

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
250 Student Union  
September 8, 2009

Russell called the meeting to order with the following members present: Ahrberg, Avakian, Bartels, Brown, Calhoun, Caniglia, Casey, Cronk, DeSilva, Hickman, Jordan, Kennison, Klatt, Krehbiel, Lacy, Lawlor, Liang, McCann, Miller, R., O'Brien, Osteen, Perkins, Ramakumar, Schestokat, Smay, Suter, Taylor, Van Delinder, Veenstra, and Yellin. Also present: Bosserman, D., Brooks, B., Dobson, B., Elliott, K., Gates, G., Hargis, B., Headley, M., Jenswold, E., Louthan, C., Miller, B., Nelson, J., Rogers, S., Seshadri, A., Shinn, J., Shutt, G., Strathe, M., Weaver, J., and White, J.

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Russell asked for approval of the June 9, 2009 Minutes. Schestokat noted two corrections as follows: Page 5, last paragraph, first line. The word "meet" should be "met". Page 8, fourth paragraph, fifth line. The word "peak" should be "speak". Van Delinder moved acceptance of the Minutes as corrected. Jordan seconded. The Minutes were approved. Russell asked for approval of the September 8, 2009, Agenda. Jordan moved acceptance of the Agenda. Van Delinder seconded. The Agenda was approved.

**REPORT OF STATUS OF FACULTY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:  
President Hargis, Provost Strathe, and/or Vice Presidents**

Provost Strathe reported on the two pending recommendations:

09-05-01-RES

***Policy on Supplemental Pay Plan for External Research Support:*** Returning to Faculty Council. It is suggested that members of the Research Committee of Faculty Council consult with Vice President McKeever about possible modifications to the original recommendation.

Strathe added there were two parts to this recommendation. One was the possibility of a 13<sup>th</sup> month of salary for faculty from external research grants and the second dealing with a portion of the F&A that would go to the principal investigator. VP McKeever has reviewed this and made a recommendation that he and the Association VP's for Research meet with the Faculty Council Research Committee to consider splitting this into two recommendations or trying to reach a better consensus. Strathe thinks McKeever believes there is strong support for the possibility of a 13<sup>th</sup> month of salary. There is less support for the percentage of F&A that had been identified to go to the principal investigator.

09-05-02-RES

***Accepting "Requirements for Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)" Policy:*** Accepted. During the summer the proposed policy was reviewed and approved by the Research Directors, Council of Deans and the Executive Team, and it has been posted on the official OSU Policy & Procedures website.

[https://stillwater.sharepoint.okstate.edu/Policies/Shared%20Documents/Requirements%20for%20Training%20in%20the%20Responsible%20Conduct%20of%20Research%20\(RCR\).pdf](https://stillwater.sharepoint.okstate.edu/Policies/Shared%20Documents/Requirements%20for%20Training%20in%20the%20Responsible%20Conduct%20of%20Research%20(RCR).pdf)

Strathe clarified there was a minor modification to more strongly encourage faculty to go through the module as well. The policy has been accepted with that minor change.

**The President – Remarks and Comments**

President Hargis reported on the following:

Enrollment – He was pleased to announce enrollment is up. Freshman enrollment is up significantly in addition to graduate school enrollment. He feels incentives recently taken have been very helpful as well as faculty involvement. Work still needs to be done in the area of retention although it is better. He asked faculty for counsel and/or advice on how to improve retention. He sees this as potentially a one-on-one activity and we need to start recruiting earlier in high school. He feels the two most persuasive factors, in addition to the student's parents, are faculty and the potential student's friends.

Budget – It is difficult to project for the full year where state revenues will end up. There was a large decline in State revenues in July and the same is expected for August. OSU was cut 7½ percent this year but the cut somewhat was backfilled by stimulus money. The University acted early to reduce administration costs by 2.5%. There remains enough stimulus money to do a similar backfill for FY 2012 under the current budget, but if there are more dramatic cuts in this FY then it will be more of a challenge. The real concern regards FY 2012 because while the federal stimulus money may “band-aid” over this problem for a couple of years, the economy will have to have grown from our current economy in order to make up for the stimulus amount. Consider that an increase in appropriations by 7½ percent would be historic. We are working with VP Bosserman and his team to come up with every strategy we can to save money but not impair our academic mission. Numbers from the State will be received Tuesday, September 15.

