

**Volume 34
Number 4
January 18, 2007
Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate – Informal Notes**

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS PRESENT

A.F. Al-Assaf	Susan Gilmore	Michael McShan
Steve Blevins	Andy Goldbeck	Milton Olsen
Nancy Chu	Kevin Haney	Nathan Shankar
Frans Currier	Emma Kientz	
Winter Gibbs	Renee Leasure	

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS ABSENT

Mark Anderson	Holly Hoffman-Roberts	Su Phipps
Stacy Anderson	Satish Kumar	Lourdes Planas
Jo Azzarello	Frank Lawler	Larry Regens
Jane Bowers	Linda Machado	E. Michael Smith
Vicki Coury	Laura McGuinn	David Staats
Carol Dionne	Phillip McHale	Douglas Stewart
Susan Ellerbee	Marilee Obritsch	Eleni Tolma
Michael Gold	Jennifer Peck	Jani Van Grevenhof
Joy Hasebe	Anne Pereira	Steven Walston

EX-OFFICIOS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Jennifer Nelson	Lily Wong
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I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair-Elect, Dr. Kevin Haney, at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was not present.

II. GUEST SPEAKER

Mick Cornett, Mayor of Oklahoma City

Mayor Cornett spoke about a couple of initiatives for Oklahoma City: MAPS for Kids and the relocation of Interstate 40. The MAPS for Kids initiative was passed in 2001 and was a local tax over a period of seven years for the purpose of building an entirely new public school system for the inner city. Seventy-five new or refurbished buildings have been or will be built, and updates include bus systems and new technology. The one cent tax will end in December of 2008, but

the construction projects will continue into 2010 or 2011. There is no debt incurred with any of the construction – everything was paid for with the revenue from the tax.

Interstate 40 has been a barrier for development in the Bricktown area. With the relocation of the interstate five blocks to the south, about seventy new blocks will be opened up for downtown development. The existing I-40 bridge will be torn down and replaced with an at-grade corridor or boulevard through downtown. The I-40 relocation should be completed around 2009 and the boulevard should follow a couple of years later. In the meantime, a plan will be developed for the use of this land. Some ideas include corporate campuses, a convention center, residences, a park, a sports arena, and other businesses. A report should be coming out within a year of the proposed land use.

Mayor Cornett briefly discussed the possibility of a MAPS 3 initiative. Currently there is no plan for this project, but the city is looking into the option. There is a website, maps3.org, that is asking the public for their input about such an initiative and what kinds of projects would come from it. A decision should come in the next year or so about this initiative.

Mayor Cornett spent the remainder of the time answering questions from the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2006 MINUTES

The approval of the October 2006 Minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Haney reported that the Executive Committee met with Dr. Ferretti prior to the Faculty Senate meeting and he had a few announcements to share. The debates on funding will begin next week at the Capitol. Two issues are funding levels for the operational budgets for each college and endowments. Dr. Ferretti will be able to give more information at a later date.

The Health Sciences Center is a top candidate for the relocation of a proton therapy unit. If it is relocated here, it will be operational in twenty-seven months and there is already a commitment from a hotel chain to open up a new hotel near the therapy center.

The new Cancer Institute has a plan in the design phase. The College of Allied Health building is slated to begin construction at the beginning of February. New deans have been appointed to the College of Allied Health and the College of Pharmacy. There are also new Chairs in the departments of Urology and Surgery.

Dr. Blevins gave a brief update on the Healthcare debate. President Boren has given his final approval for the debate with a date late in April. The plan is to have a keynote speaker, a moderator, and four debaters. If the April date does not work, it will be held in the fall. The topic of the debate will be the Massachusetts Healthcare plan for Universal Health Insurance. More information will be given at the next meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Employee Benefits Committee

Dr. Milton Olsen reported that the EBC met earlier in the day and he presented the approved minutes from their November meeting. The EBC has recommended that the President appoint a high-level committee to review healthcare. The short term issues to be examined include contribution strategy, family coverage, and vendor selection. The long term issues include understanding the dynamics of national healthcare and promoting wellness. The panel is made up of senior administrators with healthcare experience. There has been an RFP for an external consultant and one has been selected. The Internal Revenue Service has still not issued a ruling on the option for employees to opt-out of OTRS. They hope the ruling will be within the next few weeks. Also in regards to OTRS, the removal of the caps is upcoming and letters will be sent out in January to those employees affected.

Aetna is close to signing a contract with the McBride Clinic and the Bone & Joint Clinic in Oklahoma City. Aetna is also considering a pre-approval process for certain procedures such as MRIs, CAT scans, etc.

Barbara Abercrombie was introduced as Tulsa's new director of Human Resources.

B. IT Advisory Committee

Dr. A.F. Al-Assaf reported that IT Advisory Committee discussed the efficiency of the Blackboard system. The system does not support Macs in an efficient manner and is causing some problems. IT is looking at the issues and is evaluating all the programs available for a viable alternative. A report will be given at the next meeting.

Renee Leasure stated that IT has a list of software that are available to faculty for personal purchase. A list will be sent to the Senate via email.

C. Committee on Committees

The January Committee on Committees report was tabled until the next meeting.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Al-Assaf spoke about the small number of awards available to faculty. He discussed sending a letter to the Provost and the Deans to encourage them to establish more awards. Dr. Haney felt this was an issue that the Senate should support. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Haney announced that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on February 22 with Dr. Mike Anderson as guest speaker. He also noted that the regular Faculty Senate meeting on April 19 has been cancelled and that the Spring Awards will be held on April 23.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Shankar,
Secretary

Handouts:

January 2007 Agenda

October 2006 Meeting Minutes (Draft)

EBC November 2006 Minutes