

Summary Update Number 7, November 17, 2004

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The purpose of this and previous Summary Updates is to keep all Faculty informed of recent events that have occurred and of initiatives currently in progress. All Summary Updates may be found on the webpage for the Faculty Council.

Relocation of Journals Published Prior to 1980 to the Library Annex

As some of you may know, the Library Administration has nearly completed a project wherein all journal holdings of the Library published prior to 1980 have been or will soon be moved to the Library Annex. The officers of the General Faculty consider this action to be ill-judged and very counterproductive to research.

First, I would note that the decision to move the journals was made with no consultation with the elected representatives of the OSU Faculty. The Dean of the Library has informed me that the Library Advisory Committee was consulted. However, the Library Advisory Committee does not represent the Faculty; the Faculty Council and its officers represent the Faculty. On a matter of this importance, the Faculty Council should have been consulted prior to any action being taken on moving journals to the Annex. In fact, none of the Officers of the General Faculty were even informed. We were simply presented with the completed or nearly completed action. I consider this to be a grievous violation of the concept of shared governance.

Second, I am informed by the Dean of the Library that the underlying reason for relocation of journals to the Annex is to create free space for students that they can use for socializing, homework working sessions, relaxing, eating, etc, and to create a faculty lounge. These activities, while useful, are not the function of the library in a comprehensive research university that aspires to reach the top 75 universities in the U.S. The function of the Library is to serve as a repository for knowledge and a place to execute scholarly research. Activities such as socializing, homework working sessions, eating, etc are the proper function of the Student Union, housing lounges, cafeteria areas in housing areas, and lounges in sorority and fraternity houses. We cannot possibly achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan if the OSU Library is to be converted into a second Student Union. In this connection, I would note that our chief competitor, the University of Oklahoma, is not moving portions of its journal collection to some remote area. This difference in action is one of the reasons why OU is currently very close to being ranked Tier 1 while OSU is currently ranked Tier 3..

Last week, I walked through the Student Union to see how much space is available to students for activities such as socializing, homework working sessions, relaxing, eating, etc. The west portion of the fourth floor is entirely devoted to these activities. There are lounges,

numerous tables, TV sets, video games, etc. This area was nearly deserted. All of the Case Study Rooms on the north side of the fourth floor were vacant. There is no reason why they could be opened for student use when not reserved for meetings. The second floor lounges were all nearly empty as was the ballroom area. When no event is planned, this space could easily serve the students. The Atrium and food court area is heavily used during normal dining times, but at other times, it is rarely half filled. In the evening hours, it is virtually deserted. The bottom line is that there exists more than sufficient space in the Student Union. We do not need to destroy the scholarly function of the Library in a misguided effort to create a second Student Union.

I have already requested that faculty in Engineering, Political Science, English, Physics, and Chemistry send me an email message stating whether they support or oppose the Library Administration's action. As of this writing, the responses are 100% opposed. I would appreciate it if faculty in all departments would send me a short email stating their support or opposition to the relocation of journals to the Annex to create space for the activities mentioned above. Please type your name and department on your email message if you elect to respond. My email address is

lionelraff@hotmail.com

Speaking as the Chair of the General Faculty, I want to see the relocation of journals to the Annex stopped and those journals that have already been relocated returned to the main Library and shelved in their former locations. I would hope this can be done quickly. I consider this degrading of the Library's main function to be just as serious as the e-mail and other IT problems the University experienced last spring.

Endowment of the William S. Spears School of Business

By now, most faculty will have learned of the magnificent gift made by Mr. William S. Spears to the OSU College of Business, which has now been renamed to William S. Spears School of Business. Referring to his gift, Mr. Spears said, "OSU has made a big difference in my life; it is my hope that my gift will help OSU make a difference in the lives of those to come." I am certain that it will.

After expressing my thanks to Mr. Spears at the announcement ceremony, I took the opportunity to thank the members of the OSU Board of Regents for their role in obtaining this outstanding endowment. Each Regent informed me that the persons to thank are President Schmidly and Mr. Kirk Jewell, Director of the OSU Foundation. I did exactly that. It is indeed a superb effort in behalf of Oklahoma State University.