November 19<sup>th</sup> football game - Thanked the group involved in working with Dr. Strathe and the Athletic Department in regard to parking for the November 19<sup>th</sup> nationally televised football game. There is a new parking lot on the North side of the stadium which will help. Lots will be cleared by 1:00 p.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup> to provide for football game parking.

Old Central – Has been remodeled and is now occupied by the Honors College. This was an 8.6 million dollar renovation. Hargis encouraged all to tour the renovated building because it is a wonderful facility.

Architecture Building – Has received rave reviews by architects and architectural firms around the country and has been rated in the top 20 in the United States. Hargis said he had congratulated Department Head, Randy Seitsinger on this honor.

The Diagnostic Lab at the Vet School is a tremendous resource for Oklahoma and the mission of OSU.

South Murray will be occupied shortly. Weather has largely been the hold-up in completion. Hargis added it is a beautiful facility and a wonderful addition to our campus.

Hargis said the campus looks better and he appreciates the work Bosserman’s team has done. Landscaping does fall short and water will be brought to campus. We are currently watering with treated water which is very expensive. The Water Treatment Plant will be reactivated and rural water will be run upstream to campus and that will allow for sprinkler systems.

Football is doing well. He knows some people have trouble making the connection between athletics and the academic mission of the university but the fact is when our athletic teams are successful enrollment goes up.

Hargis reported he had recommended to the OSU-Tulsa Board of Trustees that Howard Barnett, Tulsa business executive, be named President to lead that university. The statutory requirements are that Hargis recommend a name to the Board of Trustees of OSU-Tulsa and they in turn recommend to the OSU Board of Regents who meet Friday, September 11. Bob Clark from the University of Kansas at Kansas City was the other candidate. Hargis said Barnett was a very important member of the Tulsa community and highly regarded and feels he will give OSU a presence in the Tulsa community that is desperately needed.

Questions followed. Avakian asked how many new students would need to be recruited to make up the 7½ % budget cut. Joe Weaver replied it would require an approximately 9% tuition increase. Weaver said approximately \$130 million, minus stimulus money, is received from the State. It is approximately \$900,000 for every 100 students so you would be looking at roughly 1,000 students to handle the budget cuts. Hargis added that is why recruiting is so critical.

Barbara Miller asked how much of the money lost in the funds received for the Endowed Chairs had been recovered. Hargis estimated 30 percent had been lost and 7-8 percent recovered. He added the State is not obligated to match the funds by any certain time. They are just obligated to do it. Two years ago the State authorized \$100M to match and they passed an appropriation of \$5M for the debt service on a bond issue for \$100M of which OSU and OU would each receive \$47M and the regional schools would recover the difference. The Chairs were much more than that. OSU raised \$160M and OU had less than that but they had about \$92M already accumulated and OSU had about \$20M. Presidents Hargis and Boren and Chancellor Johnson recently met with legislative leadership regarding ideas of reconfiguring the bond issue or refunding some bonds with a new issue of bonds where no new money would be needed.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS & POLICIES — Mindy McCann**

McCann reported the committee had not met this year but items on their agenda include:

- 1) Look at the “R” Research grades becoming an “SR” and issues in SIS
- 2) Changes in auditing courses
- 3) Look at the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC) representation and who reports back to Faculty Council

### **ATHLETICS — Art Klatt**

Klatt reported two items the committee will discuss are the relationship of faculty to the OSU Athletic Council and the possibility of expanding membership on that council and also intramural athletics on campus.

### **BUDGET: — Ron Miller**

Miller reported the committee will meet on September 9 at 8:30 in 302 Student Union with Joe Weaver. They look forward to the challenge of the coming year.

