Call to Order
President DeBoard called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

Roll Call 34 Active Senators

Senators Absent (7): Senator Campbell, Senator Clavin, Senator Gamagedara, Senator Harrel, Senator LaFave, Senator Moore, Senator Provine.

Recognition of Visitors
Jerry Legere – Emeritus Faculty Association
Jared Schism – Senator Elect
Teresa Keever – Senator Elect

Approval of the Minutes
Senator Jackson-Hardwick called for a correction on the date of her Committee Report in the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 2019.

Special Order of the Day
Dr. Don Betz- President of UCO
President Betz greeted and spoke to the Senate. In summary, he said:

The Staff Senate is an institution that will continue after commencement and end-of-year celebrations. The Staff Senate is a useful representative system that makes a vision a reality. It is not an island unto itself. It provides a collective sense of opportunity for the entire campus. It serves an important function, in showing how to build and sustain a representative system. The Staff Senate, together with UCOSA and the University Planning Council, creates a shared representative system which helps build community. We are encouraged to exercise our full
range of responsibilities in speaking up, always asking questions, and never being silent when there is an important issue that must be addressed.

6,500 students passed through the graduation ceremonies in 2018-2019. UCO Staff provided valuable support to them and made them feel empowered. During a student event to celebrate President Betz, he was impressed with the messages students had written to him. A common sentiment was a thankful appreciation of this place, the supportive and positive learning environment and culture that UCO and President Betz has created for them. They were unsure of their decisions, they had obstacles. We helped them. When students are unsure or troubled, the staff that provide assistance will make an indelible impact on these students. Countless interactions happen daily with people that students might not remember specifically. We never quite know all the people who intervened that made a difference. This is all part of the network of support that makes students reach their goal of graduation.

One positive experience will make a world of difference for a person. If you have the right experience, your entire worldview shifts. The face of the institution is not the buildings. It is the interactions people have with other people. We don’t have ‘spirit’ issues. We are not lacking in motivation, support and positivity. This is the result of the culture that you help create.

The culture at UCO has grown stronger over the past 20 years. Many institutions fail. They encounter problems that they can’t overcome, or they give up trying. That doesn’t happen here. The Staff Senate is a professional representative endeavor that will endure the test of time. There are no easy choices ahead. Oklahoma state legislative issues will continue to be a challenge. Battling legislature over the past few years didn’t get us down, but the work is not done. We must continually ask ourselves: What is the best outcome we can get for any issue.

President Betz will write a letter when the Regents approve the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. The new budget will fund the Concurrent enrollment program that previously was not fully funded by the State. The University had covered part of the cost of this program, even though it is a State mandated program. A part of the new budget finances is Section 13 Offset money. It is good to see an increase in the budget and no rescission.

Historically, UCO is one of the least well-funded institutions from the perspective of dollars per student. Some institutions receive 40% more funding than we do. The focus on Common Education is popular and has much support, but to create a future, there needs to be sustained investment in Higher Education. You can’t build a future on Common Education – you need the advanced work from Higher Education. Oklahoma can’t attempt to be a ‘Top Ten’ state and not invest in that. We need to continue to make investments on the way. The new legislature gives us hope, as new legislators all have higher education degrees. They understand the importance of higher education.

It takes a village. It takes a community. It takes a University.
The Executive Committee met with President Betz and Vice-President Neuhold-Ravikumar on May 15. Higher Education received a $28 million funding increase for FY20. This amount will be divided by the State Regents among all public higher education entities in the state. As previously noted, we have an anticipated budget gap in excess of $11 million. The credit hour goal for FY20 is 354,000. That’s down 17,000 from FY19. In 2014, we produced approximately 400,000 credit hours.

Traditionally, UCO has allowed its budgeting timeline to be dictated by the state appropriations process. In reality, with a shrinking share of our budget coming from appropriated funds, UCO can adjust that timeline to earlier in the year. That gives the institution time to have open and honest conversations about our needs, our goals, our priorities, and the financial realities of how to fund them. As previously discussed, a campus wide series of Alignment and Allocation conversations will begin this summer. These will be led by Vice-President Freeman and Provost Barthell. The goal is to rethink how we will achieve our mission in the face of decreased credit hours and lower levels of state funding. The campus must decide what we want to do and how we will do it. President-Select Neuhold-Ravikumar stressed that we must break the cycle of short-term fixes that we’ve been in for several years.

Vice-President Liskey and I met with Assistant-Vice President for Operations to discuss Transportation and Parking plans for FY20 and beyond. As we are all aware, parking on campus, while challenging for much of the year, is especially difficult during the first few weeks of class. TPS is adding approximately 300 new parking spaces this summer. These will be a combination of permanent paved lots, semi-permanent gravel lots, and temporary lots on certain green spaces near the campus perimeter. The cost for these new spaces is approximately $1.5 million dollars. TPS continues to examine options for construction of a large parking garage. That would likely require an increase in permit prices.

