

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
250 Student Union
January 13, 2009

Van Delinder called the meeting to order with the following members present: Avakian, Brown, G, Brown, J.D., Calhoun, Caniglia, Casey, Clinkenbeard, Comer, Gasem, Goetze, Hickman, Jordan P., Jordan T., Kirksey, Klatt, Lacy, McCann, Miller, Bob, Miller, R., Moberly, Osteen, Page, Perkins, Ramakumar, Russell, Spicer, Stadler, Suter, and Veenstra. Also present: Auel, G., Bird, L., Bosserman, D., Eldevik, R., Elliott, K., Gates, G., Gladden, B., Hargis, B., Hromas, J., Kithakye, M., Krout, C., Mahoney, A., Miller, Barbara, Mitchell, E., Purdie, R., Sagarnaga, J., Shutt, G., Strathe, M., Thrasher, C., Weathers, J., Weaver, J., Wright, R., and Yellin, D. Absent: DeSilva

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Van Delinder asked for approval of the December 9, 2008 Minutes. Pat Jordan moved acceptance of the Minutes. Tom Jordan seconded. The Minutes were approved. Van Delinder asked to amend the January 13, 2009, Agenda to allow special reports by Robin Purdie and Joe Weaver. Gasem moved acceptance of the January 13, 2009 Agenda as amended. Caniglia seconded. The Agenda was approved as amended.

SPECIAL REPORT: Cowboys on the Move — Robin Purdie

Purdie distributed cards about a new program the Wellness Center is launching called “Cowboys on the Move”. The goal is for everyone to log on to the website (<http://cowboysonthemove.okstate.edu/>) and log your number of minutes. Sign up and receive a free dry-fit shirt (OSU-STW Employees only). The goal each week is for participants to obtain 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic physical activity and muscle strengthening activities twice per week. There are free activity tips and resources plus a free walking program. After six weeks, if you make progress, and log your minutes, you will receive a work-out bag. There will be other incentives along the way.

Purdie had just returned from a Health Department meeting where OSU received the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business Award. She received new statistics for Oklahoma and the state is up from 50 to 43 in total health indicators. One in five Oklahomans do not have health insurance. The state has one billion dollars in unpaid medical claims due to the uninsured. Oklahoma is doing better in not smoking – from 50 to 48, and Purdie thanked OSU for the Tobacco-free Campus program. Regarding obesity the state has moved from 50 to 43. All are steps in the right direction.

The reason OSU has chosen the activity component is because it hits so many of these areas of concern for all in Oklahoma. Your health can be totally improved with the right amount of exercise and activity and that is the reason they are trying to encourage everyone and they feel this website will help facilitate that. Purdie asked everyone to help OSU become leaders in this program and encouraged all to join.

Van Delinder asked if they had a goal in terms of participation. Purdie replied they know that two-thirds of Oklahomans do not get the suggested amount of physical activity. When you log-on to the website it will ask you some preliminary questions. After a few weeks announcements will be sent on how much the campus has improved.

Russell asked if this was a different website from the BlueCross and BlueShield one. Purdie replied, “Yes, this is internal to Oklahoma State”.

Page said she did not know how much interaction there was between the Colvin Center and the Wellness Center but thought if there was some kind of subsidy, especially for staff, in regard to the fees they charge it might help. For instance, if you sign up for this new program, receive so many points, your next month charges would be ten percent less. In other words, some sort of incentive to encourage people to keep going and do more activity. Purdie said those were excellent points. She added the Colvin Center is built with student fees and they receive first access.

Purdie said Brad Cost owned, Infinedi, LLC, Tulsa, and his company was responsible for the website which has all the look and feel of the OSU websites. She added that company’s help was invaluable in creating this website.

SPECIAL REPORT: University Avenue Construction — Joe Weaver

Weaver said plans have been announced for construction to begin on University Avenue. These include better pedestrian walkways, new pavement, storm drainage improvements and a redesign of the Student Union Parking Garage exit onto University Avenue. Weaver added it will be an inconvenience while construction is going on but in the end it will all be worth it.