### **CAMPUS FACILITIES, SAFETY, AND SECURITY — Tom Jordan**

Jordan reported the committee had not met but will meet the third Wednesday of each month beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Faculty Council Conference Room, 313 Public Information Building. Jordan invited anyone with concerns regarding facilities, safety and/or security to bring them to his attention.

**FACULTY — Udaya DeSilva**

DeSilva reported the committee will meet the last Friday of each month. Let him know of any issues you would like the committee to discuss.

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY — Bud Lacy**

Lacy reported the committee had not met. He had a good meeting with Darlene Hightower, Information Technology, talking about ways the committee can assist her. They will continue to monitor the progress regarding the administration's plan for long-range strategic planning. The committee welcomes any comments or thoughts on either issue.

**RESEARCH — Jim Smay**

Smay reported the committee had met once.

Potential agenda items include:

Carry on and/or expand the work of the previous Research Committee and follow through on the recommendations the Provost mentioned earlier in the meeting. Smay had met with Stephen McKeever. Smay feels like the 13<sup>th</sup> month has very strong support from McKeever. They discussed splitting the "Policy on Supplemental Pay Plan for External Research Support" recommendation into two separate policy recommendations.

Smay had also discussed with McKeever the requirements regarding Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR). It was decided to work on applying the RCR policy to undergraduate researchers creating what amounts to a RCR sub-set that is required of graduate students.

The Committee will also investigate the cost accounting standards at OSU in response to change in NSF policy. NSF's policy to allow "academic year support" changes a longstanding NSF ban on paying academic year salary from research grants. Is the policy at OSU interpreting the NSF policy correctly? Are the Cost Accounting Standards at OSU being uniformly applied across the university? Are individual colleges allowed to interpret the new rules to indicate a mandatory academic year salary from grants or merely an allowance that academic year salary MAY be paid from grants?

Russell suggested that we need to continue to pursue policies that will incentivize collaboration. He wondered whether a 13<sup>th</sup> month salary policy, as an example, would in practice have the unintended consequence of discouraging collaboration. If we are trying to encourage collaboration between researchers, colleges and departments, how do we incentivize collaboration when we are telling an individual researcher that you will receive more funds individually if you do not collaborate? Smay replied he had asked McKeever a similar question and he was given the answer that different colleges can set their own policies on F&A returns. The 13<sup>th</sup> month policy is already in place in some colleges, for instance, Vet Med. Other colleges like Engineering are pushing for a 12<sup>th</sup> month policy. Russell said, "We collaborate

where there is a need. Maybe I can fulfill that need, that I perceive, up front in a research contract as I prepare a proposal or maybe I believe I'll hire someone as a subcontractor and do the work instead of including another colleague as a co-PI because my perception is that 13<sup>th</sup> month salary might be important to support my family. Other universities have policies where interdisciplinary research teams are rewarded with a greater percentage of F&A returns. We need to be creative in the policies we adopt so that we do both: encourage interdisciplinary research and the individual researcher. Bottom line, I don't want to discourage interdisciplinary collaboration while we're trying to encourage incentives for research and I don't know if there's an easy answer to that."

Jeff White, A&S liaison to Faculty Council, asked if a formal recommendation from Council to VP McKeever might be that "we", as a university committee, adopt a common, consistent policy for how research funds are handled and how PI's are awarded based on their efforts. He said he thought there should be a consistent policy across campus. Smay said this issue would be worked on by the committee.

#### **RETIREMENT AND FRINGE BENEFITS — J. D. Brown**

Brown reported the committee will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Council Conference Room, 313 Public Information Building. They will continue to work on tuition benefits for dependents and a cafeteria leave plan.

Russell said retirement and fringe benefits are a large part of our compensation package. He added faculty represented on the University Flexible Compensation Benefits Committee included Brown, Beth Caniglia, Faculty Council Secretary, and Angela Spencer from Accounting. The committee is also made up of Emeriti, Staff and Ex Officio representatives as well. They deal with a lot of the same issues Brown's committee deals with in regard to impacting the quality of life of OSU personnel and Russell encouraged anyone with a particular issue to be addressed to contact Brown.

