

**Volume 36
Number 2
September 18, 2008
Regular Meeting Minutes of the OUHSC Faculty Senate**

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Al Al-Assaf	Colin Foster	Frank Lawler
Deborah Booten-Hiser	Jean Goodman	Renee Leasure
Kari Boyce	Vesper Grantham	Deborah Lockwood
Pramod Chetty	Kevin Haney	Laura McGuinn
Kim Coon	Donald Harrison	Abbey Onan
Sheila Crow	Mary Hudson	Julie Parke
Elena Cuaderes	Peter Johnson	Larry Regens
Carol Dionne	Satish Kumar	Winter Smith
Deborah Espen	Betty Kupperschmidt	Douglas Stewart

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS ABSENT

Stacy Anderson	David Lewis	Patsy Smith
Vicki Coury	Voncella McCleary-Jones	Julie Stoner
Kevin Farmer	W. Mike McShan	Steve Walston
Robert John	Lida Radfar	

EX-OFFICIOS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Victoria Christofi	Kathy Walker
Kate Stanton	Cheryl Williams

GUEST SPEAKERS: Dr. Larry Regens, Chair, introduced Danny Hilliard, Director of Government Relations for the University of Oklahoma. He is a former member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and served as Speaker Pro Tempore and Majority Leader for the House during his years of service. He discussed the moratorium regulations that have been discussed at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, which could jeopardize the GME funding if their agency rules are promulgated. If the moratorium is implemented, it would take effect in April 2009. He discussed the process for requests for Federal funding by the University as well as various sources of funding for campus improvements, programs and grants.

Having served as a member of the State House until 2004, he discussed the legislative appropriation process and the current “flat budget” that was implemented for FY09. It is a “stand still budget” and the Legislature was able to keep budgets at the current levels due to the gross production taxes increasing in collections. The Legislature actually appropriates the estimated funding during the session with any monies coming in over that estimate being available for appropriation during the next session of the Legislature. The State Equalization Board will meet in December 2008 to review the current collections and the revenue projections and will approve the estimated funds for the Legislature to appropriate during the 2009 Session. The Legislature meets between the first Monday of February and the last Friday of May. He reviewed several bills that impacted the policies and programs of the University of Oklahoma, including the Health Sciences Center: SB 1656 provided for a task force to study patient centered care; and, SJR 41 directs the Health Improvement Plan. To follow the legislative process, specific bills, and current status, an individual can go to the Legislature’s website at www.lsb.state.ok.us

Several interim studies were reviewed, including one to mandate insurance companies to cover treatment for autism (Nick's Law). A meeting of this committee was held today at the Capitol. Another interim study sponsored by Rep. Kris Steel, will be reviewing healthcare reforms aimed at reducing the number of uninsured in Oklahoma. Sen. Susan Paddock is sponsoring an interim study to provide a comprehensive assessment of the healthcare workforce and related issues. Another interim study will deal with shortage of nurses and allied health care workers.

One issue was the HSC budget, which operates similar to a private institution with a limited amount of budget funding from state dollars and tuition. Primarily the HSC budget is based on clinical funding, grants, contracts, etc.

How to effectively work with the legislature was discussed. It is hard to forecast what may happen due to any change of leadership for either the State Senate or State House. This year's elections will determine which political party will control each chamber. However, the budgeting process includes leadership from both chambers, as well as the Governor. He reminded those attending that improvement in payments for health care as well as insurance coverage for citizens will help to indirectly improve the financial condition of the Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Michael Gold, who will be moving to Vanderbilt in a few weeks, was recognized and thanked for his service to the Faculty Senate. Everyone wished him well in his new endeavor.

The Chair then recognized Kate Stanton, Executive Director of HSC Student Affairs, and Dr. Victoria Christofi, Director of Student Counseling Services. They spoke about Safety of Students on campus and reminded Faculty members that they should watch for signs of a student needing assistance and to refer a student for any counseling needs. Counseling services are provided and funded through fees paid by the students. Dr. Christofi reviewed how to recognize distressed students and types of counseling services provided through Student Counseling.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Larry Regens, Chair, at 5:47 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2008 MINUTES** - A motion was made by Satish Kumar to approve the August 2008 Minutes. Motion was seconded and motion passed.
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT** - Dr. Regens stated that future meetings may not have a speaker so that Senators could have the opportunity to discuss concerns raised by faculty within their respective colleges. He reported on the Executive Committee meeting held with Dr. Ferretti, Provost. The following items were discussed:
 - A.** Administrative review of the Deans is currently underway. Dr. Regens provided an overview of the process for faculty input. Faculty comments will have identifying information redacted and the comments will be included in a summary on appropriate dean. The summary is presented to President Boren. It is a good feedback mechanism that is used every 5 years to review a Dean.
 - B.** Norman campus has made a commitment to use wind supplied electricity. Part of the electricity supplied to HSC is wind generated.

