

**Volume 36
Number 3
November 20, 2008
Regular Meeting Minutes of the OUHSC Faculty Senate**

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Al Al-Assaf	Colin Foster	Deborah Lockwood
Stacy Anderson	Jean Goodman	Laura McGuinn
Deborah Booten-Hiser	Kevin Haney	Abbey Onan
Kari Boyce	Karl Hansen	Julie Parke
Pramod Chetty	Peter Johnson	Larry Regens
Kim Coon	Satish Kumar	Winter Smith
Vicki Coury	Betty Kopperschmidt	Julie Stoner
Elena Cuaderes	Frank Lawler	Steve Walston
Deborah Espen	Renee Leasure	

SENATORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS ABSENT

Sheila Crow	Mary Hudson	Lida Radfar
Carol Dionne	Robert John	Patsy Smith
Kevin Farmer	David Lewis	Douglas Stewart
Vesper Grantham	Voncella McCleary-Jones	
Donald Harrison	W. Mike McShan	

EX-OFFICIOS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Doug Myers	Whitney Steele	Cheryl Williams
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- I. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Larry Regens, Chair, at 5 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.
- II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2008 MINUTES** - A motion was made by Al Al-Assaf to approve the September 2008 Minutes as printed. Motion was seconded by Colin Foster and motion passed.
- III. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - Dr. Regens stated that the Executive Committee had met with Dr. Ferretti prior to the Faculty Senate meeting.
 - A.** Provost Ferretti is working with President Boren's office to try to bring Justice Sandra Day O'Conner to the HSC Campus for the Speaker Series. She has Oklahoma ties and all felt she would be a nationally prominent speaker for HSC to host. If she accepts, her availability will determine the date of the Speaker Series.
 - B.** Executive Committee shared with the Provost the ORA concerns that had been sent to Dr. Waner. A meeting with Dr. Waner has been scheduled for December 3rd. Dr. Waner will be invited to speak to the Faculty Senate at a later date, if needed. The Provost stated that senior administration had initiated a review of the IRB for HSC. He is looking forward to a report from the Executive Committee with regard to their meeting with Dr. Waner.

- C.** An initiative petition is being circulated in the state by the OEA to raise salaries for general education (K-12) to the average of the surrounding states. Discussion was held concerning the effects to the University funding if this petition is passed by the voters of the state.
- D.** Presbyterian Health Foundation has imposed a moratorium on BRIDGE grants and SEED grants which effects faculty research funding.
- i. Additional impact of the potential economic downturn was discussed and what might happen if private donations go down. It could be a lean year for HSC since the potential for receiving increased funding from the State Legislature could be impacted by lower tax collections or reduced general revenue. The Provost indicated his concern for funding of staff salaries and assured the Executive Committee that he has not lost sight of faculty salaries.
 - ii. Comparisons of funding by surrounding states of their health science centers were discussed. Arkansas appropriates more than \$109 million (does not include a College of Dentistry) with Oklahoma funding only \$95 million for all of the OU Health Sciences Center. Students in Arkansas pay significantly less per semester for post-graduate studies in the HSC system than Oklahoma students. However, Oklahoma is not considering cuts in funding to higher education. Several states are reducing funding to higher education with Ohio cutting 10% in 2009 and an additional 10% scheduled in 2010.
- E.** Construction and completion of the College of Allied Health Building is behind schedule. Some departments will begin to move in during the Holiday break. Most of the departments will move in during the Spring semester, or after their academic term.
- F.** Parking fee increases will be on the December meeting agenda for the Regents and will, most likely, be approved. Later in the meeting, Doug Myers addressed several concerns about the parking fee increases, especially in light of no raises being given this year and increased fuel expenses for employees to commute. He stated that the reason for the increase in fees is due to the significant costs for repairs of several parking garages on campus, combined with the loss of parking spaces due to construction. Additionally, Parking & Transportation does not receive any state funding. Payment for repairs, department costs, maintenance, security, and utilities is from parking fees. As part of the parking fee request, reserved parking areas in the basement of Williams Pavilion and at the College of Allied Health Building parking lot are being added. The goal is to utilize all available parking spaces at all times.
- G.** Joe Castiglione was scheduled as speaker for the January 15, 2009 meeting but will be unable to attend due to a conflict with a meeting for the NCAA. Discussion was held on speakers for future meetings. Rep. Kris Steele, 2008 Chair for the Health Committee in the Oklahoma House of Representatives has indicated an interest in speaking to the Faculty Senate. With the upcoming legislative session, it would be good to meet with a leader of the State House about legislative issues for the 2009 session. Cheryl will extend an invitation to him to speak.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Academic Programs Committee** – printed report was available for review.
- B. Employee Benefits Committee** – Frank Lawler reported on the meeting of the EBC that was held today. Open enrollment for the employee insurance closed on Nov. 19th. Approximately 80% registered online.
- i. Primary subject of the November EBC meeting was the report on retiree medical benefits. He encouraged everyone to review the report which was sent to employees and to check their eligibility. He stated that the committee has been very thoughtful about all decisions concerning employee benefits. Summary of the retiree groups and eligibility for benefits was provided. Due to the change by the IRS requiring higher education institutions to maintain better records and provide employees with the ability to make investment choices, an RFP has been sent out for a Record Keeper of the retirement accounts.
- C. Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)** – printed report was provided. Discussion was held on concerns of the VPN server which recently changed. The need for a stable connection was discussed.
- i. Several expressed concern regarding communication between IT and users not being as consistent as desired or providing adequate notice of changes.
 1. A motion was made by Al Al-Assaf, and seconded by several, to request that ITAC actively monitor and meet with IT on all projects with clear and reasonable communication on all IT programs, software, etc. Motion passed.
 - ii. Several requested that ITAC work with IT so they can have the ability to communicate with patients off campus via secure email.
- D.** Discussion about billing by OU Medical Center and OU Physicians for staff and faculty as patients was held. Staff and faculty members are no longer using OUMC or OU Physicians due to their bad experience on billing. Billing for services is either not handled in a timely manner or is turned over to collection agencies prior to the person receiving a bill.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.** The Staff Senate is collecting donations and items for the Ronald McDonald House Charities (near campus). Faculty Senate members were invited to participate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. There will be no December Faculty Senate meeting. The next meeting of Faculty Senate will be January 15, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McGuinn
Secretary, 2008-09

Handouts:

November 2008 Agenda
September 2008 Meeting Minutes (Draft)
Academic Programs Committee (printed)
Employee Benefits Committee Minutes (October 2008)
ITAC Notes (Sept. 2008)