Weaver distributed a series of photos provided by the contractors with timelines for construction. He emphasized this is a City of Stillwater project and OSU is partnering with them but it is the City's contract. The area includes the Knoblock Street intersection and down University to the Monroe intersection. This will include the intersections of Monroe, Hester, Washington and Knoblock. This will be for about 60 days. Around February 23rd best efforts will be made to get the Knoblock intersection back open. About April 1 the Monroe intersection will reopen. They are expecting better traffic signals, better crosswalks, and better lighting for safety. The project will progress from West to East. They are hoping to have the sidewalks along the south side of University open by the middle of July in anticipation of Rush Week, and then also for Homecoming, and major event weekends. Milestones OSU would like to see are completion for the first home football game but more importantly the first day of Fall classes. Completion is now projected for September 9th.

During the time the intersections of Monroe and Hester are closed, the traffic control gates on those streets will be open to allow access from the North side of campus. Pedestrian traffic will have to be monitored to make sure safety is maintained. People will be encouraged not to drive down those streets unless absolutely necessary. Buses will be suspended on those two streets because they will not be able to turn around. Those busses will be moved to the Multimodal Transportation facility.

Work began January 5 with a portion of Hester being closed to improve access to the Student Union Garage from the East side. This will be the entrance and exit to the garage while University Ave. is worked on. After University Ave. is completed there will be a ninety degree entrance on the South side of the Student Union Garage. The ramp will be eliminated and there will be a pedestrian walkway from the Sigma Nu house across the street.

J.D. Brown asked about access to the Campus Fire Station. Weaver said routes had been developed in case they need to make a response. There will also be two pedestrian crossings across the worksite, one on the Monroe side and one down the Hester side.

Caniglia asked if the Parking Garage would be open during the construction period. Weaver replied "Yes".

Ron Miller asked about what the commuters who ride the OSU buses to Stillwater from Tulsa would do. Weaver replied the Tulsa buses will go to the Multimodal Transportation building and faculty and students will have to walk to the building they need to go to. Goetze asked about those that have physical disabilities and cannot walk from the Multimodal building. Weaver replied that if a department head or dean could not make some kind of accommodation he would see that a university car was available to take the person from point A to point B.

Bruce Russell asked who the contractor was. Weaver replied it was not his contract and he was not sure but he did know that Benham Construction is the architect and engineer and that is who OSU has been working with.

Weaver said on a related subject he wanted to discuss an issue brought up in Council a few months ago regarding the Athletic Village. John Houck reported to Weaver that he had turned over to the University about 500 parking spaces right across from Bennett Hall to alleviate that parking situation at no cost to the University. They are also working to clean up the area the best they can. A third party vendor has offered to clean up the area north of McElroy and south of Eskridge where the houses still are again at no cost to the University. Van Delinder asked what the time line was. Weaver said some are under contract to be moved and some will get demolished and he estimated sometime over the next 60 to 90 days.

Bruce Russell asked Weaver about the lease arrangement that was in the Board of Regents Meeting Minutes where the University is leasing parking from the Athletic Department. Weaver replied the University is leasing, on an annual basis, land where the old Scholar's Inn was on the south side of Gallagher/Iba. At the University's request they are leasing the temporary parking lot so more student commuter parking can be provided. There are approximately 200 spaces for Monday through Friday use. Russell said he had understood from Weaver the amount was \$40,000 annually and he seemed to recall they rent back from the University on game days \$70,000 worth of parking places and is it the same rate. Weaver replied "No, I was looking for a lot and negotiated a price based on what it would cost me to build another temporary lot just like that somewhere else and shot them a number and they accepted. That lot cost them millions of dollars. They had to knock down Scholar's Inn and build a lot and I think we're getting good value. Right now it's staff and commuter student parking".