Committee Chairs are reminded to save their end of year committee reports in the appropriate folder in the shared drive by June 21. These reports are crucial for next year’s committees to begin their year quickly and efficiently.

I would like to thank the Senate for a successful year. In addition to increasing the visibility of the Senate, we made some important changes designed to help us operate more effectively as a body. We also started some important research on compensation and inclusivity that could improve the campus for our staff, students, and faculty. Additionally, we were an integral part of the broad campus conversation on the Freedom of Expression. To our outgoing senators, thank you for your work and I hope you will consider running for a seat again in the future. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee for their work this year. Their support was crucial to the successes we have had this year.
Vice-President  Senator Liskey
The Faculty Senate met on May 9th

Exec Committee Elections were held and the following slate of officers were elected:
President: Jennifer Barker-Johnson
Vice President: Michael Geib
Reporter/Historian: Marc Golding
Treasury / Secretary: Christina Edwards

The Senate took up two pieces of Unfinished Business:
FSP-2018-2019-004 Academic Conflict with Commencement - Passed (none opposed)
FSP-2018-2019-005 Request to re-designate a department as a school – Passed (none opposed)

The Senate took up one piece of New Business:
FSR2018-2019-003 Faculty Senate Support for Diversity Round Table Goals Motion to suspend rules and vote today – Carried
Resolution passed (none opposed)

Secretary/Treasurer  Senator Campbell
Senator Button presented awards to Senators who attended every Senate meeting during the 18-19 term.

Webmaster/Historian  Senator Kaiser
No report

Parliamentarian  Senator Baird
No report

University-Wide Committee/Representation Reports

1. University Planning Council  President DeBoard
UPC met on May 20. Assistant Vice-President Hastings gave a similar parking presentation to the one he gave VP Liskey and me. Jackson College Dean Sims gave a report on the upcoming Quality Initiative for the HLC. The proposal includes creation of the Office of Undergraduate Studies. This would be housed, along with the Jackson College Graduate Studies and the new BELL initiative, in a University College. The primary goal is to improve undergraduate retention rates.

2. Committee for University IT Project Prioritization  Senator Button
CUIT is undergoing reorganization. New meeting times are being considered. There was a meeting in May 2019 to discuss how to restructure the prioritization process. No new projects have been introduced to the Office of IT, especially since the migration to PAYCOM interrupted the usual schedule of events.
3. **Committee on Diversity**  
   **Senator Renteria-Mendoza**

   The committee met on May 8. The committee reviewed a preliminary analysis of discussions from the focus groups and the online Diversity Initiative Inventory presented by a subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet again and develop a formal report with recommendations for the larger committee to approve and share with leadership. Dr. Ahmadifar spoke to the committee on his work with international students and his research into resources provided for international students. The faculty and staff associations reported on their end-of-year celebrations for graduates. The committee will meet again on June 12.

4. **Oklahoma Legislative Update**  
   **Senator Botello**

   Senator Botello gave a short update on the recently concluded legislative session.

**Senate Standing Committee Reports and Membership**

1. **Constitution, Parliamentary Procedure, and Elections Committee**
   Chair: Senator Baird  
   Vice Chair: None  
   Members: Senator Clavin, Senator Daro, and Senator Wimmer.

   The committee did not meet in May. Two Amendments to the Bylaws will be voted on today.

2. **Communications Committee**
   Chair: Senator Kaiser  
   Vice-Chair: Senator Duke  

   No meeting, no report.

3. **Personnel Policies and Compensation Committee**
   Chair: Senator LaFave  
   Vice Chair: Senator Bieri  

   The committee met on May 8. The meeting focused on continued research efforts on a possible Compensation Proposal.

4. **Staff Development and Wellness Committee**
   Chair: Senator Button  
   Vice Chair: None  
No meeting, no report.

5. **Information Resources and Technology Committee**
   Chair: Senator Moore
   Vice Chair: None

   No meeting, no report.

6. **Alumni and Community Involvement Committee**
   Chair: Senator Jackson-Hardwick
   Vice Chair: Senator Provine

   No meeting; No report

**Unfinished Business**


**New Business**
No new business introduced.

**Announcements for the Good of the Order**
Senator Dobbs announced Open Applications for the upcoming 2019-2020 LUCO program.

Senator Button stated that LUCO has requested the Staff Development Committee to provide the topic of research for the 2019-2020 LUCO capstone projects. Anyone interested in this issue is welcome to contact Senator Button.

New Senator Orientation is June 19. Vice-President Liskey and the Executive Committee are working to enhance the curriculum with a goal of giving newly elected Senators a running start to the terms. All Senators, both new and returning are encouraged to attend.

**Adjournment**
President DeBoard adjourned the meeting at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Senator Button