I. Call to order at 2:02 pm

II. Roll Call – 33 Active Senators


III. Recognition of Visitors

Kristi Archuleta – Faculty Senate Past President
Jerry Legere – Emeriti Faculty Association Representative
Rod Edwards – Manager of Technology Services, CEPS
Linda Banks – Assistant VP, CeCE
Jerisha Ogletree – Undergraduate Admissions
Paige Buchanan – Recruitment Specialist, HR
Jaime Burns – Professor, School of Criminal Justice
Lauren Bieri – University Photographer
Reggie Jordan – Assistant Athletic Director – Academics
Megan Ashby – Administrative Assistant, Department of Biology
Debbie Carson – Assistant Registrar
Taylor Baird – Associate Registrar
Lisa Harper -

IV. Approval of the Amended Minutes [April 6, 2021]
V. Special Order of the Day

Guest Speakers:

Laura Butler, Legislative Liaison, Public Affairs
Ms. Butler attended Staff Senate to provide a legislative update. As of Sunday May 2nd, the Governor had signed 341 bills and vetoed 8. The legislature is predicted to be in full session until May 8. A new budget bill, a shell bill, has been filed by the senate. Some of the bills being tracked are as follows:

- A task force bill has been signed that looks at concurrent enrollment needs for the state.
- HB 1821 has been signed by the Governor. This bill allows more leniency for OTAG scholarships by looking at the unmet needs of the student.
- HB 1775, a pending bill, looks at K-12 and higher ed and putting parameters around trainings that include race, sex, sex orientations. This bill had to be recalled on the floor and do a revote. It is now being sent to the Governor.
- SB 2 is a bill requiring women and girls to compete on athletic teams according to their biological sex, not allowing transgender female athletes to compete. This bill is not on the agenda and not currently being heard. They are keeping an eye on it, however.
- SB 639 – a bill involving the Oklahoma Promise – the language requiring graduation within 6 years has been removed.

Cindy Munson announced that she is the next leader of the house democratic caucus.

Ms. Butler encourages the staff to reach out to our legislators. Be mindful that you cannot use university resources and this must occur on your own time.

Christian Coleman, Vice President, UCOSA
Mr. Coleman presented a recap of the UCOSA’s 2020-2021 year. Fall was unsettling with the new environment; however, adjustment did occur. UCOSA legislation was reduced this year, possibly because of no in-person congress. Organization and students are starting to come back as restrictions are reduced. They continue to encourage students to vaccinate and report, which is an ongoing effort. UCOSA successfully pushed to have in-person graduation to allow family and guests to celebrate their accomplishments. UCOSA has and will continue to fight and vocalize the rights of the students. Elections have occurred; however, the newly elected officials have not yet been sworn in. Christian and James will continue to work on projects, just not in the President/Vice President role. If you want to partner with UCOSA, please do not hesitate to reach out.

VI. Senate Executive Committee Reports

1. President DeBoard:
The Executive Committee met with President Neuhold-Ravikumar, Vice-President Freeman, and Vice-President Feinberg on April 20th.

FY22 budget planning is nearly complete. Division heads have submitted their proposed FY22 budgets which include a 6% E&G budget reduction. The FY22 budget deficit is projected to be $15 million. The administration remains cautiously optimistic that higher education’s FY22 appropriation from the state of Oklahoma will be flat as compared to FY21. One-time funds will be used to fill the remaining deficit that is not covered by permanent budget reductions. The university continues to explore all possible options to utilize federal COVID relief funds where appropriate.

As of April 20, enrollment numbers are still down compared to last year at this time. Summer enrollment is down 17.9% and fall enrollment is down 21.5%.

The Qualitative portion of the Alignment and Allocation tool is nearly complete. Surveys will be distributed to various areas to help compile this data and assist with FY23 budgeting.

The University is working on several initiatives related to People and Culture. First, work is underway to define the Inclusive Community Strategic Plan. Second, implementation of the university’s chose name policy has begun. Current faculty and staff can designate their chosen name and preferred pronouns in Paycom. New applicants for faculty and staff positions will be able to designate a chosen name and preferred pronouns in Paycom on their initial application. UCO and Paycom are working to develop a method to import that information into Banner. This is essential to the larger effort to into other university platforms (like D2L). Third, People and Culture is in the process of implementing a new policy portal to house University policies. This portal will be available to faculty and staff and will include the ability to see how policies have changed. Fourth, salary analysis information is now available in the HUB. Fifth, UCO’s staff recruitment process is under review to identify ways the University can attract diverse, highly-qualified applicants for University positions. Finally, comprehensive supervisor training is under development. This training when complete, will be available on an ongoing basis and will include performance support to assist with implementation. The goal is to have this training complete by the end of 2021.

The Executive Committee met on April 28th. We discussed upcoming officer elections, New Senator Orientation, and potential meeting locations when the Senate is able to meet in person.

