

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
250 Student Union
November 11, 2008

Van Delinder called the meeting to order with the following members present: Avakian, Brown, G, Brown, J. D., Calhoun, Caniglia, Casey, Gasem, Hickman, Jordan P., Jordan T., Kirksey, Klatt, Lacy, McCann, Miller, B., Osteen, Perkins, Ramakumar, Russell, Spicer, Stadler, Suter, and Veenstra. Also present: Bird, L., Zirkle, L., Sheets, R., Carter, M., Graham, T., Eldevik, R., Emslie, G., Sharda, R., Gates, G., Miller, B., Shutt, G., and Weaver, J. Absent: DeSilva, Goetze, Miller, R., Moberly, and Page.

HIGHLIGHTS

Approval of Replacing Faculty Council Member & Changes to Committee Appointments	2
Report of Status of Faculty Council Recommendations	2
Reports of Standing Committees	
Academic Standards and Policies	
Recommendation: Amending “Awarding Posthumous Degrees for Doctoral Students” Policy	2
Committee Update	3
Athletics	4
Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security	4
Long-Range Planning and Information Technology	4
Research	5
Budget	5
Retirement and Fringe Benefits	5
Student Affairs and Learning Resources	6
Reports of Liaison Representatives	
Regents Professors Group	6
Staff Advisory Council	7
Women’s Faculty Council	7
New Business	
Shortfall in the Budget	8
University Parking Spaces by the Seretean Center	9

Van Delinder asked for approval of the October 14, 2008, Minutes. Pat Jordan moved acceptance of the Minutes. Bud Lacy seconded. The Minutes were approved. Van Delinder asked for approval of the November 11, 2008, Agenda. Pat Jordan moved acceptance of the Agenda. Tom Jordan seconded. The Agenda was approved.

Approval of Replacing Faculty Council Member and Changes to Committee Appointments

Van Delinder reported Brad Bays, one of the Arts & Sciences representatives, had resigned from Faculty Council. She moved Jon Comer, Department of Geography, replace Bays until the Spring 2009 elections are held. Pat Jordan moved and Avakian seconded. Van Delinder called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

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.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES — Mindy McCann**

McCann presented the following recommendation from the committee:

Title: Amending “Awarding Posthumous Degrees for Doctoral Students” Policy

The Faculty Council Recommends to President Hargis that: Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures 2-0114, section 1.01 regarding posthumous degrees be amended. (New policy below.)

Rationale:

Determination of “last semester of work” is often difficult for graduate students, especially doctoral students. We propose to use the milestone of doctoral candidacy to determine the equivalent of “last semester”.

Awarding Posthumous Degrees for Doctoral Students

Approved by Instruction Council, October 24, 2008

Approved by Graduate Council, October 24, 2008

Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures 2-0114, section 1.01 states in regard to the awarding of posthumous degrees:

“Such degrees shall generally be unearned work of a deceased student, generally a student who was deceased in his/her last semester of work.”

We propose the following change to the above policy:

“Such degrees shall generally be unearned work of a deceased student, generally a student who was deceased in his/her last semester of work. In the case of doctoral students, the degree

shall generally be awarded to a student who was deceased after admission to doctoral candidacy.”

Van Delinder asked for discussion. Ramakumar asked for clarification. Gordon Emslie, Dean of the Graduate College, said at a recent meeting of the graduate coordinators one of them indicated this is a paradigm shift to what candidacy represents. Candidacy is the transition from the course-taking phase of the degree to the research phase. At recent Graduate Council meetings they have moved to the position where they should be represented not so much by period of time but by number of dissertation hours completed – ten for a PhD and seven for an EdD. It is difficult to define that in terms of “last semester” where you are simply counting courses on a plan of study. This does not work for doctoral students. They are trying to encourage doctoral students to earn the distinction of candidacy as early as feasibly possible. They will hold a candidacy reception during Research Week to recognize the milestone. Emslie said trying to determine whether a student is in their final semester of work is exceedingly difficult if they have been doing research for the last three years. The cleanest definition of that is candidacy, from the Graduate College perspective, only the successful proposal of a dissertation topic to the committee. Departments have all kinds of other requirements such as orals, qualifying exams, etc. The one thing in common all candidates have is that they have successfully proposed a dissertation topic to their committee and therefore are considered proper researchers. It is unfortunate enough that they died during that final phase and it is felt the wording proposed in the recommendation would be appropriate to award a posthumous degree

Stadler asked how often did this happen. Emslie replied the average is about three to four students per year.

