



Approved Minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting

Friday, September 6, 2024 at 1:00PM in SAB 202

Members:

COASN – Dr. Curtis Bensch, Shawna Tucker, Tonnie Scott (proxy for Dr. Kristy Calloway)

COAE – Stacy Nordquist, Dr. Marjory Hall, Dr. Jarrett Kaufman (absent)

COBT – Steve Martin, Tracy Curtis

Guests present: Dr. Julie Dinger, OPSU President, Dr. Charla Lewis, Interim VPAA and Dean COAE, and Ms. Vicki Pasque, Interim Dean COBT. Additional faculty present both in person and online.

Call meeting to order: Dr. Curtis Bensch at 1:00 pm.

- President Dinger update and discussion
 - Dr. Dinger addressed the matter of enrollment, acknowledging that, although our numbers are 6% down for FTE and 9% down for headcount, the university is still better off financially as 100% of the revenue from enrollment is now retained by OPSU. In addition, Dr. Dinger reported that we have an 8% increase in freshman credit hours and 7% increase in freshman headcount. She added that the numbers of students living on campus, utilizing meal plans, and contributing to the community are higher than last year, and she is optimistic about our current situation.
 - Dr. Dinger reported on the upcoming campus visit from Dr. Steve Bahls, a consultant on Shared Governance. Dr. Bahls will be meeting with representatives of the various constituencies of OPSU in his assessment of our current level and quality of shared governance. The Senate was asked to provide names of individuals it believes could be informative for these meetings, stressing that our choices should reflect the wide variety of perspectives and goals present at OPSU. Dr. Dinger would like these recommendations as soon as possible but not later than Friday, September 20. Dr. Bahls's evaluation will culminate in a workshop on October 21 in which OPSU's Shared Governance policy will be finalized.
 - Work on OPSU's Strategic Plan had been paused but will recommence in November. Jessica Mary with Oklahoma Center for Non-Profit (OCNPO) is involved with the OPSU Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be OPSU's operating blueprint for the next three to five years.
 - OPSU's initiative for Executive Accountability is in the works, and details will be forthcoming.
 - There has been a delay in sending faculty employment letters due to efforts to streamline the process for generating those letters accurately and efficiently, utilizing mail merge. Dr. Dinger assures the Senate that there are no changes anticipated as far as terms of employment or compensation. HR is working to have this new process established and letters issued within the next week.
- Dr. Marjory Hall left senate meeting for another meeting at about 2:45

Reading / Approval of Minutes:

- April 5, 2024 minutes accepted as read.

New Business:

- Election of 2024-25 Faculty Senate Officers. The results are as follows:
 - *President*, Dr. Curtis Bensch
 - *Vice-President*, Steve Martin
 - *Secretary* – nobody identified who is able and willing to serve. Because Dr. Hall had to leave the meeting at 2:45 prior to election of officers, senators wanted both her and Dr. Kaufman’s input so election of secretary postponed until next meeting in 2 weeks (September 20)
- Discussion of a flexible schedule for faculty time on campus.
- Discussion of need of well-defined job descriptions for department chairs

Unfinished Business:

- Brief discussion of student recruitment and retention.
- Discussion of “Task Force for Shared Governance” and faculty for consideration by Board of Regents. Three groups identified who represent diversity of faculty
 - Group 1 – Curtis Bensch, Steve Martin, 3rd person TBD
 - Group 2 - Shawna Tucker, Stacy Nordquist, Kimberly Cony
 - Group 3 – Marjory Hall, Jarrett Kaufman, 3rd person TBDNOTE: Gwen Strain and Tito Aznar selected by senators via email consent.

Other Business:

Adjournment: Dr. Curtis Bensch at 2:53 pm.