Oregon TECH

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

The Faculty Senate met on March 3, 2020, in the Sunset Meeting Room of the College Union (Klamath Falls) and Conference Room #130 (Portland-Metro).

Attendance/Quorum

President Terri Torres called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All senators or alternates were present except for Samantha Henkell. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

Matthew Sleep made a motion for Dr. Naganathan to present first.
Motion passed.

Report of the University President – Dr. Nagi Naganathan

- Thanked those that attended the President's address in person and via broadcast.
- He had a good conversation with Sen Ex, Board Chair Jessica Gomez, and Provost Mott regarding the latest issues. Thanked Sen Ex for taking the time to do that.
- He will be heading to Salem this week due to many things going on.
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is in the process of working on strategic planning. First steps have been taken by completing student outreach all over the state. There should be a follow up on March 17.
- Addressed the Senate Bills we are interested in such as the Capital Bill that supports the Boivan project and the legislation to designate us as Oregon's Polytechnic University.
- Explained some of the Bills are hung up due to the stalemate in Salem.
- Boivan Hall project is going to be recommended by the Ways and Means Committee as the number two project in the state. Will likely have the top five projects recommended by HECC. We are sitting at number two and this is good news. We will have to call a special session in order to close by a certain date, but we will get there. The Cap and Trade are causing a stalemate in other legislature matters.
- The Bill to designate us as Oregon's Polytechnic University unanimously passed in the Senate two weeks ago. Other Bills affect student security, student hunger, and other topics.
- Western, Eastern, and Southern Oregon Universities want to offer Professional Doctorate degrees. This is moving through legislation. The request for doctorate degrees have potential to be approved.
- A task force on student success for under representative students in higher education is in motion.
- The University of Oregon has accomplished its first bioengineering degree. Additionally, they are trying to pass data science and a doctorate in physical therapy. Competing STEM programs is beginning to happen. We knew it was coming once they built the Applied Sciences Knight Center. We will continue to advocate for ourselves.
- Dr. Naganathan expressed his appreciation to speak and welcomed any questions.
- End of Report

Reports of Officers

Report of the President – Terri Torres

- Sen Ex-members meet with Dr. Naganathan regularly.
- During the last meeting Sen Ex addressed:
  - Need for a more conscious effort into shared governance
  - Asked about policies

- Respect, trust, and morale
- A clear explanation and answers to specific questions
- Why certain positions are filled and how those individuals are held accountable
- Town Hall meetings to accommodate time for questions and answers
- Flat budget is unacceptable
- Requested $500,000 be allocated to the academic division as a strategic investment
- Asked about finances and requested their plan on how to get us to a better financial standing.

- Met with Dr. Mott. Inquired about two new advisor positions to accommodate for both HAS and ETM. Faculty requested the positions to helping with advising.
- Thanked Don McDonnell for all the time he spent working on the Konica-Minolta contract.
- End of report

Report of the Vice President – Matthew Sleep

- Faculty Senate president elections will start tomorrow. There are two candidates.
- Academic Council met and discussed the following:
  - Dashboards are available to Department Chairs for retention and application information.
  - Sen Ex met with the Board Chair, Dr. Nagi, and Provost Mott and discussed transparency and clarity in processes.
  - The concern – We seem to follow current processes for the academic year and then the process is changed or there is no process in place for moving forward on what we are trying to accomplish.
- Reiterated two main concerns: transparency and clarity.
- End of report

Report of the ASOIT Representatives – Nashmy Luna (Portland –Metro)

- Working on dead week activities.
- Working on the Tuition Resource Committee – Creating proposal to submit to the Board of Trustees.
- Working on the registration event.
- Composing another school-wide survey to get down to the issues.
- End of report

Reports of Standing Committees

Faculty Rank Promotion & Tenure (RPT) – Christopher Syrnyk

- Met on February 28.
- Revisited the importance of the six years of full-time faculty teaching to move from Associate to full Professor Policy OIT 20-040. Found the policy to be important and sufficient as it stands and the policy can adequately be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Reported on a charge, referred to as, "Seeking clarity on Sabbatical policy" – Discovered various inconsistencies. Looked at requirements versus recommendations and it was not clear what the requirements were. It was unanimous; there should be a separation between faculty and the university during sabbatical.
- Plan to meet with Provost Mott to talk about the policies and gain clarification.
- End of report

Faculty Welfare – Kari Lundgren

- Charge two – Work-life balance. Faculty Welfare finalized a short survey. The survey will close on April 5 of 2020.
- Asking that all faculty complete the survey to aid in advocating efforts on behalf of Faculty Welfare.
- Requested all Faculty Senators to encourage their constituents to take the survey.
- The survey targets issues of workplace culture, balance, and burnout. The survey takes about two minutes to complete, there will be some demographic questions in the end.