REPORT OF STATUS OF FACULTY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

President Hargis, Provost Strathe, and/or Vice Presidents

08-05-01-LRPIT *Development of an OSU Strategic Planning Process:* Pending.

09-01-01-SALR *Increasing Support for Short-Term Study Abroad Classes:*
To President Hargis

Status of Endowed Chairs Program – Marlene Strathe

Strathe said the Chair had asked her to speak about the status of the Endowed Chairs Program. They have gone through a process at each of the college levels where each college has identified a process by which individuals would be evaluated whether it was an external search or an internal appointment of an individual to an Endowed Chair. The value of this program at this time is less than the original commitments of donors. They are also uncertain, to some degree, as to when the State will make their match as this might be delayed as well as the original amount talked about a year ago in terms of the bonds. They do not know, at this time, when proceeds might be available for the Endowed Chair positions. Strathe has asked all of the Deans to begin the process internally to identify whether or not there are individuals currently on faculty that

might be appointed or hold those endowed chairs or professorships even though no individuals will be named at this point. She added she felt it was important to let the donors know we are serious about recognizing our faculty and appointing faculty to those chairs in anticipation that, at some point, proceeds will be available.

Strathe said over the Christmas break Gary Shutt helped with some really nice press regarding the Endowed Chairs in Veterinary Medicine and she would like that continued on a regular basis throughout the Spring semester. At this time they will primarily be faculty currently on campus that have gone through some kind of a screening and recommendation process from the faculty of their college.

Ron Miller said, for instance, someone has donated one million dollars and the State has not matched it and the other match might not be available but you still have the million. The original plan was that one million would get you four million. Strathe said the value of that one million has been reduced to some degree. This needs to be discussed with donors that gave that money and ask them if they want that money built back up until the million is reached or are they willing to allow for anything to come out of what remains of the principal.

The President – Remarks and Comments

President Hargis said the University had been notified by the Department of Equalization that the Certified Funds will be at about \$300M less than last year. That means a 4.4 percent decrease in appropriation or about \$2M for OSU. This is critical especially because of inflationary costs. The Administration and Finance administrators are in the process of working on ways to soften this as best as possible. Enrollment stayed approximately level for the Spring semester which is encouraging due to the economy. Enrollment efforts have been stepped up dramatically.

Hargis thinks the fall in gross production taxes will not be felt in the next few months but on down the road. Gas wells come in and typically deplete 30 percent the first year. You have that great spurt of revenues and it goes on for a long time but it falls off dramatically. He thinks that will happen toward the middle of this year and then later in the third and fourth quarter which will have a profound impact on certified funds for the ensuing fiscal year. What we have to do is work harder than ever and do everything we can for our students in helping them stay in school, be as successful as they can, and we need to look for opportunities to fund scholarships and other financial aid. It is a very different picture then it was early last year.

Ron Miller said reduced enrollment and revenues had been discussed in the Faculty Council Budget Committee meetings that he Chairs. One of the committee members, Mike Dicks, has been wanting them to find out a way to use empty seats, for instance, in the football stadium, to bring in potential seniors from around the state and use this as a recruiting tool. Not for football but for academics. Rhonda Casey, OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa representative to Council, said they had used box seats for recruiting purposes and it had been quite successful. Hargis said so many students seem to be persuaded by their actual visit to campus. They see the entire environment and it is a very strong selling tool. He added he has asked Kyle Wray to be much more aggressive on this. Hargis feels the University needs to find reasonable resources to promote that kind of activity as there are tremendous opportunities not only in Oklahoma but in

surrounding states and bring students in on buses to see campus. In past years SGA volunteer students conducted tours on campus then it went to a paid system and it was eventually dropped. The University has decided to return to the tours and they feel it will be very successful. Hargis said he felt it was important for visiting students to see faculty and actually get the opportunity to interact with them when they visit campus.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

ATHLETICS — Pat Jordan

Jordan reported on the last committee meeting as follows:

Members in Attendance: Mona Lane, Marilyn Middlebrook, Ray Murray, Glade Presnal, Tracy Suter, David Yellin, and Pat Jordan. Visitors in Attendance: Tom Jordan and Bruce Russell.

