviewing the wages paid for overload, adjunct instructors, and telecourse/web-based courses.

The motion passed by voice vote.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Ramos, FS President

Lisa Appeddu, FS Secretary

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:
Friday, December 5, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in EDU 201**