- End of report

Academic Standards – Addie Clark-Alternate HuiYun Li

- Academic Standards focused on the third charge regarding Faculty Senate Committee structure.
- Committee members were assigned a section of comparators from previous compensation studies.
- Results will be presented to Provost Mott and Faculty Senate during spring term.
- Registrar's office reported the Dental Hygiene Program may have an addition to the catalog language regarding baccalaureate degrees. The change in language to be added is for accreditation purposes and would specifically deal with the exclusion of international degrees from meeting general education requirements. The change would not affect the intent of the statement currently in the catalog but would protect the university and department.
- End of Report

Faculty Compensation (FCC) – Mike Healy

- Met on February 21.
- Referenced the two letters in the reading packet.
- Discussed a how to obtain overload and release data from departments. Before, doing so, we agreed to request the data from administration one last time. Steve Shultz received report data on stipend and release from the Provost office shortly thereafter. This included 2018 and 2019 overload information.
- Thanked the Provost's office for this information.
- Plan to take the information and create a report to explore further reasons for the disparity.
- Hope the increased transparency will help people understand that many differences are due to complexities between departments and geographic locations.
- The current release is under review by the Provosts office.
- End of Report

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committee – Kyle Chapman

- No Report

Unfinished Business

- No Report

New Business

Merritt Driscoll from Blue Zones and a Healthy Planet Project

- PowerPoint presentation on the new Wellness Zone initiative.
- Some of the topics presented included – Eat healthily, move more, be smoke-free, and connecting.
- Encouraged faculty to take interest and participate in a survey found online.
- Thanked Senate for their time and welcomed questions or comments.

Open Floor Period

Monica Breedlove (MIT)

- Reported issues with on-line and the transfer from Blackboard to Canvas. She also reported that the DRC delivery service seems to be delayed.

Report of the Provost – Dr. Joanna Mott

- Addressed ongoing issues.
- Assured the online department personnel is working as fast as they can to accommodate our university needs at this time. Informed they would be contracting for additional help in this area.

- Acknowledged there is a lot of concern from faculty over administration and several positions that need to be filled.
- She attended two statewide Provost Council meetings, one in Salem and the other in Portland. We are seeing things from both sides that will affect us. University of Oregon (UO) is expanding into engineering and Oregon State University (OSU) Cascade is adding programs in health and engineering as well. There was discussion regarding community colleges teaching four-year degrees. Discussed what quality meant and what the process for approval of those programs would be.
- Working on the budget, and are trying to make sure the budgets are meeting targets.
- A set number of equipment requests were approved. Asked that those who received the equipment funding to make purchases soon so we can project our accounting calculations.
- The HAS Dean Finalists have been selected and invited to visit both campuses.
- Academic Affairs Budget Director position has been posted.
- The APE for Academic Excellence finalist unfortunately, had to decline.
- Enrollment is looking good.
- Met with Erik Johnson about concerns as well as updates on the June New Wings event.
- A New Wings Committee has been formed and will be reaching out to Chairs to discuss faculty participation and what is needed for success.
- Having enrollment steady and increasing is critical for our financial well-being.
- Thanked all for their efforts on retention and enrollment.
- There are students with concerns about various programs.
- Will be talking with Deans to address the concerns regarding scheduling. Schedules should be complete by the end of March. Two purposes for this; for students to see what is offered the next term as well as any course prerequisites.
- Thanked those for working on this and stated it will benefit both students and faculty.
- End of Report

Report of the President's Council Delegate – Terri Torres

- No Report

Report of the Inter-Institutional Faculty Senate (IFS) Representative – Mike Myers

- No Report

Report of the Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) Representative – Terri Torres

- There were two areas: one was the tradition in which we talked about the issue that HECC will only allow a 5% increase unless there is a petition.
- Dr. Mott mentioned some of the concerns that students have about tuition, which we are discussing.
- Discussed how FOAC will be able to provide feedback to the president and if we should send a letter or somehow craft a recommendation.
- Dr. Mott stated we could spend time on investment requests that would go to the President.
- Concern regarding the increase in our Health Benefits and retirement going up.
- Regarding debt – We are at 2% and best practice is considered 7%. However, 7% is too high. So the question is, maybe we are not borrowing enough.
- Sports lottery – The sports lottery money is to go to athletics and athlete scholarships. It is to offset some of the general fund requirements for athletics. $312,000 of the lottery money is going to redo the stadium seats.
- Our track also needs attention.
- End of report

Report of the Administrative Council Delegate – Zach Jones

- At the last meeting, professional development was discussed and what it means to administrative staff.
- Also focused on short-term deliverables.

- Advising on a professional development survey.
- Trying to synergize efforts on other campus groups that are focused on professional development.
- Would like to be the voice of a customer for administrative staff when it comes to professional development.
- Trying to facilitate and create training for professional development opportunities. Focusing on the resources we have as well as others available on campus.
- This is a main concern for the Welfare Committee. They are also looking into sick leave and donations.
- End of Report

Adjournment

Terri Torres adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Bennett, Secretary
/sb