Minutes from the October 22 meeting were approved.

Bruce Russell, who serves as the representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), reported on the history of the university's involvement with COIA and the role the organization plays in athletics. They also discussed allocation of "bowl" money for the Big 12 and other issues related to the Athletic Department budget. The Committee is in the process of drafting a recommendation requesting the appointment of an additional faculty representative to COIA.

Based on a request from the Faculty Council Executive Committee, the Committee is crafting a recommendation to request a faculty representative to serve on the Cowboy Athletic Board, whose major role is fund raising since they solicit donations from alumni. Currently, there seems to be no oversight of the solicitation or expenditure of funds.

Other issues discussed included developing a survey to be sent to faculty and staff regarding their concerns about both intercollegiate and intramural athletics, receiving an update on the plans for the Athletic Village and the current status of the facilities, and securing an "Emeriti" representative on the University Athletic Council. The Committee will continue working on the recommendations concerning additional faculty representation on the COIA committee, Cowboy Athletics, and the University Athletic Council to present at the meeting in February.

The committee's next meeting will be scheduled during the last two weeks of January.

BUDGET — Ron Miller

The Budget Committee will be bringing two recommendations to Faculty Council in the future; hopefully at the February meeting. The first will address how collegiate excellence fees are budgeted. The second will address the annual payment by the University to Athletics for the use of athletic facilities.

The committee is also working on an email to send to faculty and staff requesting possible solutions to some of OSU's budget problems.

FACULTY – Pat Jordan for Udaya DeSilva

Jordan reported last March Faculty Council approved a recommendation entitled “Spouse/Partner Hire at OSU”. This was accepted by the administration on April 8, 2008. The Deans Council approved a DRAFT Policies and Procedures letter in December. The draft policy was presented to FC and is below:

DRAFT**Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures**

SPOUSAL/PARTNER HIRES	2-XXXX ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - - date - -
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POLICY

- 1.01 Oklahoma State University is committed to assisting qualified candidates by exploring dual career hires for spouses/partners of prospective tenure-track or tenured faculty within the University community. Such a commitment is viewed as a positive inducement for recruiting quality faculty to the University.

PROCEDURE

- 2.01 While such employment cannot be guaranteed, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs will assist the requesting dean in identifying open positions in other colleges that may be of interest to the spouse/partner.
- 2.02 If the spouse/partner of an incoming tenure-track or tenured faculty member is interested in a staff (exempt or non-exempt) position on campus, the requesting dean will contact OSU Human Resources for information on available positions.
- 2.03 It is understood that the spouse/partner will be clearly qualified for any prospective position.
- 2.04 Within the University, the final employment decision rests with the unit administrator and dean of the unit being asked to accommodate the hire.
- 2.05 If the spouse/partner of an incoming tenure-track or tenured faculty member is interested in a position in the Stillwater community or surrounding area, the individual should be encouraged to seek out information on websites for the:

- A. Stillwater Chamber of Commerce featuring links to Oklahoma State University, Ocean Dental, Meridian Technology Center, and Stillwater Medical Center (<http://www.stillwaterchamber.org/general.asp?id=566>);
- B. The City of Stillwater (http://stillwater.org/iframe_wrapper.php?page=jobs.htm&h=1800&bc=36);
- C. Stillwater Public Schools (<http://www.stillwater.k12.ok.us/dnn/default.aspx>);

2.06 Personal inquiries to off-campus employers could also be directed to local financial institutions, industry leaders, and numerous specialty businesses

LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY — Khaled Gasem

The committee is planning on reviewing the academic ledger increase in the hopes they can modify it even more as a useful tool for management. We want to reflect more of the desired outcomes that the unit levels put forth.