- C. Fall General Faculty Meeting will be held on Monday, October 13th at 5:15 p.m. in the BSEB East Lecture Hall. Dr. Ferretti will be presenting his annual report of the Health Sciences Center. The Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for October 16th will not be held.
- D. Executive Committee is still in the process of soliciting input from faculty regarding the ORA. The steps will be as follows:
- i. Email will be sent to Faculty Senate members from Dr. Regens requesting input (has been sent previously in a couple of colleges)
 - ii. Senators from each college are encouraged to solicit input from faculty members in their college and forward those comments to the Faculty Senate office by November 1st.
 - iii. The compilation of comments will be provided to Dr. Waner for review, which will give him time to review issues and respond.
 - iv. Executive Committee will meet with Dr. Waner (and keep the Provost in the loop) to discuss the concerns, comments, etc.
 - v. Dr. Waner will be scheduled to attend a future meeting of the Faculty Senate to discuss the concerns and steps being taken at ORA. This meeting will be open to all faculty members to attend.
 - vi. Outside consultants have already been hired to review the IRB process regarding clinical trials and human research.
- E. Dr. Haney restated his concern that the HSC Service and Related Matters Committee could have handled this type of issue but has been voted to be abolished. Unfortunately, the process for reinstating this committee could be cumbersome and it was felt that an ad-hoc committee could handle issues in the future. This issue is being handled by the Executive Committee and Dr. Kumar, which will help to keep the Provost involved.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Committees – The following were unanimously approved:

Resignations or Retirements:

Employee Benefits Committee (2007-2011) - Stacy Anderson, Allied Health
 Parking Advisory Committee - Stacy Anderson, Allied Health

Recommendations:

Employee Benefits Committee (2007-2011) - Frank Lawler, Medicine
 Parking Advisory Committee - Maribeth Moran, Nursing

The Committee on Committees recommends Al Al-Assaf to serve as Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate for the 2008-09 term. The floor was opened for nominations, and none were received from the floor. Dr. Regens called for a vote on the recommendation of the COC and the recommendation unanimously passed.

B. Employee Benefits Committee – Dunn Cumby reported on the meeting of the EBC that was held today.

The committee has been able to negotiate with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide the health care insurance for the University with a flat rate for premiums in 2009 and a maximum of a 10% increase during the following 2 years. Information will be

communicated to everyone that his contract is not the same as when the University used BC/BS for self insurance. Debit cards will be used for the Flexible Spending Accounts.

Delta Dental will be providing the dental coverage and has improved since the previous contract with them. Competition for bids seemed to bring about good response for coverage of our employees.

Community Care will be providing the HMO option for Tulsa employees. OU Physicians are now in-network with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which should help our employees to be able to use health care providers on our campus.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield provides wellness initiatives, including biometric health screenings, smoking cessation, as well as the Blue Points, an incentive program for earning merchandise by accumulating points for good health behavior (self reported).

C. Speaker's Series – A letter has been sent to President Boren requesting support of the speaker's series. Initial contact has been made with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to be the speaker at this year's event. If anyone has other speakers they would like to have considered, please send the information to the Faculty Senate office or to Dr. Regens. Our goals will be to have good media coverage of the speaker's time on campus, meet needs on all of the campuses, as well as a topic that is relevant to students, staff and faculty.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The Fall General Faculty Meeting will be held on Monday, October 13, 2008, at 5:15 p.m. in the BSEB East Lecture Hall.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. There will be no October Faculty Senate meeting. The next meeting of Faculty Senate will be November 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura McGuinn
Secretary, 2008-09

Handouts:

September 2008 Agenda

August 2008 Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Committee on Committees (printed)

Employee Benefits Committee Minutes (August 2008) and Annual Report (printed)