Bruce Russell asked if “candidacy” can be described in that fashion in the catalog. Emslie replied it had been changed during the last semester and is now defined, at least at the graduate college level, as “successful proposal of topic and other departments might add other requirements”.

Van Delinder called for a vote. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Update from the Academic Standards and Policy Committee:

The personnel in charge of the textbooks from the Student Union Bookstore spoke to the committee and told them there was flexibility in the textbook deadline for upper level classes. They also asked faculty to please be sure to turn in textbook orders at least by the buyback if you are planning to use the same textbook as this can be a huge savings to the students. They also appreciate information if you will not be using the same text.

The committee also is looking at some numbers from the NOC gateway program and beginning to investigate attendance policies for absences for university sponsored activities.

ATHLETICS — Pat Jordan

Members in attendance at the October 22, 2008 meeting included: Meredith Hamilton, Art Klatt, Mona Lane, Marilyn Middlebrook, Ray Murray, Glade Presnal, Tracy Suter, David Yellin, and Pat Jordan

Minutes from the September 24 meeting were approved. Meredith Hamilton provided an update from the Athletic Council regarding their tour of the newly completed areas of the stadium.

Tracy Suter, Marilyn Middlebrook, and Meredith Hamilton informed the committee about their work collecting information regarding absence policies from the Big 12 universities. The goal of this task force was to determine what policies are in place for general absences, university sanctioned absences, and absences for approved athletic events. From this information they hope to develop a statement that might excuse student absences when students are involved in university-sanctioned events including athletic events, music or drama events, or national competitions in their field of study. The Committee will continue to review these policies and discuss possible recommendations.

The three action items they are considering for their next meeting are:

1. Invite Bruce Russell to the Athletics Committee's next meeting and discuss COIA, the proposed By-Laws and issues related to the committee's relationship with the organization.
2. Invite Kent Bunker to a future meeting to discuss the Intramural Athletic programs including what group provides oversight and monitoring of programs, the budget, and academic issues such as absences.
3. Work together to design a survey to determine faculty concerns regarding both intercollegiate and intramural athletics.

The next committee meeting will be scheduled in December after finals week.

CAMPUS FACILITIES, SAFETY, AND SECURITY — Tom Jordan

The committee met in October and several faculty members volunteered to serve on other university committees that deal with campus facilities. Four were assigned to each of the Student Union design groups, one was assigned to the design group for the area between the Student Union and the Classroom Building, and one was assigned to the Sustainability Task Force. To insure the appropriate line of communication for future projects is continued Jordan has added Mike Buchert, Director of the Long Range Facilities Planning Office, to the CFS&S committee as an ex-officio member.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY— Khaled Gasem

The LRP&IT Committee plans to continue its activities relating to the OSU Strategic Planning Process.

The chair of the Committee met with the Provost and discussed the merits of strategic planning exercise in light of (a) current budget constraints, and (b) the low faculty enthusiasm for such a process.

It was agreed that additional work is needed to prepare for an effective strategic planning process with greater faculty involvement.

Russ Calhoun, OSU-OKC Faculty Council representative and member of the LRP&IT Committee said that the plan as it is outlined is a better strategic planning process as has been here in the past. He would hope the faculty can get motivated and excited about it and push it forward. He added he would hate to see the effort die and have to wait another year or two. He feels it is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed right now. He said when he presented the outline to the OSU-OKC Faculty Senate they were very impressed with it. In his division their strategic planning process works well and they are able to provide input and then the budget is developed and then it is reevaluated every year through project management. He added there are six divisions at OSU-OKC and he does not know about the other five.

RESEARCH — Leon Spicer

The Research Committee has met twice this Fall to: 1) Discuss draft versions of the new OSU Institutional Biosafety Policy, and a revised Draft of the Care and Use of Animals in Research, Training, Testing and Teaching Policy. They have provided Dr. Steve O'Geary, Assistant Vice President for University Research Compliance, with the committee's revisions/suggestions for improvement. When revised, they hope to provide a recommendation (to approve it) to Full Council during their February, 2009 meeting.