The committee is hoping to modify the strategic planning process and determine its efficacy and are looking to do that by piloting an effective process that can be generalized and adopted and then decide how best to proceed.

RULES AND PROCEDURES — Stephen Perkins

Perkins announced to Council they should come to the February 10 meeting prepared to nominate two faculty members as candidates in the upcoming election for Vice Chair. Nominations can come from within Faculty Council or from faculty outside of Council. Notice of the 2009 election will be mailed to eligible members of the OSU General Faculty after the February 10 Faculty Council meeting. Petitions for write-in nominations will be included in that mailing.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND LEARNING RESOURCES — Glenn Brown

The Committee met December 12, 2008 and continued to address review issues related to absences of students attending OSU sponsored events. The committee has agreed on a tentative position and will be coordinating with the Academic Standards and Policies Committee to see if they can make a joint recommendation.

The committee will be addressing campus services for Veterans this coming semester.

Regarding study abroad, the committee approved the recommendation below and Brown presented it to Council for their consideration.

Title: Increasing Support for Short-Term Study Abroad Classes

The Faculty Council Recommends to President Hargis that: The following plan should be adopted to increase support for faculty leading short-term Study Abroad classes.

1. A centralized office should be created to provide direct support for short-term study abroad instructors.
2. The office staffing should be appropriate to remove as much of the burden from instructors as possible to enable the faculty to focus on class academic content.
3. The office should specifically provide support for accounting, student fee billing, reservations, general travel assistance and emergency services.
4. The office should have a robust Internet interface to facilitate student, parent, faculty and administrative access.
5. The office should be directed by a faculty member with short-term study abroad experience.
6. The office should initially be restricted to providing support to short-term class instructors.
7. The office should be operational by August of 2009.

Rationale: On April 20th, 2007, the University set a long-term goal that 100% of graduates should have a significant study abroad experience.¹ In addition, a five year goal of 25% participation in study abroad was set as a short-term milestone. This goal was recommend by Faculty Council, supported by Administration and approved by the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

In support of the goal, direct financial support to students has been increased. Most notably, the Provost provided scholarships totaling \$120,000 in 2007-2008 for short- and long-term study abroad. In addition, five of the colleges provided a total of \$209,650 from a variety of sources.² Together, this represents a 27% increase in scholarships from the previous year.

Contrary to the increased funding, enrollment in credit bearing study abroad decreased from 476 to 469. Table 1 presents the statistics for the last 14 years. As can be seen, the decrease can be attributed entirely to a decreased enrollment in the faculty led, short-term courses. To achieve the 25% milestone, participation must almost double to about 1,000 students by 2012.

Short-term, faculty-led classes are the backbone of study abroad at almost all institutions similar to OSU. They are the “intro” courses that provide an initial exposure to most students and impart the encouragement to many to pursue an additional long-term experience. It is doubtful that OSU will ever reach the 25% milestone, much less the 100% goal, without a proportionate increase in faculty-led classes.

Discussions with past and current short-term class faculty indicate two common hindrances to increased enrollment: 1) cost to the student, and 2) administrative burden on faculty leaders. As noted, OSU is addressing costs, but no identifiable actions have been taken on the second issue. Currently,

¹ *OSU accelerates study abroad efforts; Sets long-term goal of 100% participation.* OSU Press Release, April 20, 2007, downloaded 1/6/2009 from osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=646&Itemid=90.

² Report on Credit-Bearing Study Abroad Activity, Current Statistics for 2008-2009, Statistics for 2007-2008, Scholarship Statistics 2007-2008. Geraldine Auel, Study Abroad/NSE Coordinator, Submitted to the Student Affairs and Learning Resources Committee, Nov. 2007.

study abroad classes are administrated through the respective colleges' outreach offices. While there is variation between colleges, most of the outreach offices provide little more than a billing mechanism. Most faculty feel that there is inadequate support for their classes and that they must do everything themselves; to the point of being travel agents. This is a major deterrent to faculty to start or continue a study abroad class.

