I. Call to order at 2:01 pm

II. Roll Call – 35 Active Senators


Senators Absent (2): Senator K. Smith, Senator Stephens

III. Recognition of Visitors

Kristi Archuleta – Faculty Senate Past President
Jerry Legere – Emeriti Faculty Association Representative
Shelby Coffee Cup – Scholarship Assistant, Student Financial Services
Cami Cho – Research Analyst, Institutional Assessment
Amy Johnson – Director, School of Design
Stockton Duvall – Public Affairs Specialist
Mahogany Woods – Gear Up Program Manager
Sandi Stewart – Executive Office Assistant III, President’s Office

IV. Approval of the Minutes [February 2, 2021]

V. Special Order of the Day

Guest Speaker:
Stockton Duvall, Public Affairs Specialist
Our legislature is currently in progress and bills have either been passed out of a committee or been laid over.
The Chancellor’s budget request for FY22 is $859.2 million, an increase of 11.5% or $88.8 million more than last year. The additional costs are $33.8 million for STEM workforce initiatives, $9.8 million to restore financial aid and scholarship programming, $4 million for concurrent program for juniors and seniors in the state, $10.4 million to provide the endowed share state matching funds, and $30.8 million for operational costs increases and mandatory costs.

This increase would offset a portion of the decreases of previous years. UCO is only 25% funded by the state. A flat budget is a cut to us because of the mandatory increases.

UCO’s Legislative Messaging:
- UCO fulfills 92% of the top growth jobs and career field requiring a bachelor’s degree or above.
- Of all 4 year institutions, UCO is the least funded per student.
- 75% of UCO students stay in state after graduation.
- ROI of higher education: UCO received the least amount per student, but we are the highest ROI next to OU Science Center.
- UCO State Funding:
  - 30% below all OSRHE institutions,
  - 38% below other 4-year public institutions,
  - 25% of UCO’s budget is state funded.
- UCO Staff are paid at 85% of market value.

Over 3000 bills filed have been filed.
- HB 1888 – bans public bodies from having any gender or sexual training or counseling.
  - Not on any house agenda as of right now.
- SB 614 – creates a student’s bill of rights, essentially. It is a bill aimed at combating 1st amendment issues for students on campus. Also prohibits the endorsement of communism, socialism, and Marxism.
  - Laid over but not out of committee yet.
- SB 637 – a joint resolution – states that if a student does not want to take a class not related to his/her chosen curriculum or degree, they do not have to.
  - Not officially dead yet, but very near.
- SB 639 – states that if a student who receives funding via OHLAP, or Oklahoma’s Promise, and does not complete an identified postsecondary vocational-technical program within five years, the student will be required to repay the full amount of award back to the state.
  - Not officially dead yet, but very near.
- SB 132 – allows OHLAP signup by 11th grade rather than 9th grade
- HB 1801 – granting priority enrollment for veterans.
  - Has already passed house floor.
- No guns on campus – legislation has been brought up but has not been brought forward or received a hearing.

As a reminder, the PA office needs to be notified when any legislator, elected official, or candidate is on campus. The university is required to submit monthly reports of gifts,
How can the campus community get involved? A micro-credential is being developed where students, staff, faculty can self-enroll to receive an introduction of institutional priorities and annual messaging for the UCO community. It goes through different ways you can advocate and interact, both in person and virtually.

VI. Senate Executive Committee Reports

1. President DeBoard:

The Executive Committee met with Vice-President Freeman and Vice-President Feinberg on February 17th.

FY22 budget planning continues. Division heads are working to identify their 6% E&G budget reduction. Those divisional plans will be submitted at the end of March. This 6% E&G reduction will be approximately $6.5 million. Unless credit hour production increases over the next two years it is likely that similar E&G reductions will be needed in FY23. The state revenue estimate for FY22 is largely positive. UCO is modeling a flat appropriation. The President and Vice-President Freeman were clear that UCO must eliminate our reliance on the use of one-time funds to fill budget deficits.

We also discussed the decision to shift to virtual classes and telework during the recent winter weather. A number of factors influenced this decision and both Vice-President Freeman and Vice-President Feinberg indicated that similar arrangements could be used in the future.

Nominations are open for the upcoming Staff Senate General Election. Most divisions have open seats. IT and Finance and operations do not have open seats this year. I encourage each of you to nominate yourselves or colleagues who you feel would make good Senators.