The next goal of the Research Committee this academic year has been to focus on what can be done to increase the number of faculty submitting grants and improve the research environment at OSU; such as how to improve Faculty Incentives to seek grants. They are continuing to collect information with the hope of providing some sort of recommendation to Full Council by the end of this academic year.

Gasem asked if the committee could provide a draft of the recommendation before it is brought before Council for a vote. Spicer replied they would do so.

BUDGET — John Veenstra for Ron Miller

Joe Weaver attended the last committee meeting to speak about tuition and fees and he will continue his discussion on these issues at the next meeting.

RETIREMENT AND FRINGE BENEFITS — J. D. Brown

The Committee is looking at tuition benefits for faculty, staff and dependents. Faculty and Staff currently are given 50% reduction in tuition. A recommendation for extending benefits to dependents was made in a prior year and was not accepted. This is an issue of competitiveness for attracting quality faculty. They are gathering the data that was prepared previously and

surveying public institutions across the country to determine what current practices are at institutions we compete with for faculty. There will be considerable study required before any recommendation can be made.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND LEARNING RESOURCES — Glenn Brown

The Committee met September 19th and continued to discuss issues related to Study Abroad. Sharon Toy of Purchasing presented information and answered questions on the major problems encountered with short term Study Abroad classes. The most common issues relate to payments to foreign vendors. While there are several problematic issues, Purchasing is working to make the process better for instructors.

The SALR Committee wishes to refer to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee two issues related to Study Abroad.

1. OSU should change the academic calendar to enable study abroad at times other than summer. While a broad range of options are possible, two specific plans have been proposed.
 - a. The break between New Years and the start of the semester should be lengthened to enable short term classes to travel for a minimum of two weeks abroad.
 - b. The spring semester should have two eight week sessions to enable students to travel during one of those periods.
2. OSU should automatically grant an International Dimension “I” to any OSU class, taught by an OSU faculty member that takes students abroad for seven days or longer.

Item 1a. has been proposed by Dr. Strathe, as way to break away from the “summer course” syndrome. All study abroad instructors questioned support it, and some will move their classes to that time. Item 1b. was forwarded by Bud Lacy from a faculty member in Business. Item 2 is a common concern with new instructors and will reduce the time a faculty member must devote to starting up a course. This will be significant as more and more departments bring out program specific short term classes.

Van Delinder asked for clarification as to what countries are considered for study abroad. Brown replied anything but the USA.

Van Delinder referred the above two items to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee.

REPORTS OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:

Regents Professors Group – Ramesh Sharda

Dr. Sharda, Regents Professor in the Spears School of Business and Chair of the Regents Professors Group for 2008-2009, gave an update on the Regents Professors Group activities. Regents Professors are organizing several activities this year as before. First, they are sponsoring the Creativity Festival 2009 that John Mowen is leading. The group had a business

meeting and a new Regents Professors introduction meeting in early October. Then they co-sponsored a talk by Professor Peter Freund on October 30, 2008. The next seminar to be hosted by the Regents Professors is a talk by Dr. Lloyd Armstrong on November 19, 2008. His topic is "Globalization of American Higher Education: Approaching the Tipping Point" which should be of broad interest. Next semester's activities include a visit by Rita Caldwell (former Director, NSF), Creativity Festival, and commencement speakers. Regents Professors Group has also agreed to co-sponsor research speakers who are on campus and can give a general interest talk as part of the Regents Professors Distinguished Lecture Series. Dr. Sharda also thanked President Hargis for hosting a Regents Professors reception which will be held on November 18, 2008.

Van Delinder asked if a mentoring program started last year was being continued. Dr. Sharda replied it was and Bob Miller was leading in that area. Miller said the Regents Professors are willing to pair with any new faculty member and mentor them in all areas of the professoriate until they acquire tenure. They will continue, if wanted, after that. They are also willing to work with any faculty member at any university within the state on developing better grants. He added they have had a number of young faculty that choose a Regents Professor as at least one of their mentors on campus and he knows of at least four or five faculty members at regional universities and at least one at a private university that have taken advantage of the grantsmanship.