It should be noted that the OSU Study Abroad Office, lead by Ms Gerry Auel, is doing a good job supporting students on long-term study abroad. However, that office has neither the resources nor the mandate to support short-term classes.

Review of other institutes with more successful study abroad programs, such as Michigan State, has shown that each has stronger centralized support for short-term classes. The most flourishing program identified is our sister land grant institution, the University of Delaware. After their creation of a strong centralized office five years ago, the U of D has reached over 43% participation.³ The plan proposed is largely based on the Delaware model.

Table 1. Number of OSU Students Studying Abroad by Program Type, 1997-2008²

Year	Reciprocal Exchange	National Student Exchange	Approved Semester	Approved Summer	Short-term, Faculty-led Classes	Total
1997-1998	16	4	9	19	85	133
1998-1999	15	10	14	21	247	307
1999-2000	20	12	10	19	241	302
2000-2001	32	24	17	15	251	339
2001-2002	31	24	31	8	270	364
2002-2003	41	20	23	16	251	351
2003-2004	40	22	28	33	334	457
2004-2005	43	13	23	19	302	400
2005-2006	40	8	22	16	298	384
2006-2007	40	13	20	24	379	476
2007-2008	38	11	27	52	341	469

Van Delinder asked Brown to address if this interfaces with the OSU Study Abroad office. Brown replied that if the Delaware model were adopted there would be two separate offices. One office is similar to the one OSU has under Gerry Auel's direction which is providing support to long-term study. The problem is Auel neither has the mandate nor the resources to provide support to short-term instructors. That is now going through the different college's outreach offices and the support in those offices is variable. It goes from some reasonable support down to almost nothing. For short-term study people need to be added to take the burden of booking hotels and interacting with travel agents.

³ *Celebrating the First Five Years*. Center for International Studies, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, 2008, 25 pgs.

Russell asked if this new office would be led by a faculty member and, if so, would that individual be able to handle the work load with interns and how staffing would be handled. Brown replied, by a faculty member, and he proposed that because it is not only in the Delaware model but it needs to be someone that is service oriented and who understands the issues faculty members have to deal with regarding these short-term classes. He envisions this to initially be a quarter-time appointment with perhaps two staffers and then build up. Delaware now has a staff of approximately seven staff members that support seventy classes which amounts to almost 2,000 students per year. Russell asked if Brown had a number of students, per semester, in mind to achieve a 25 percent goal. Brown replied it needed to double which would be about 600 plus students.

Gasem asked if a contract with a travel agency, which is willing to provide the service, be equally effective. Brown replied that was a possibility and he would not rule it out but there are also security issues, emergency procedures and contacts, issues with general policies, etc., and he is not certain the University would want to turn those issues over to an outside travel agency.

Klatt asked how many departments on campus give financial remuneration to faculty for conducting short-term study abroad programs and what departments consider short-term study abroad programs in a positive fashion when it comes to promotion and tenure. Brown replied he did not think were many. Bob Miller added he felt a lot of departments have not considered it because it is perceived that conducting such a course is prohibitive. He feels if the departments had more support it would help.

Caniglia asked about the financial side and if the money went back to the department in any way and, if so, what kind of conflict might occur if that money did not go back to the departments and instead went to a centralized office. Brown replied he could not speak for every outreach office. He is aware, through Engineering and Agricultural where he has personal experience, the tuition money goes back to those two departments and it is used to directly cover the cost of the programs. If there were a centralized office that money would not be going back to the departments but then they would not have any responsibilities. He knows that his department now has a tremendous accounting load with short-term classes.

Russell spoke in favor of this recommendation and said he saw it as a step forward in the University's long-term goals to help students have a much broader world view and also help OSU distinguish itself from other schools they might compete with for students.