Recent Actions by the OSU Faculty Council

At the November 9 meeting of the OSU Faculty Council, one recommendation and one important motion were presented and passed by the Council.

Reconstitution of the Student Technology Fee Committee:

Darlene Hightower, Director IT Division, announced at the October 12 meeting of the Faculty Council the intention of the IT Division to reinstate the Student Technology Fee Committee. This committee was dissolved by Vice-President Gary Wiggins in 2003. The Faculty Council unanimously supported a recommendation to the President that this Committee be reconstituted in essentially its original form:

"The Faculty Council hereby recommends to President Schmidly that the Student Technology Fee Committee be reconstituted and restored to the same or similar status, composition, and oversight capacity that was maintained up to its dissolution in 2003. The Council recommends that the Student Technology Fee Committee should have a stewardship and oversight role in the recommendations for spending the revenue from the current fee, which is now referred to as a "University Technology Fee" and is charged at the rate of \$5.00 for each semester hour enrolled by each student. The Faculty Council recommends that the following general objectives and guidelines for the Student Technology Fee Committee, most of which were outlined prior to 2003, be adopted:

1. To identify general computing needs of students to be administered centrally
2. To develop new facilities, support and manage institutional technologies
3. To effectively plan and implement technology for both short and long term needs
4. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Provost and Senior Vice-President, who must approve each expenditure.
5. Funds collected from the University Technology Fee should be directed to a fund account held by Academic Affairs.

The Faculty Council strongly recommends that the collected funds be used for establishment of facilities, equipment or software for direct student use. Additionally, funds should not be used for salaries, regular maintenance or routine operating expenses within the Information Technology Division or for other routine expenses of any technology service provider or similar facility on campus."

The final portion of the recommendation details the procedure to be used to appoint the committee members. It is patterned closely after the method used for the original Student Technology Fee Committee. The President indicated his intention to request input from the Student Government Association on this recommendation. He also asked that Professor Tom Phillips, Chair, Faculty Council's Student Affairs and Learning Resources Committee, be present at the SGA meeting to respond to questions..

Changes in the University Charter and Bylaws of the Faculty Council

The Faculty Council unanimously approved the submission of several recommended changes to the University Charter and to the Bylaws of the Faculty Council to the General Faculty at their meeting on November 23 for discussion and

subsequent mail-in vote after the required 30 day waiting period. The recommended changes include

1. a clarification of the duties of the officers of the General Faculty,
2. the addition of the position of Past Chair to the officers of the General Faculty and as
a voting member of the Faculty Council,
3. a simplification of the procedures for placing nominations for Vice-Chair or Secretary
of the General Faculty on the election ballot,
4. a provision to include electronic voting in the future,
5. a modification of the procedure for filing vacancies when such vacancies occurs in the
summer or last month of the spring semester,
6. changing the presiding officer at meetings of the Faculty Council to the Chair of the General Faculty
7. an expansion of the President's role at Faculty Council meetings to permit him/her to take more proactive positions.

These recommendations will be presented and discussed at the November 23 meeting of the General Faculty. A mail-in vote will be conducted in mid-December.

Announcement:

To permit members of the Administration to attend, I have moved the fall General Faculty meeting from November 16th to November 23rd. I encourage each of you to attend. The program is as follows:

FALL GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

November 23, 2004

3:00 P.M.

Student Union Little Theater

Critical Issues Facing OSU

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: A Two-Year Perspective

David J. Schmidly, System CEO, President

Number of OSU Faculty and Faculty Compensation

The Restore, Reward, Grow Initiative

Provost and Sr. Vice President, Marlene Strathe

The 2004-2005 University Budget

Professor Bill Warde, Head, Department of Statistics, and former Chair of the General Faculty, will present the results of the recent survey of faculty budget priorities

Changes in Faculty Governance Structure

Professor A. J. Johannes, Chair of the Faculty Council's Rules and Procedures Committee will introduce suggested modifications to the University Charter and Faculty Council Bylaws that will move faculty governance in the direction of a faculty senate

Questions, Comments, and Administrative Response

OSU Administration and Faculty Council Members will respond to faculty questions and comments

Reception to follow in Suite 1600

Complementary food, wine, drinks, liquor