Sharda ended by saying at their last business meeting of the group they agreed to use some of the funding that the Provost's Office provides to co-sponsor a Regents Professor Distinguished Lecture Series research seminar to be conducted on campus if the guest speaker would be willing to give a general interest talk and promote it more broadly on campus. He invited departments who have such speakers coming to campus to consider this. Any department should contact Dr. Sharda if they are interested.

Staff Advisory Council – Tara Graham

Staff Awards Day was held November 5 and Distinguished Service Award recipients were recognized – eight recipients and six finalists.

SAC is helping again this year with the Stillwater Community annual Harvest II Food Drive.

At the October meeting they discussed Staff and Faculty Fee Waivers for employees taking classes at NOC. They received a memo from Dr. Bosserman saying that they will be looking at the Memo of Understanding between OSU and NOC. The tuition paid is transferred to NOC as well as some of the fees. This policy needs clarification and if it is modified they are going to make a special exception for the 18 faculty and staff students from OSU enrolled in the Fall semester and their accounts will be appropriately credited.

Women's Faculty Council – Barbara Miller

The Research Awards have moved forward and some applications have been received. They have also received \$1,000 from three colleges – DASNR gave \$200, HES gave \$500 and Vet

Med gave \$300 to date. That is enabling Women's Faculty Council to provide at least five, \$500 scholarships and they are hoping to receive more so they can give as many scholarships as possible. They do not have a speaker yet for their awards ceremony but they did obtain a space.

In regard to the Day Care Center issue they have been in contact with OU as their center has been in place for almost 20 years. They discussed how they established a building and they are willing to provide information on the original proposal although it is now 20 years old. A letter of updates was sent to the Provost including the one received from OU and one from Renaissance and one from Kinder Care indicating they would be willing to engage in discussions about establishing a center on campus. Miller feels there is definitely an interest for day care on campus. They had talked to Van Delinder in regard to sending this issue to a Faculty Council committee. Calhoun, OSU-OKC, said they have an accredited associate degree program on their campus for early childcare research and the director might be able to provide input. Miller said they also considered the possibility of making some kind of internship possible so the students in early child care could work at the center. Dr. Bird indicated that if we want to maintain a three-star facility we cannot use students who are not yet accredited as faculty to care for children. There is an issue of quality and they wanted a three-star program according to DHS and with that it has to be what they consider full-time faculty. The greatest demand seen was for infant care which requires a very low ratio between a faculty member and children and that is the most expensive to host. Bird recommended another business plan be updated by Dr. Bosserman's office to check to see if the demand was there. She added her office cannot do it independently but they would be willing to help finance the research to see if there was a need. Miller said Kinder Care quoted \$30,000 to \$50,000 to come in a conduct a plan for the university which is cost prohibitive. VP Bird said she thought that was a waste of money. Miller agreed that this needs to be a Foundation issue or a donor needs to be identified. Van Delinder said she would confer with the other officers and decide the best committee for this issue to go to.

New Business:

Gasem asked about the shortfall in the budget because of the low enrollment and was there contingency funding where something like this will not effect operations such as hiring of needed faculty. Joe Weaver replied he thought Gasem was referring to local planning within his college but it is important to keep in mind that this reduction is on top of one done earlier in July and that was on the back of one done the prior year. These reductions are starting to stack up on each other. They are trying to plan next year so this does not have to be done again and they are also trying to plan so they can increase the enrollment and not decrease it. Gasem added he thought there should be some kind of a buffer to help protect us from this kind of thing happening. Barbara Miller asked if the faculty salary money obtained from unfilled vacancies will continue in a freeze after the first of July or is this a one-time vacancy issue. Weaver replied the university has not issued a hiring freeze per se. That has been left up to each college and department as they work through their budget issues. He has urged these decisions be left up to the colleges and departments as they know what their funding priorities are and where the needs are. He does not anticipate the notion of a general hiring freeze being issued unless something happens at a later time that is not known today. The State Treasurer continues to report month after month the Rainy Day Fund and the budget are healthy and the earnings are strong. Weaver

added, "We are hopeful we do not receive a budget cut this year and it is looking more and more like we will not but we do not know about next year".

Perkins asked why the National Guard is using university parking spaces by the Seretean Center. Weaver replied there was a possibility they are associated with the ROTC program which is located in Thatcher.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is December 9, 2008. The Fall General Faculty Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18 beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Student Union Theatre.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Veenstra", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Veenstra, Secretary