Ron Miller asked where this office would be housed on campus. Brown said he felt the School of International Studies would be the logical place but that would be an administrative decision. He added the only administrative issue he felt strongly about is that the Director needed to have faculty experience and be service oriented.

Van Delinder called for a vote. The recommendation passed unanimously and will be forwarded to administration.

REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:**Graduate and Professional Student Government Association – Mumbe Kithakye**

Kithakye distributed the GPSGA newsletter to those in attendance. She reported GPSGA had a busy Fall semester. One of their goals last semester was to provide graduate students with more professional development opportunities that would allow them to go beyond their departments and to interact with people not just in their field of study. As a general assembly they mostly dealt with resolutions and recommendations having to do with recognizing graduate student organizations and the roles of ones that already exist.

The Spring semester will be their busiest semester. The 20th Annual OSU Research Symposium will take place in mid-February and GPSGA is primarily involved with promoting the event to graduate students and arranging for faculty and staff judges of the paper and poster presentations. GPSGA will tally the judges' votes and make the final decision on winners of cash awards in a variety of categories. They hope through presentations at the symposium graduate and undergraduate students will then go on to present at national, regional and international conferences which is good experiences for the students and also an opportunity for OSU to be recognized and get its name out there.

They will be conducting a survey of the graduate students and their goal is to get an idea of where graduate students get support when they travel to conferences. More than half of their budget is providing support for travel grants for students to present their research at conferences. They hope to have a report on the survey results for Faculty Council in the near future.

Lee Bird wanted to compliment GPSGA as this was the first time they helped raise money for the campus United Way drive and they did an outstanding job and VP Bird wanted to say "thank you" publicly.

Visit the GPSGA website at <http://gpsga.okstate.edu> for more information and updates.

Staff Advisory Council – Bonnie Gladden

Faculty/staff fee waiver opportunity for NOC Gateway courses: Administration has implemented a fee waiver policy for NOC at the recommendation of SAC. Full-time OSU faculty and staff may receive a waiver of half the tuition and selected fees for OSU courses that they take, provided that appropriate approvals are obtained before the semester starts. For the first time, a waiver of selected fees is also possible for courses taken at NOC-Stillwater (the half tuition rate is not possible for NOC-Stillwater courses). Faculty and staff who are interested in applying for the waiver should complete the "Faculty/Staff Tuition and Fee Waiver Request" available in the forms section of the Registrar website: <http://www.okstate.edu/registrar/FormsOnline/FormsOnline.html>. This form must be completed, approved, and submitted to the Registrar's Office prior to the beginning of the applicable academic term. For more complete information, see the waiver form itself and OSU policies 2-0108 and 3-0744.

Distinguished Service Award revision: SAC is in the process of considering revisions to the DSA categories to be more in line with the staff classifications.

On-Site Day Care Presentation by Bright Horizons in February: SAC Policies, Benefits & Budgets Committee is hosting a presentation by Bright Horizons sometime in February to revisit the On-Site Day Care issue. Contact person regarding this issue is Susan Marshall (susan.marshall@okstate.edu).

Women's Faculty Council – Barbara Miller

Women's Faculty Council received over 60 applications this year for their Women's Research Awards. They have received enough money from the deans to present six \$500 awards. They were unable to get a speaker for their awards presentation this year but have leads for next year.

At their January 28th meeting the Staff Advisory Council Policies, Benefits & Budgets Committee will visit to discuss the day care issue which is also part of the WFC agenda.

Emeriti Association Introduction

Russell Wright was introduced as the new Emeriti Association President.

New Business:

Provost Strathe expressed her appreciation to the Oklahoma State University community with regard to not only reaching but surpassing their United Way goal in a difficult economic time and a time when the City of Stillwater continues to struggle.

Lee Bird said OSU is one of the host sites for the Crystal Darkness program which is part of the crystal methamphetamine addiction program. At 6:30 p.m. the program will air in the Student Union Little Theatre and then at 7:30 p.m. they will have a panel discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is February 10, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

John Veenstra, Secretary