2. Vice-President Dobbs:

The Faculty Senate met on February 11th. The meeting began with guest speaker, Provost Dr. Charlotte Simmons. Provost Simmons gave an update for Academic Affairs and the ongoing challenges regarding the budget deficit. In the spirit of shared governance, President Neuhold-Ravikumar and Provost Simmons will do department visits to meet with faculty to listen to their concerns and hear ideas for the future.

Next, Dr. Samantha Kramer spoke about the Academic Early Referral System process and her desire to collaborate with faculty to identify students who demonstrate behaviors that may impede their academic success. For more information, please contact Dr. Kramer at skramer3@uco.edu.
Finally, Dr. Lindsey Churchill represented the Committee on Diversity’s Curriculum Subcommittee and provided a brief overview of their Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in the Curriculum proposal from Fall 2020.

The meeting was concluded with an open discussion around the topic of “What does shared governance mean or look like to you?” The Faculty Senate will continue to gather opinions around this topic and share with university administration.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is on Thursday, March 11 at 2pm. Visit their website to find a Faculty Senator to ask for the link to the meeting.

3. Secretary/Treasurer Kaiser: No report

4. Webmaster/Historian Hunter: No report

5. Parliamentarian Delaney:

We have received a list of all eligible employees from HR. Nominations close March 4th; they will have two weeks to accept their nominations. Elections will open the end of March and close after two weeks.

VII. University-Wide Committee/Representation Reports

1. University Planning Council                                          President DeBoard
   No Report

2. Committee on Diversity                                                Senator Wimmer
   No Report

3. Inclusive Community Update                                            Senator Hunter
   The Inclusive Community Strategic Plan Steering Committee met on February 12, 2021. The committee is currently working on solidifying the norms and expectations that will serve as a guide for the committee’s mission that will occur over the next few months. After the norms and expectations are determined, the next step will then to be to connect our university mission, vision, pillars, and strategies.

   The committee is also looking at the overall UCO mission and history of the campus. We are focusing largely on the history that is communicated out by the university on the website or other publications. We will be identifying gaps in this communicated history, what populations are left out of the history and why they are left from the history, how the history of UCO can be more transparent, more inclusive, etc.

   The next meeting will be on Friday, March 12th.
VIII. Senate Standing Committee Reports and Membership

1. Constitution, Parliamentary Procedure, and Elections Committee
   Chair: Senator Delaney
   Vice Chair:
   Members: Senators Gamagedara and Harrel
   No Report

2. Compensation Committee
   Chair: Senator Platt
   Vice Chair: Senator Scism
   Members: Senators Schwab, Herd, Edwards-Johnson, Selanders, Huff, Rogers, and Jackson
   The Compensation Committee met on Monday, February 22, 2021. The committee reviewed and made edits to the Child Study Center Expansion Committee proposal. We discussed adding some more information to support why formalizing the committee is important. Our group also discussed the previous research we were pulling for inclement weather policies. With the recent changes to our inclement weather procedures we feel the current policy may be changing and the group will continue to fill in the research for possible future use. Lastly we discussed Parental Leave. After we gathered some information from benefits as to why this has not been pursued by the university, our committee discussed and agreed to not pursue legislation on parental leave.

3. Policy and Staff Welfare Committee
   Chair: Senator Ratterman
   Vice Chair:
   No Report

4. Stakeholder Relations and Involvement Committee
   Chair: Senator Tabak
   Vice Chair: Senator Hendricks
   Members: Senators Keever, Romano, Hudson, Richardson, Kuschel, Stephens, and K. Smith
   The Stakeholder Relations and Involvement Committee met on February 16. The continued topic of discussion was the morale and welfare of staff, with particular attention to the use of telework during the recent inclement weather. The committee has also completed the survey to distribute to staff and will be sharing that soon. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021.
IX. Unfinished Business

None

X. New Business

None

XI. Announcements for the Good of the Order

President DeBoard – The benefits department asked us if we would be willing to participate in a benefits survey and will be distributed to us by President DeBoard. Feel free to distribute to your constituents

Senator Beezley – The Library is collecting all scholarly works by staff and faculty, anything research related and scholarly related. Link for submission: https://uco.libwizard.com/f/diwg_reporequest

Senator Ratterman – Introducing mobile ordering on campus to cover Starbucks and some other locations, hoping to launch campus-wide April 1st.

Senator S. Smith – OBI Blood Drive March 18 @ NUC Heritage Room

XII. Adjournment

President DeBoard adjourned the meeting at 2:43 pm.