#### **STUDENT AFFAIRS AND LEARNING RESOURCES — Karen Hickman**

Hickman reported the committee is working on finding a time when all members are available to meet.

Hickman said last year an issue was identified that the SALR committee should address in regard to resources available on campus to Veterans. She was pleased to announce that the August GI Jobs magazine named OSU-OKC a military friendly school for 2010. In addition, OSU-Stillwater has created an on-campus organized system for Veterans and part of that is a Veteran's Lounge that will open on Veteran's Day this year in the Student Union on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor just north of the Starlight Terrace. This is only a temporary location because of the upcoming renovations to the SU and another location will be announced after the renovations begin. President Hargis added that the new School of Entrepreneurship has an initiative with entrepreneurial guidance for Veterans.

## **Report of Liaison Representatives**

### **Staff Advisory Council – Barbara Dobson**

Dobson reported Staff Advisory Council is working on the following items:

Disaster Housing – Working with Residential Life to see if there is a way for Staff or Faculty to live on campus temporarily if their home is unlivable due to a catastrophic event.

Day Care –Checking into the possibility of OSU partnering with one of the local day care centers to assist OSU employees in regard to child care.

Drug Free Campus – Researching how OSU Policy relates to Federal Guidelines.

Staff Awards Day has been set for November 4<sup>th</sup>. They would like to invite any faculty members who would like to attend in support of the staff who will be recognized.

Last spring, OSU was given a national award which included \$1500 for energy conservation efforts. Dr. Bosserman discussed the matter with President Hargis and it was decided to give the money to a staff member instrumental in energy conservation. This award has been presented. President Hargis added all new facilities have been moved into without any net increase in utilities due to the fact that \$9M has been saved in energy conservation.

### **Graduate and Professional Student Government Association – Aravind Seshadri**

Seshadri, GPSGA President, and Stephanie Rogers, GPSGA Vice President reported four main issues on the agenda for GPSGA this year are:

(1) Increase visibility across campus – GPSGA is organizing events for graduate students to publicize itself to the graduate students. Recently GPSGA organized the Fall Graduate Student Welcome Reception which attracted a large number of graduate students to the reception. The event was a great success and it provided the opportunity for the graduate students to interact with their fellow students as well as with OSU administrators and faculty. GPSGA would also increase its visibility among various campus groups, organizations and committees by volunteering to serve on committees that require student representation such as the Faculty Council committees and university wide committees.

(2) Increase travel support for graduate students – GPSGA provides support to graduate students in the amounts of about \$37,000 each year to support student travel to conferences. Still GPSGA cannot support a lot of graduate students completely. Hence GPSGA conducted an online travel survey last Spring for graduate students to understand their needs, source of funds that support their travel, etc. GPSGA will pursue the efforts from last year by working with the administration to increase travel support for graduate students.

(3) GPSGA donation campaign – GPSGA's operating budget comes from student activities fees. For the last five years the allocation to GPSGA has been decreasing since the overall enrollment

has been going down. In order to be less dependent on the Student activities fees GPSGA is looking into starting a donation campaign.

(4) GPSGA education campaign – Before requesting donations we need to educate the general public about graduate students, what we do, what do we bring to OSU and what do we bring to Oklahoma. Not many people outside academia know about the importance of graduate students, our role in teaching students, helping the research and outreach mission of OSU. Hence GPSGA is starting a campaign to educate everyone about the benefits of graduate students.

#### **Women's Faculty Council – Barbara Miller**

Miller reported they have met with Stephen McKeever and are working towards naming a well-known speaker for this year's Research Week. McKeever and Institutional Diversity have suggested working with other campus groups to combine finances for the speaker and they are pursuing that. They are also ready to send out letters to the Deans and other Administrators for their annual research awards and will be sending out the flyer and applications to faculty and advisors. They hope to have their web page up with information on the awards soon. They are pursuing the issue of Day Care along with the Staff Advisory Council regarding partnering with a local day care.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is October 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Caniglia, Secretary