VIII Staff Senate of the University of Central Oklahoma
Minutes from Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Held via Zoom

I. Call to order at 2:04 pm

II. Roll Call – 35 Active Senators

Senators Absent (4): Senator Hudson, Senator Kuschel, Senator Ratterman, Senator Rogers

III. Recognition of Visitors
Jerry Legere, Emeriti Faculty Association Representative
Shelby Coffeecup, Student Scholarship Services
Sacia Minter, Articulation
Robert Mather, Professor of Psychology, Associate Dean of Graduate College
Chris Lee, Research and Sponsored Programs
Sam Ladwig, Associate Professor, College of Design
Liliana Renteria Mendoza, Staff Senate Past President
Kandance Taylor, Director of Marketing & PR, Office for Advancement

IV. Approval of the Minutes [July 7, 2020]

V. Special Order of the Day
Guest Speaker: Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, President, University of Central Oklahoma

President Neuhold-Ravikumar discussed the Fall Reopening Plan. She described it as a working document, that protocol would be edited as updates are received. UCO has a confirmed count of 22 positive COVID-19 cases since June 1, 2020. While in-person class sizes are being significantly reduced, UCO has made a large
investment in technology to allow for virtual instruction. These virtual seats have full, interactive elements.

Enrollment is down 5.27% from this same time last year. The budget allowed for a 7.5% decrease, so while the current numbers are doable, they are not healthy.

Stan Wagnon was announced as the new Athletic Director. Mr. Wagnon has many ties to UCO. Not only is he a UCO alumni, but his father, Skip, was a former UCO Athletic Director as well.

The search for a new provost is underway. WittKieffer has been hired to assist with the search process. The goal is to have a new provost in place by January 2021.

VI. Senate Executive Committee Reports

1. President DeBoard:

The Executive Committee met with President Neuhold-Ravikumar and Vice-President Freeman on July 15.

As of that date, fall enrollment was down 4.8%. The FY21 budget was built based on a 7.5% reduction. If actual credit hour production drops below that level (326,000) it’s likely that budget reductions will be necessary. Significant technology upgrades are being implemented in most university classrooms. Approximately 50% of classrooms will receive long-term upgrades while others will have temporary upgrades installed until future needs are solidified. These upgrades include outfitting rooms with one or more cameras, microphones, and screens so the rooms can accommodate simultaneous in-person and remote students.

Fall Convocation will be virtual. More details will follow.

The Alignment & Allocation Task Force delivered their report to Cabinet in late July. The Cabinet will review and, if approved, will be made available to the campus community.

2. Vice-President Dobbs:

The Faculty Senate hosted a special meeting on July 9th. The meeting started with a presentation by Information Technology on the new camera technology that classrooms across campus have been equipped with for the extended classroom option. There will be formal trainings for faculty and adjunct faculty to learn how to use these cameras for their classes.

Next, the Faculty Senate voted to suspend rules to vote on two resolutions. Both FSR-2020/2021-01: Resolution Against Racial Injustice and FSR-2020/2021-02: Reaffirmation of Opposition to Weapons on Campus passed unanimously.
The remainder of the meeting was allowing Faculty Senate members and guests to voice concerns and ask questions in regards to COVID-19 for the upcoming fall semester. The questions were then organized by a sub-committee and given to the Faculty Senate President to ask during the July UPC meeting. Due to a strong interest in showing support to International Students, a sub-committee was formed to draft legislation. I have reached out to the sub-committee chair and Faculty Senate President about a possible joint effort.

3. Secretary/Treasurer Kaiser:
   
   No Report

4. Webmaster/Historian Hunter:
   
   Access to the Staff Senate shared drive has been given to all senators. Please let Senator Hunter know if you are unable to access the shared drive.

5. Parliamentarian Delaney:
   
   No Report

VII. University-Wide Committee/Representation Reports

1. University Planning Council  
   Vice President Dobbs

   The University Planning Committee met on July 20th to discuss the extension of emergency telework and questions about the upcoming start of our fall semester through the COVID-19 lens.

   Vice President Diane Fienberg and General Council Kendall Parrish addressed the extension of emergency telework. Employees are encouraged to continue to utilize shift work and other location arrangements to ensure social distancing. There is an expectation that employees are to be back in their office unless they have FMLA or alternative arrangements made with the approval of their supervisors.

   Questions gathered by Faculty Senate were asked of the committee. Questions focused around safety protocols put into place around campus with a specific focus within academic buildings and classrooms.

2. Committee on Diversity  
   Past President Renteria Mendoza

   The Committee on Diversity met on July 8. The committee kicked off the year with a historical review of the work of this committee since its inception. The committee members reviewed the 2019-2020 annual report to be presented to President Neuhold-Ravikumar and the President’s Cabinet. The committee also received a report regarding the newly established Inclusive Community Response Team (ICRT). The ICRT is developing a reporting system for bias-related incidents. The committee also discussed plans for the development of a campus-wide diversity
and inclusion strategic plan. A report from the subcommittee looking at diversity in the curriculum was shared. The subcommittee is reviewing models, data, and rationale to support efforts to implement diversity in the curriculum. Finally, the committee provided initial feedback to a subcommittee working on a proposal for a campus-wide inclusion and diversity training titled Continuous Cultural Competence Program. The next meeting is set for August 12.

3. Employee Insurance Committee

Senator Beezley

There will be a meeting with the HR team and representatives from Faculty and Staff Senates on Thursday, August 6. Discussion will be focused on potential insurance changes for 2021. Nothing else is known at this time.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None

IX. New Business

President DeBoard nominated Hannah Schwab to fill the vacant Enrollment and Student Success senate seat. Following a brief speech by Ms. Schwab, the Senate voted to affirm the nomination of ESS representative.

X. Announcements for the Good of the Order

None

XI. Adjournment

President DeBoard adjourned the meeting at 2:48pm.