2. Vice-President Dobbs:

Faculty Senate met on April 8 & 29 The Faculty Senate met on April 8th and 29th. The April 8th meeting began with guest speaker, Provost Dr. Charlotte Simmons. Provost Dr. Simmons gave another update regarding the ongoing budget challenges and discussions with Academic Affairs departments. Her update was similar to the April 6th, Staff Senate meeting.
The next speaker was fellow Staff Senator, Shay Beezley, Manager of Metadata & Cataloging at the Chambers Library. Senator Beezley gave a presentation around SHAREOK, the joint institutional repository for the University of Oklahoma Libraries, Oklahoma State University Libraries, and the University of Central Oklahoma Max Chambers Library. It serves as the home for the intellectual output of those institutions, such as: digital theses and dissertations, faculty publications, open access publications, open educational resources, institution-specific content and much more. For more information regarding SHAREOK, please contact Shay Beezley or visit https://shareok.org/.

The final guest speaker was Stockton Duvall, UCO’s Public Affairs Specialist, where he gave a legislative update regarding legislation that could affect higher education and our students.

The meeting concluded with the passing of FSP-2020-2021-001 COVID-19 Impact Statements in Tenure and Promotion Documentation and FSP 2020-2021-02 Faculty Handbook 4.3.6 Leave of Absence.

The final meeting of the Faculty Senate for the semester was held on April 29th.

The meeting began with Laura Butler, UCO’s Legislative Liaison, providing a legislative update regarding the legislation that has the potential to affect higher education and our students. For more specific information or assistance, visit the UCO Public Affairs website.

The next speaker was Dean Janetta Sims, Ph.D., discussing UCO’s Quality Initiative with a focus on the University College and Broncho Blueprint. The Broncho Blueprint is designed for the first-year UCO student to lay a foundation for learning what they can do with a UCO degree. Fall 2020 had two successful courses and Fall 2021 will launch 20 courses.

The regular meeting was paused for a special meeting to elect new officers and confirm the new senators. The regular meeting resumed with it concluding with the passing of FSP-2020-2021-003 UCO Faculty Handbook Solely Governed by the UCO Faculty Senate, FSR-2020-2021-004 Resolution in Support of All Ethnicities on UCO’s Campus and in Our Communities, FSR-2020-2021-005 Resolution in Support of Keeping Classroom Delivery Options to Individual Faculty with Guidance and Support from Departments, Colleges, and Academic Affairs.

3. Secretary/Treasurer Kaiser: No report

4. Webmaster/Historian Hunter: No report

5. Parliamentarian Delaney: No report
VII. University-Wide Committee/Representation Reports

1. University Planning Council  
President DeBoard

UPC met on April 19th. The FY22 budget and the qualitative portion of the Alignment and Allocation tool were both discussed.

2. Committee on Diversity  
Senator Wimmer

The Committee on Diversity met on Wednesday, April 14th. The Inclusive Community Strategic Plan is still being built. The Inclusive Community Response Team had four incidents submitted this month. They are investigating these submissions. Dr. Sam Kramer with the Office of Student Advocacy presented on the ways that academic jargon and language can be barriers to students and families.

The Pronouns and Chosen Name Project is ongoing. There is a preferred name slot in Paycom and it is due for release next month and can be changed in Self-Service. There is a process in place for legal name changes for students and they are looking into making this process better and more integrated across institutional systems.

The Committee also discussed the issue of historical imagery across campus not being representative of the diversity at UCO. More discussions to come. No other new business.

3. Inclusive Community Update  
Senator Hunter

The Inclusive Community Strategic Plan Steering Committee met on April 9th and April 23rd. The committee is currently on phase four of nine and we are defining the UCO inclusive community outcomes. These outcomes have been defining what diversity, equity, and inclusion is as it relates to UCO and developing a more inclusive historical timeline of UCO.

The next phase, phase five, will be the campus community communication. The goal of this phase is to gather input and support for our proposed outcomes.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 14th. As a reminder, the full strategic plan process and all phases of the plan may be found on the UCO Inclusive Community webpage.

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 

   No Report 

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 Romano, Richardson, Kuschel, Stephens, and K. Smith 

   No Report 

IX. Unfinished Business 

   SSP-2020/2021-001 Child Study Center Expansion Committee – Debate began with Senator Platt, as Chair of the Compensation Committee. No debate. Vote ensued, proposal passed. 

   SSR-2020/2021-004 Campus Employee Conflict Resolution Resources – Debate began with Senator Ratterman, as Chair of the Policy and Staff Welfare Committee. No debate. Vote ensued, resolution passed. 

X. New Business 

XI. Announcements for the Good of the Order 

   Senator DeBoard encouraged all with the ability to volunteer for commencement. 

XII. Adjournment 

   President DeBoard adjourned the meeting at 2:48 pm.